

## SHRUTI SEN SINGS TAGORE

# ‘Then Walk Alone’

On behalf of Dr. Jayaramanji, an Indian poet, scholar, and founder of the New York Branch of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Institute of Indian Culture), New York Branch, who was unable to attend, Avneet Thapar read his greetings. She then spoke about the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore, the revolutionary poet and political resistance leader against the British colonial masters of India. She introduced vocalist Shruti Sen, who sang a classical Indian setting of Tagore’s famous poem, “Ekla Chalo Re,” written in Bengali (1905).



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis  
Shruti Sen

*The message from Dr. Panchapakesa Jayaraman:*

### Cultural Unity Needed for Creating Peace in the World Community

My prayerful message for this dialogue of civilizations is as follows:

The Indian wise men—Sages—have given us numerous instructions for creating classical cultural unity within us.

The following Hymn—Mantra from one of the first and foremost Indian scriptures, Yajurveda—is one among them. Can we not easily follow this principle for creating Peace within us?

May all beings look on me with the eye  
of a friend!

May I look on all beings with the eye of a  
friend!

May we look on one another with the eye  
of a friend!

Another mantra says: May all directions be my friends!

The above should be the basis for building a world-land with all-round unity and peace.

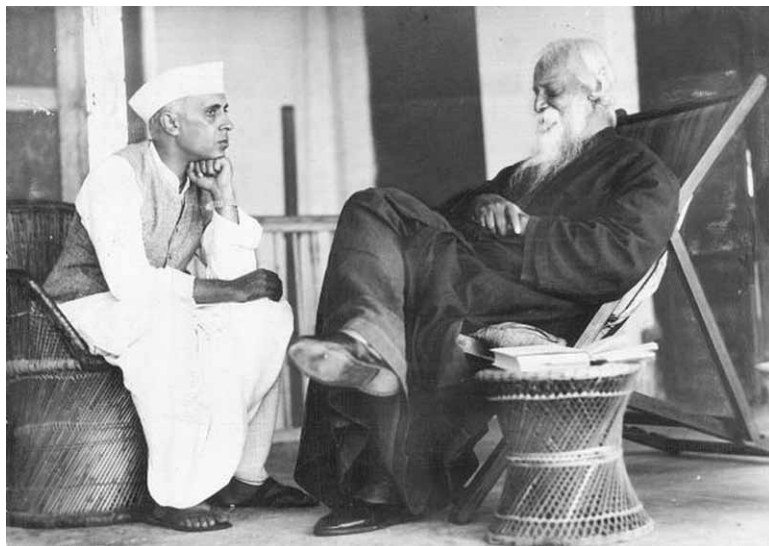
*The poem by Rabindranath Tagore, in his own translation:*

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## Ekla Chalo Re

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If they answer not to your call, walk alone  
If they are afraid and cower mutely facing the wall,  
O thou unlucky one,  
Open your mind and speak out alone.  
If they turn away, and desert you when crossing the  
wilderness,  
O thou unlucky one,  
Trample the thorns under thy tread,  
And along the blood-lined track, travel alone.  
If they shut doors and do not hold up the light when  
the night is troubled with storm,  
O thou unlucky one,  
With the thunder flame of pain ignite your own heart,  
And let it burn alone.



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Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), at right, with Jawaharlal Nehru in 1940.