

SANTINIKETAN : LEARNING FROM A WAY OF LIFE*

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Tagore's Santiniketan is undoubtedly one of the greatest experiments in holistic, value oriented education in the twentieth century, unaffiliated to any organized religion. The author writes of his stay there during the second decade of the century, of the idyllic simplicity, the friendliness and fun, the learning to be responsible without imposed discipline, of the living in harmony with nature, with one another, with the silence within, with the mystery of creation, of the creative informality of the activities in the ashram, of how Tagore's Dakghar got staged and songs got written and added on even while the performance was on, of how the entire flow of life around was integrated and woven into the web of relationships that tied together Tagore, his family of teachers and students and the place. Values were imbibed from the atmosphere of the place. The place left its indelible stamp upon all who lived there.

-Ed.