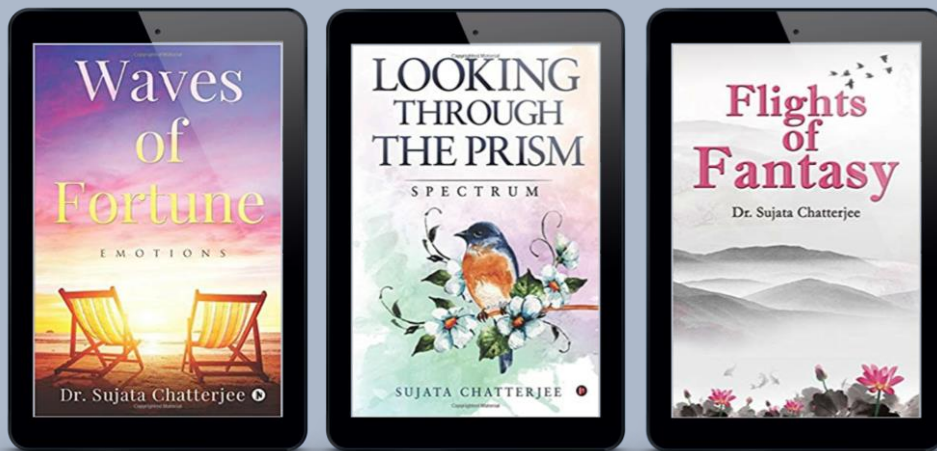


# LOOKING THROUGH THE PRISM SPECTRUM

BOOK REVIEW



Edgar Allen Poe has famously remarked, "Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words." This can be held true when one reads the poems of "Looking Through the Prism: Spectrum" by Sujata Chatterjee. The poems are 17 in number but give an insightful introduction in the thoughtfulness of the author and a brief yet detailed tour of the dreamy landscape that she makes the readers see through her eyes.

July 2021 *The*  
literature today

“  
*DESTINY:  
FAITH OR REASON  
MEN MAY WAGE SO  
MANY WARS  
TO EMERGE  
VICTORIOUS AGAIN  
BE IN THE ETERNAL  
HOME, IN THE LAND  
OF THE LORD  
PEACE AND  
HARMONY DO REIGN.*

”  
- DR. SUJATA CHATTERJEE

In a collection with a cover that invites the readers to take a plunge in the world of poetry, it gives clear suggestions of the poetry reading to be a soothing experience for the readers; Chatterjee writes poems of varying lengths and on diverse yet similar subjects. Even though her autobiographical details suggest that she is from an urban background, her heart seems to be in the lap of nature.

DR. SUJATA CHATTERJEE | AUTHOR

LOOKING THROUGH THE PRISM **SPECTRUM**

**D**r Sujata Chatterjee is a physician by profession and an author by passion. She has authored 3 books, *FLIGHTS OF FANTASY*, a collection of short stories, *LOOKING THROUGH THE PRISM*, a collection of motivational poems and another book of poems, *WAVES OF FORTUNE*, and co authored 6 more books, *SPEAK YOUR MIND*, *BROKEN BITS OF THE MOON*, *JUMBOREE JUBILATION*, *LYRICAL DEWDROPS*, *THE ROAD TAKEN*, and some others which are on the way to publication.

SHE IS THE WINNER OF SHONGHOTI SAMMANANA AWARD, TOP 100 INSPIRING AUTHORS BY THE INDIAN AWAZ TEAM, TOP 50 INFLUENTIAL AWARDS BY THE SPIRIT MANIA, AND THE WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK HONOUR AWARDS.

She has also been awarded by the SWAMI VIVEKANANDA EXCELLENCE AWARD by the SEVA GUILD and the Governor of West Bengal for her contribution in English Literature. She has been honoured by the WOMAN EMPOWERMENT AWARD, by HELLO KOLKATA MEDIA HOUSE, for her contribution in Medicine and English Literature. She was a regular contributor of the column, *THE PATIENT I CAN NEVER FORGET*, in the fortnightly magazine, *THE WOMEN'S ERA*.

The poems flow "as naturally as the leaves to a tree" (as Keats would say), and the readers would feel a Wordsworthian air throughout poems like "Colours of Life," "Every Kind of a Little Thing," "Musical Notes of Nature," "Newer Horizons," and others. These poems take the readers on an imaginative tour in the unexplored landscape of nature and make them feel strongly connected to the words the poet uses.

"The Freedom" reminds the readers of Keats' "Ode to Nightingale" for a brief moment but the poet gives it her touch when she attaches the taste of freedom to it. There is a similar flavor in "The Blessed Fairy" also. "Come O Spring" seems to respond to the last few lines of Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind." Poems like these highlight the influence of the literary giants on the poet. The readers have the feeling of travelling to different corners of nature while they still hold the book in their hands.

In later poems like "Loving You," "Gateway to Memories," "Exhaustion," and others, the poet gives her work a modern touch, which suggests that despite following the footsteps of the romantics, she does not remain untouched by the contemporary lifestyle. She builds on modern themes in the romantic style which gives her work an individuality and a unique place in the literary writing of the present day. Supplementing this, the poet uses ample illustrations to beautify the text and concretize her thoughts in the readers' minds. Readers interested in reading poetry of all kinds can take "Looking Through The Prism" for reading. There would be poems not only the ones that would ignite their interest in poetry but also those that would end up being their favorites. In addition, the poet does not use any ornamented language, and her simplicity of the language makes her appeal to more readers simultaneously. Her simplicity of vocabulary makes the readers feel connected strongly with her thoughts and can easily understand what she is trying to say. Readers who intend to venture into poetry reading can also try with "Looking Through the Prism." Other than those, mature readers who have been into poetry reading for some time would also find this collection holding on to their interest.

They may feel like keeping this book on their bedside and coming back to it time and again to relax themselves and experience the soothing effects of poetry again and again. After her debut collection of short stories in "Flight of Fantasy," Chatterjee shows her artistic bent of mind through her poetry. While the debut work explores different themes of issues that confront human beings, the poetry work shows the potential she has as a writer and the vital work that can be expected from her pen.

# BOOK REVIEW

## THE ATOMS OF THOUGHT

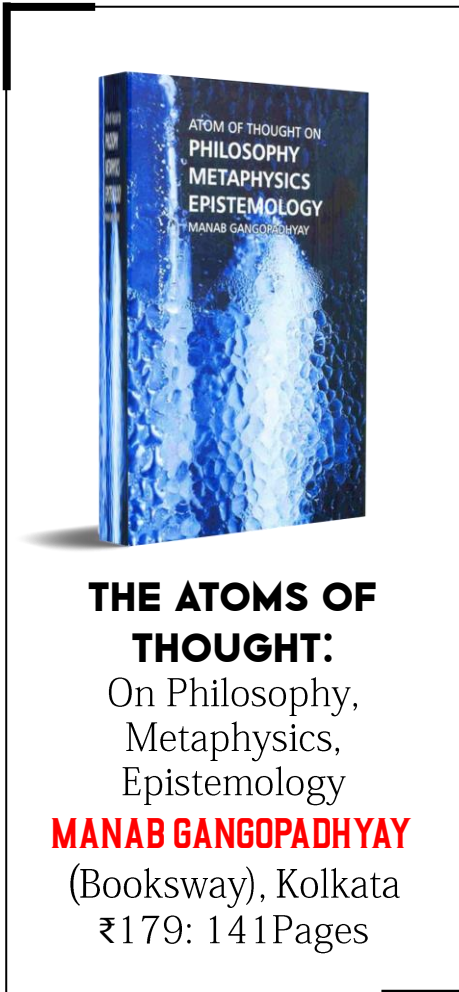
BY MANAB GANGOPADHYAY

At a time when advances in science and technology have changed our understanding of our mental and physical selves, it is easy for some to dismiss the discipline of philosophy as obsolete. But to experience a kind of intellectual ecstasy, we are also reminded of Socrates, "Beware the barrenness of a busy life." Wonder is the feeling of a philosopher, and philosophy begins in wonder. Thus Socrates claims that "the life which is unexamined is not worth living."

Both these posthumous volumes of The Atoms of Thought by Manab Gangopadhyay—an author of sixteen published novels, ten books on critical and philosophical literature in Bengali, three voluminous titles on philosophy, sociology and historicism in English, who started and concluded his professional career as a professor, later, Reader in Bengali Language and Literature in the Government Colleges of West Bengal, including Presidency University, Kolkata -- are essentially on what philosophy teaches people: "think critically" and "challenge your own point of view." The very titles engage on Philosophy as a discipline, which is to be studied, not for the sake of any definite answers to its questions since no definite answers can, as a rule, be known to be true, but rather for the sake of the questions themselves, through the greatness of the universe, which philosophy contemplates, the mind also is rendered great, and becomes capable of that union with the universe which constitutes its highest good.

Manab Gangopadhyay's books on critical literature, society, civilization, historicism, philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, western philosophy, seminal thoughts and thinkers and on the vast world of creative literature display his range of interest and accomplishment as an interdisciplinarian. Volume I, On Philosophy Metaphysics Epistemology intends to gather the atoms of thought, both subjective and objective, on life as a great surprise, ideas and philosophical quest of the meaning of existence, truth and god, addressed and conjectured by the great thinkers down the corridors of history, both western and Indian, critically examined by the author, flavoured by his capstone comments and refutations.

July 2021 *The*  
literature today



Volume II, On Society Civilization Historicism traces the evolution of the theories on society, civilization and philosophy of history, focusing on the state of intellectual, cultural, and material development in human society, and the appearance of complex political and social institutions, of the accumulated habits, attitudes and beliefs of people that define for them their general behavior and way of life, their total set of activities, often punctuated by scholastic and empirical observations of the author.

Sharing precious moments with Bertrand Russell, M. N. Roy and Gopinath Kobiraj have blazed the innate urge for interdisciplinary studies in the life of the author. Browsing through regional, national and international journals and reviews,

I have found that Manab Gangopadhyay has been labelled as "the professor of humanities"—as both in his writings and lectures 'this professor of humanities' had been seen as a frequenter in philosophy, psychology, sociology, social psychology and philosophy of history. A rationally introspective essayist, a daring writer of critical literature, he has also been a believer in cultural aristocracy. Generally regarded a creative writer for mature readers, he explores the untrodden dark recesses of characters and surroundings by an adroit penetration into their psyche and psychological reality.

There has been a sharp distinction between the critical rationalist philosopher in him and his inborn creative artistry. The literary world of Manab Gangopadhyay is spotted by the perceptive readers endowed with a conscious psyche. Having a mind and rationale, intelligence and inculcation of intellect, eyes open enough to witness, a consciousness that knows to see and is not afraid to watch, it will not be an audacious claim that only those rational, free from the shackles of descriptive story-like narrative prejudice, are susceptible to appreciate the intricate world of literature of Manab Gangopadhyay. A bird's-eye-view on these two Volumes of The Atoms of Thought will make such proposition poignant.

Volume I, On Philosophy Metaphysics Epistemology approaches 'Knowledge' and 'Truth' from three distinct logical perspectives. We all know that "Knowledge" can refer to a theoretical or practical understanding of a subject. It can be implicit as with practical skill or expertise, or explicit as with the theoretical understanding of a subject, formal or informal, systematic or particular, whereas, "Epistemology" is the study of knowledge. This is a matter of understanding what knowledge is, and how to distinguish between cases in which someone knows something and cases in which someone does not know something; "Metaphysics" is a type of philosophy or study that uses broad concepts to help define 'reality' and our understanding of it. Metaphysics might include the study of the 'nature of the human mind', the definition and meaning of existence, or the nature of space, time, and/or causality.



## THE ATOMS OF THOUGHT

The author initiated by relating the theories of Knowledges with Empirical nature of Knowledge, Psychological nature of Knowledge and Knowledge from logical side and then moved into the Metaphysical nature of 'Knowledge Act Theory' emphasising on the opinion of the Behaviourists, Object and Awareness theories of S. Alexander, Croce and Gentile. He furthers with the Neo-Idealists on Knowledge and mind also using own critical opinions on both 'Relation Theory' of Knowledge and the 'Quality Theory' of Knowledge, including the 'Act Theory' and the 'Relation Theories'. The author picks up the Relation of Knowledge to object with reference to Naive Realism and Epistemological Neo Realism, our Knowledge of the external world with the problem of Perception as a mode of knowledge. He has added a unique chapter on the problem of the Metaphysicians examining the Bradleyan notion of Primary and Secondary qualities in Appearance and Reality.

The rest of the book deals with a rare theme: the critical examinations of the philosophy of religion, faith in the Super-structural Power with a critical examination of God's theory. From the scriptures to the philosophical school of thoughts, the author brings them in and then expands the refutations.

In the first part of Volume II, On Society Civilization Historicism the author offers a detail exposition on the nature and the stages of society, society and environment, environment and life, the evolution of society with society and individual, community, associations and groups, institutions, customs, mores, social interests and attitudes, including environment and life, 'geography social life and people' adding the notions of "Culture" and "Personality" and "Heredity" and "Environment" in perspectives.

The Part II focuses the searchlight on the economic elements and the political elements of civilization, law and lawlessness, punishment and primitive freedom, the emergence of the notion of family and its function in civilization. The chapter concludes with historicism and the myth of destiny. Part III involves a rare inclusion of the discipline of Historicism. It begins with examining Oswald Spengler's theory of the culture cycle -- Spring of Culture or Childhood of Culture, Summer of Culture or Youth of Culture, Autumn of Culture or Ripe maturity of Culture, Winter of Culture or Decline and Death of Culture. Here the author also brings in art as the expression of the Style of a Culture and Cycle of a Grand Style in the art of a culture. This chapter proceeds with examining the Challenge and Response Theory of Arnold Toynbee, also referring post-modern Social Cycle Theory of P. A. Sorokin.



AUTHOR

MANAB GANGOPADHYAY



REVIEWED BY

AALOY GANGOPADHYAY

From an elaborative Foreword of the 2 Volumes of books we come know that these easy to-read topics are in reality scripted lectures addressed to audience, not so frequenter to the world of sociology, culture, civilization, philosophy of history, mostly at Free Thinkers' Club, an intellectual repertoire, which Manab Gangopadhyay himself had established in 1958, to inculcate and rejoice nothing but "the joy of understanding," the pleasure of knowledge. Scripted in the personal pages of Diary and full-scraps personal copies on various subjects in between 1956 to 1970, these apparently simplistic renditions depict not only immense command of the author on interdisciplinary studies but the teacher in himself, who transfers knowledge germinating interest; adding graded perspectives, devoid of pedantry, one of the striking features of his other critical discourses in general. With an intention to make new ideas transmit, related to any field of discussion, to offer the first hand information or to portray a bird's eye view of the subject, the author emphasized most on the clarity of thought and rendition, to accomplish the maximum reach. The author derives genesis of the same: so easy to hear and understand but so difficult a task, leaving apart the vast world of definitions and contradictory characteristic features of the concepts. His preparations must have involved so many textual readings of the west and the east but to identify them line by line is quite a Herculean task. The author never thought of "bringing out" these drafts of lectures in form of a book; rather, his students and intimate circle of intelligentsia had planned the same.

In both of these posthumous volumes of The Atoms of Thought, prove, what has been mentioned in his available biographies, that Philosophy has been the first and last love of the Manab Gangopadhyay, a mould that did set his thinking, feeling and willing, and above all, something that has given his "Weltanschauung." In these informal lectures he used to emphasise the words of S. T. Coleridge, "In wonder all philosophy began; in wonder it ends; and admiration fills up the interspace." He believed in what he quoted from Cicero, "Philosophy, if rightly defined, is nothing but the love of wisdom."



# THE PERFECT 5 A KEY TO UNLOCK

BY ABHAY N SINGH

5

## ABHAY N SINGH

is an MBA. By profession, he is a trainer, motivator and writer. He is the founder of ACEL (Ambient Centre for English Language), an institute for language and personality development. He trains professional students and also, he has been connected with TV Media. He has been a part of Live TV debate shows like "Dial C for Cricket" in NEO SPORTS CHANNEL at MUMBAI. He also writes columns and journals in leading newspapers. Abhay is planning to launch some more books on topics like 'Defuse the Depression', 'Crack the Interview Trap', 'How to Be a Self-made' to name a few.





**T**he present day time is all about the fiercely competitive people and their spirit of working hard and working smart. And as it has been said since a long time that knowledge is power, this continues to gain more relevance than earlier as the days pass.

In the light of this, knowledge is available in abundance and this makes the selection of the right source of knowledge a little difficult for the one who wants to learn and understand things. Abhay N. Singh's "The Perfect 5" is one such plethora of knowledge which is in a capsule, condensed and concentrated form.

"The Perfect 5", as the name suggests, is about perfecting the skills of a person to get through the different stages in his/her struggle to get a job. Keeping this in mind, the title seems to be very accurately thought and appropriate to the subject of the book. But, it is not just about perfecting the 5 skills but also like an overall personality development project where the readers can read and learn a lot more, improvise and improve themselves to become better than they are at present so that wherever they go to seek work or employment, they are not refused.

The author shares his insightful experience of years and learning which he has acquired by observing people and interviewing candidates on a regular basis. This makes the book a product of the author's experience and the things he talks about are not far-fetched rather they carry a practical approach and the author's pragmatic methods to learn and understand things. The book is focused on not just the basic sharing of how things work in the process of getting an employment but the author also offers valuable examples from his experience to make the things more relevant and stronger in appeal to the readers.

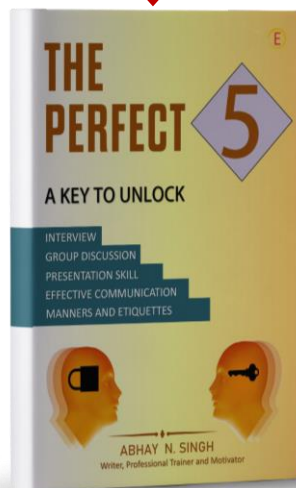
Singh focusses individually on all areas focusing on readers of all types. He designs the book in a manner which would cater to the needs of those who are starting from scratch and also those who have been in the learning phase for a long time but are still willing to learn and refine themselves to make themselves an improved version of their earlier self.

The book becomes relevant in a universal manner because the employment process is more or less the same for all organizations and the author focusses on areas where most candidates face difficulty. Whether it is the interview, communication, group discussion or even selection of the outfit to be worn, the author gives all the necessary and important details at one platform. Every candidate will find something or the other relevant to his/her need and will get to learn something new or simply upgrade himself or herself for something better.

Through simple language and detailed style of writing, the author addresses the reader directly and also points out the flaws and mistakes that many may have done at some point of time or another. This makes the book a one-time read for all and many times read for all too. He begins the book by telling the readers the purpose of writing the book and goes on to discuss the concepts he is going to talk about in the coming pages.

The readers' interest is developed in the first place as soon as they come across these words as everyone in today's time has a hunger for knowledge and everyone keeps exploring ways to learn and make themselves better so that they can make it to the finishing line and be victorious over their competitors. However, it would be better if readers read the book in installments rather than reading it all in one go as there is a lot to learn and absorb in the course of reading the book. The book is not just about reading but also imbibing the facts and information that the author shares through his valuable experience. This would only be of better benefit when the readers go through it slow and steady.

All readers who have been in the job market for some time and also those who plan to enter the job market at some time in the future may find this book useful. The readers who are already a part of the labor force can also read the book as no one knows what can be learnt from where and when it may be. The others who are past their working age can also read the book and impart the wisdom to the coming generation. Also, readers who do not have any plans in the present time but may have plans in the distant future can find this book of importance as it will prove to be an early step in grooming themselves for the competition that they would face in the coming time.



## A KEY TO UNLOCK

*Interview  
Group Discussion  
Presentation Skill  
Effective  
Communication  
Manners And  
Etiquettes*

Shelley once wrote, "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

This quote's validity can be extended to writers of prose writing, too, as the postmodern world has ample examples of authors sharing their vision of the future straightforwardly and unabashedly. An example of the presentation of reality in its starkest forms can be found in Abhishek Ghosh's book, "The Paradise Conflict." Milton may have written about a paradise that humanity lost, but he would not have thought how years later, the paradise humans have would also stand in conflict.

# THE PARADISE CONFLICT

Shelley once wrote, "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

The subject that Ghosh chooses is born out of deep introspection and after serious thought to the environmental situation that the world confronts at present. Although he takes the narrative of fiction, the ideas and facts that he shares are far from undeniable. At one level or the other, the readers subconsciously agree with all that the author writes. With a plot that does not feature too many characters, the author focuses on the pivotal issue and makes the readers ponder its criticality.

Most of the time in literature, authors tend to share their vision in a science fiction world where technology is more advanced than today, and people's lives are much better than today. This vision can be found in Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" or George Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four" or even the present-day writer like Matt Adcock in his work, "Complete Darkness." Ghosh's work takes all these factors into consideration, and in addition, he raises the fundamental but burning question of the day in the dystopian narrative and poses the problem in such a world, the future world. These are some of the critical factors that can attract mature and grown-up readers to read.

7

Abhishek Ghosh (b.1990) was born in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. Grew up in Kolkata and Siliguri. A PDDM Graduate and a working professional in the Banking and Finance Sector. Latest book released, The Paradise Conflict. His first book, "Every Frame is a Painting" published by Novel Nuggets. Second book self published through Juggernaut Publishers: Love, Realization and The World of Today - A collection of Poems.

**Interests in life:**

READING | PHOTOGRAPHY  
| TRAVELLING | BLOGGING





**T**he *Paradise Conflict* as the work is a product of a sharp mind trying to understand what would be if the situations that occur in the novel happen in reality

In light of this, recommending the work to readers who are aware of the problems humans face and how the future would be can try reading Ghosh's work. How the present environmental issues like pollution, water shortage combined with selfish nature culminate and kindle a new kind of colonial spirit is the framework in which the entire idea of Ghosh's thoughts operates. The presence of the Civil Imperial Regime gives the work a little bend of both colonialism and imperialism in the postmodern world for reasons other than monetary.

Creating a unique stream for itself, his work creates a different ground of its own and keeps the readers in its grip because of not just its sharpness but also the construction of the plot.

Apart from this, young readers who wish to open their minds to a world that would be far from utopian can lay their hands on "*The Paradise Conflict*" without a second thought. The book's length is short, which opens the readership base to people who are not interested and length, voluminous, and bulky works but are interested in reading something that can jolt them.

8

The work is sharp, focused, and shows reality in the face of it. The language that the author uses is also carefully selected to make sure all kinds of readers can read the book and understand the depth of the matters it explores. After his debut collection of poems and short stories in "*EVERY FRAME IS A PAINTING*," "*THE PARADISE CONFLICT*" shows the critical side of the author in a full-fledged prose work.

Due to the seriousness of the subject and the unignorable significance of the issue the author raises in his work, "*THE PARADISE CONFLICT*" may become a part of the canon in the future and worth giving time for the future readers.



**THE PARADISE CONFLICT**  
**ABHISHEK GHOSH**  
Novel Nuggets Publishers

₹135: 150Pages

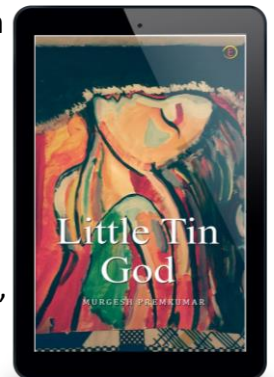


**MURGESH PREM KUMAR****AUTHOR**

## LITTLE TIN GOD

A person's life is developed by the events that happen, and the people surrounding him/her. On the basis of this, they make their choices in their lives later. An example of how events in a person's life impact them is seen in Murgesh Prem Kumar's work, "Little Tin God." Through the story of the protagonist Sahana, the readers get to witness a postmodern technique of examining the psychological impact of happenings in the life of a person.

The story begins from the early stages of her life when she is a ten-year-old and develops further as she grows up from a girl to a woman. Kumar's insightfulness into the female psyche and the way they perceive things is something that the readers will notice immediately. He gives the first-person account from the eyes of young Sahana and, at the same time, also tells the readers of the thoughts that she has without conveying them directly. This is one of the aspects that becomes the salient feature of "Little Tin God."



MURGESH PREM KUMAR

AUTHOR

## LITTLE TIN GOD

▼ Kumar packs the work with a stream of emotions that Sahana goes through in her life from the beginning as a child and as a grown-up. He shows the psychological complexities in a smooth manner. Showing the changing she undergoes from childhood to becoming a teen, and then a woman gives an introduction to the artistic talent of Kumar and his deep understanding of the complexities of the psychology of the opposite gender, keeping in mind the intricate details.

Other essential things that the readers can notice in "Little Tin God" is how Sahana's decisions are affected by her childhood. This gives a clear indication that the childhood of a person is most instrumental when a person decides on anything. Also, the lessons that they learn in that time shape them into what they become as grown-ups. Sahana's upbringing made her strong, independent, someone who would never give up, always trying to do the right thing, who would not run away from any trouble, life across borders, harassment of a person in physical or mental

the gender divide and balance of power in a home. The other themes that the author discusses in "Little Tin God" include the importance of family, the love and care they can give, the hypocritical nature of people, the double standards of society, etc. All such themes make the work important for the contemporary situation.

The character of Sahana is one on which Kumar has done a lot of work. He crafts her to be free from all shackles and become an individual with her own identity. The readers get to see all other people through her eyes and get to hear her thoughts. She does not manipulate anything to her convenience and lets the readers decide and incur on the basis of what they see. They see her evolve and grow as a person. They get to see her as a meek, submissive, silent girl and a strong, iron-willed woman who fights the battles of her life when the situation calls for it. This shows how Kumar builds her up and develops her into a round character.

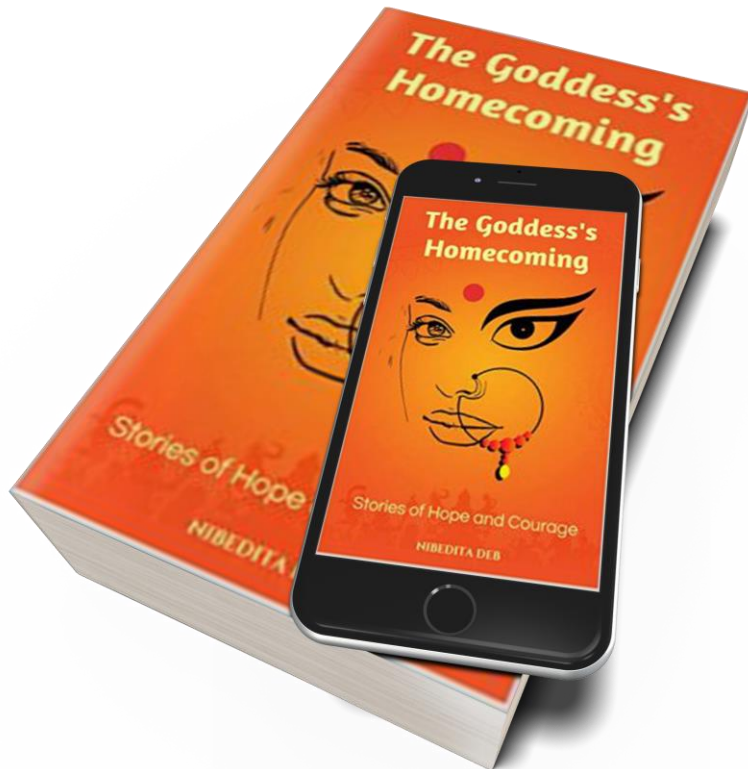
**S**he lives in a world which is full of selfish people or the ones who do not care about her. These people surround her throughout her life but, her vibrance, hopefulness, and aura of personality are what helps her win the hearts of the readers and develop an instant, long-lasting connection with them. This the reason that no matter what decisions she makes and the steps she takes, everything seems justified, and even if she makes mistakes, they only make her character more human and realistic. "Little Tin God" is a book that all kinds of readers can try reading and will have different viewpoints on the complexities of the characters Kumar has built. Amidst these intricacies, they will also witness the plot development managed by the author at a comfortable speed with pauses to share the viewpoints of the characters. Some readers may finish the book in one sitting, while some may go on to read it in a few sittings.

But the impact would be the same in both cases. The language that the author chooses is also where the readers would feel at home. Although, at some places, they may find new words that would help in updating their vocabulary, which is one of the important benefits of reading. The author keeps the structure of the novel not too tight nor too loose, and the readers do not lose focus of the plot even for once. Sahana's life may be the cenosure, but the other inherent themes related to her or others ornament the fragment of the text in a fluid and impactful manner in "Little Tin God."



# THE GODDESS'S HOMECOMING

Book Review



About the Author:  
Nibedita Deb hails from the City of Joy. She is a two-time gold medal awardee - first from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, and then from Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA). She is the recipient of Sir Ratan Tata Trust Scholarship (2013) and All India Reynold's Scholarship (2003). In 2017, she founded Curioven, a boutique content development agency, and was adjudged as a winner at the National Leadership Awards 2020 in 'Women Entrepreneurs' category for her outstanding work. She has been trained in Rabindra Sangeet and Hindustani Classical Music, and loves to discuss art, music, movies, innovation, and books.

11

# THE GODDESS'S HOMECOMING BY NIBEDITA DEB

"The Goddess's Homecoming" features stories of ordinary women of different backgrounds, which may be from villages to cities. But the one thing common for all of them is their love of the Durga Puja festival. The stories that Deb writes are short, and the action is swift, but they explore a variety of themes. These include the position of women in society, the importance of motherhood, the role of a woman in the household, the issue of drugs and other malpractices in youth, women, and prostitution, and children borne by that, and many others that affect women in one way or the other. There is also the presence of the concept of seasonal development in the first story, "Shoshti: The Sixth Element." The author has interestingly titled the stories too, beginning with the number six going on to ten.

The readers who are unfamiliar with the famous festival of Durga Puja in West Bengal can find not just the flavour but the feeling of the atmosphere in the state at this time. They can get to understand the enthusiasm which people have and how well they celebrate it with equal zeal. To add to that, she keeps the language clear, simple, and close to the understanding of all kinds of readers. This makes sure that "The Goddess's Homecoming" remains open to reading for all readers. The ones who like the genre of short story writing are bound to enjoy Deb's work and may want to read more from her pen. At the same time, the readers who are more into voluminous texts would also find this work holding to their interest owing to the manner in which it is written.

Deb keeps the stories short, crisp, and focussed. The development of the plot is swift, and simultaneously, the readers get to hear the internal thoughts and feelings that the characters have. Whether it is about living with another wife of the husband or searching for a disappeared family member or realizing their true potential or anything, the readers get to listen and comprehend the personalities of the women too. Although the author has chosen the framework of short story writing, she still manages to develop her characters and show different shades of their personalities. The readers would observe this feature very soon when they start reading "The Goddess's Homecoming."

**T**he subject of women in literature has been in the limelight for a long time. Yet, most of those portrayals were of women by men.

In Indian literature, there are only a handful of women who have entered the realm of writing and expressed women in the closest manner possible. Dealing with the psychological intricacies and the innate details of their personalities has been done only by a few women writers. New writing in this category is Nibedita Deb's in her collection of short stories, "The Goddess's Homecoming: Stories of Hope and Courage."

The title may say one thing or the other. Still, the cover illustration clarifies to the readers the fact that this may seem an ordinary work on the surface. Yet, on closer examination, there are layers of meanings attached and a variety of themes that the author explores. There is the image of a face, which is half that of a woman and the other being of the Goddess. This indicates that all women are an incarnation of the Goddess Durga and the subtitle further clears the air, and the readers get ready to read something that is not just strong but equally powerful.

As the author tells the readers in the "About the book" section of "The Goddess's Homecoming" that the work is "an anthology of short stories set against the backdrop of the most important festival of the Bengali community- Durga Puja," every story bears the flavour of festivities and the situations in human lives in that light. Every story that Deb writes features women who work in their respective roles in a time when Durga Puja is round the corner. These women are powerful figures who can be representatives of women struggling everyday fulfill their responsibilities, whether they are household or financial or taking care of children or working outside to take care of the family or anything as the situation calls for.



# Unlock Shackles

*Let her Fly*

13

Basically hailing from Punjab, Mrs Saroj Sudan is an Educationist by profession. She has a strong belief that life must be led constructively without any full stop, at all ages and at all stages of existence. She post-graduated in English and completed her M.Ed. from Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan. Pursuing her passion for attaining knowledge, she also completed her M.A. in Hindi from Punjab University, Chandigarh.



SAROJ SUDAN

She has held various prestigious positions during her career in the field of Education spanning 38 years, such as: Faculty for Teaching English at B.P.S.M. Women's University, Khanpur Kalan, Haryana P.G.T. at Army School, Colaba (Mumbai)

Principal, Guru Nanak English School, Colaba (Mumbai)

As a Principal, she was honoured with the coveted 'Active Principal Award' and 'Ideal Principal Award' by Akhil Bharti Vikas Kendra (Aurangabad) and Kala Bharti Child Institute, respectively. She was felicitated with a citation by the American India Foundation for her contribution in making their 'Digital Equalizer Programme for Technology Adoption in Education' a great success. She has won numerous laurels for having written many unpublished plays and dramas that have been enacted at various school and college stages."

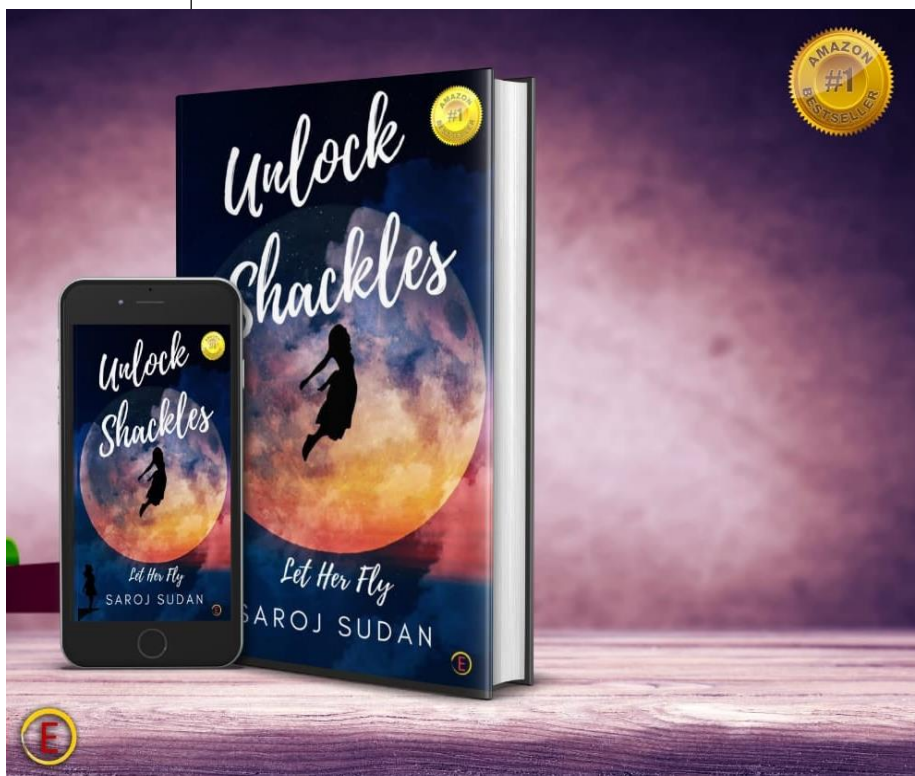


Eversince women have entered the sphere of literary writing; they have tried to showcase what women feel in a real sense. They have shown how patriarchy has held them in its grip for generations and continues to do so in some manner or the other. These efforts by women make readers read, and people hear the same story from the other side; instead of his-story, now there is her-story. Indian literary writing has seen a lesser number of women writers in comparison to the male writers. After writers like Sarojini Naidu, Kamala Das, Ismat Chughtai, Mahasweta Devi, Amrita Pritam, and a handful of others, Saroj Sudan would be remembered for her ground-breaking work, "Unlock Shackles: Let Her Fly." The work in itself is a masterpiece as a debut work and displays the author's maturity and understanding due to her experience and wisdom.

The author has chosen the title, "Unlock Shackles" wisely and the cover of the book is equally attractive. The readers get the feeling that there is a sense of fighting all odds, never giving up, and breaking free of all that can stop a person from doing what they want. As the blurb reveals, the story revolves around a mother-daughter duo Sarla and Pallavi, who are more symbolic of the womenhood fighting for the wrong that has happened with them. Pallavi's father is a thorough incarnation of patriarchy and the atrocities and abuses it has inflicted upon women for generations. The fight of these women like heroes is a part of the fragment of the framework that Sudan shares with the readers. They are jolted by the fact that Sarla and Pallavi could be found in any household in not just India, but any part of the world as patriarchy is omnipresent. Sarla and Pallavi could be any mother daughter pair who are suffering the same fate as the characters. This is one of the few facts that makes "Unlock Shackles" a strongly relevant work in the social context. The other additional factors that contribute to its importance as a social novel include the position of women in the society, the patriarchal hold and control of them, the education of women, the support, love, and nurturing any child needs, and the fact that intelligence is not based on gender.

These are just a few themes that the readers can easily find in the book. There would be more when examined closely. In addition to all this, there are the characters of Sarla, Pallavi, her aunt, Sudha, her father, Virendra Singh, and other minor characters who give their share of contributions in the development of Sarla and Pallavi as vital, exuberant and characters who come across not as puppets in the hands of patriarchy but assertive individuals who have their own will, the spirit to fight and the aggressiveness and hunger for equality in every sphere of their lives. Sudan's characters have the fire to break free of all that would stop them or hinder their path to reach where they have been dreaming to. This is the incarnation of the modern-day women who would not restrain herself from voicing what she thinks and feels. That is what makes the subject of "Unlock Shackles" fit to stand the test of time and also remain universally relevant for this time or the times ahead.

Simultaneously, there is a plot that moves with an adequate speed with the presence of enough action to keep the readers engaged in the book and the content it has. The length of the book is also maintained according to an average reader. It is neither too short and indeed not too long. All these factors combine and make the book worth a reader's time and hold on to their interest and keep it sustained throughout their reading journey. Even though "Unlock Shackles" is all about women by a woman for women, the character of Deepak stretches the canvas of the novel further and does not let it remain restricted to women and their lives.



Therefore, it can be said that the work can be read not just by women but men too. Readers who are grown-ups would find this work catching their interest instantly, while younger readers may try reading a mature work as it portrays reality in the closest manner. This book would do the wonder of opening their eyes to the mostly unseen and unspoken reality in a stark way.

After the onset of the waves of feminism, women have broken all the rules and regulations set by the male folk, which held them back. They have written a lot of flagship killer work, but there is still a long way to go, and this message is given loud and clear by the author Saroj Sudan in "Unlock Shackles: Let Her Fly."



# LIFE – SYMPHONY'

LIFE-SYMPHONY is the mirror of psycho-socio-philosophy through which light is cast on various complex issues prevalent in society, keeping Indian culture in its orbit. It is a non-fictional book divided into 26 chapters.

BY- MOHIT AGARWAL

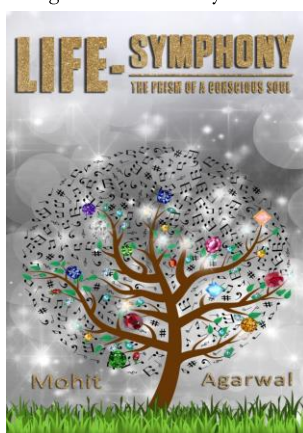


15

It is indeed a notion that has been running since the vigorous usage of Information and Technology has overtaken the world that younger generation lack brains and values! This is merely an injected myth by some brains striving hard to suffice the generation gap they faced. When anything is asked the voices logically, they are shut coining them arrogant. It is a high time to question. This generation of youth is in the questioning mode of the illusionary beliefs that have been injected into the psyches in the name of religion or traditions. This book by Mohit Agarwal roots down to the starting point of a man's thinking.

This book, Life-Symphony talks about various topics that are part of everyone's life, but frequently being taken for granted or just believed blindly. In the chapter Wisdom, author Mohit talks about the power of knowledge, conscious data gaining, perseverance, hard work and self-discipline to achieve success.

With amole examples from all fraternities, including movie actors the explanation he narrated ignites a thought of self-discovery.



## LIFE-SYMPHONY

The Prism Of A Conscious Soul

MOHIT AGARWAL

Evincepub Publishing

₹175: 216Pages

July 2021 | Vol 1 Issue 2  
BOOK REVIEW

Likewise, the chapter parenting and the contents in it are so appealing that it does down to the point that there is a difference between raising children and merely becoming parents. Also, the author pointed the importance of being transparent and communicative with the teenage and young adults in the family, giving them a lending shoulder of help and courage in times if extreme help, be it physical or mental stress. With amole examples from all fraternities, including movie actors the explanation he narrated ignites a thought of self-discovery.

Likewise, the chapter parenting and the contents in it are so appealing that it does down to the point that there is a difference between raising children and merely becoming parents. Also, the author pointed the importance of being transparent and communicative with the teenage and young adults in the family, giving them a lending shoulder of help and courage in times if extreme help, be it physical or mental stress. In other chapters like Education and Language, he explains that being educated is not getting degrees and restricting the knowledge to books, but apply the knowledge gained from the books in real life and become practical. Suppose if one is asked to read about a car engine, having the technical information in mind and seeing the entire motor working at a mechanic shop gives a great insight. This is what is lacking in the present education system and the author hopes that this will change soon.

In the further chapters, the author has arguable pains to inculcate and imbibe real sense in seeing the world to make it more accessible and adaptable for the people to live in harmony.

The book, Life – Symphony gives a vivid picture of India, its practices since ages that were developed for the well being of human lives and the forgotten elite values from our epics due to many invasions are incredibly explained in the book.

# Bikhre Sapne

**“This is a story of Raajan of Shivpur village. Raajan is brought up and educated by toilings of his poor widow mother Rukmini. A leopard kills her husband while he was cutting wood in the forest. She now runs here and there in search of livelihood and knocks at Ananadpur Haveli of a Landlord. The landlord does not offer him an honourable way for alleviating hunger and poverty, but instead tries to trap and bargain her beautiful and shapely body.”**

By **M. MURTAZA**

**A**mong the variety of books being written by the Indian writers of the present day, the books dealing the social causes are relatively less in number.

M. Murtaza's book, "Bikhre Sapne" is one of those scarce books in literary writing that hails not just social relevance but has the flavours of satirical commentary by the observant author now and then. A reader who has an interest in reading books that form the heart and soul of the different social structures that exist from the times of independence till the present day would find this book holding on to their interests instantly. The book's blurb does not give many spoilers and only states details of the initial stages while the main plotline is kept as a surprise for the readers, which they would only know on reading. From the title, "Bikhre Sapne" the readers get the feeling of this book is far from the utopian world and would present the reality on the face of it. But what that would be, they would not know. Divided into 19 chapters of not very long lengths, Murtaza's work explores the life of Rajan from his infancy to his attaining adulthood and becoming worldly-wise. In the midst of this, the author explores a variety of themes and social issues, which range from the position of women in society, the discrimination on the basis of caste, the resultant effects on people, pervading colonialism in the absence of colonizers, the self-centric nature of human beings and the mania politics and political motives can create. Readers can easily trace these themes here and there, and the usage of satirical tone makes "Bikhre Sapne" a book to be read repeatedly.

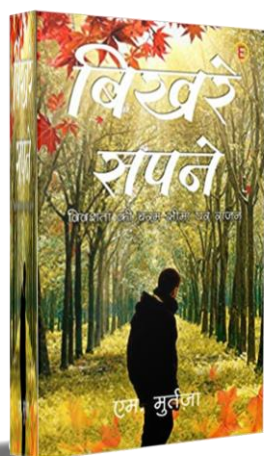
The characters of Murtaza's work are unique and real. They have internal conflicts and dilemmas and face the world with this contradiction only to agree to the ways of the world, voluntarily or involuntarily. The shifts of narrative show this internal conversation more transparently and make the readers understand their thoughts and viewpoints more closely.

Rajan is a representative of many who continues to be oppressed in the name of caste, and even when they try to make a better life for themselves, the stigma continues to get the better out of them. Murtaza does not reveal the exact time of year in which the work is set, and the readers only conjecture it being in the pre-independence time or even before. It is only later that the readers understand that this story could be the story of any household of the present day in the remotest corners of a country where the constitution states no differentiation would be in the name of caste, but the reality is contrary.

Rukmani represents women being double oppressed because of being from the lower caste and the untouchable. Her struggle could be the story of any woman, whether she belongs to a rural or an urban area. Her life dominates the text until one point, while later Rajan's also becomes the central focus alongside. The usage of Hindi as a medium of expression gives "Bikhre Sapne" a little more Indianness than an English version would. Alongside, it makes the readers reminisce "The Untouchable" by Mulk Raj Anand;



however, the only common factor is the central theme. The other content is Murtaza's own creation. From a social standpoint, aware readers would draw connections with Premchand's work here and there. The author's satirical tone in the content highlighted in bold at certain places gives the book a Dickensian overtone. The readers who are interested in reading Hindi literature, which has both social and political relevance, would find "Bikhre Sapne" catching their fascination and provoking their ability to think and introspect. Therefore, the book becomes a recommended one for all of them.



**Author**  
**M. Murtaza**  
**Book Title**  
**Bikhre Sapne**  
**Pages 212**

Author M. Murtaza was born on 7th July' 1949 in Diwan Bagh, Deo, Aurangabad, Bihar (India). Diwan Bagh was founded by his ancestral grandfathers who were "Diwan" or "Divan" in the powerful Court of Kings of Deo Fort. M. Murtaza topped all his school examinations and was admitted to Bihar College of Engineering (BCE, Patna) (Now NIT, Patna) in Electrical Engineering in 1968 Batch.



Due to some compelling circumstances, he unfortunately couldn't complete his B.E. degree. M. Murtaza penned his first thoughtful, scylla and charybdis Hindi novel "Ankur" at the young age of 36 years in 1985. Ankur was based on contemporary socio-economic problems. Next year in 1986, he completed his second Hindi Novel "Azadi Ka Darpan" which was a thriller, passionate and detective book. Due to his interests in literature and journalism, he joined Milli Ittehad, an Urdu Newspaper published from Jamia Nagar, New Delhi during 1993-96 as Sub-Editor. Going through many ups and downs in life, he tended towards spiritualism and authored theological books like "Gosha E Noor" (Urdu 2002), "Roshni ka Minaar" (Hindi 2003), "Tasawwuf" (Urdu 2010) and historical one - "Baagh ki khooshbu" (Urdu) in 2019. M. Murtaza wrote another Hindi thriller novel "Anuradha" (January 2020) and very recently has come "Bikhare Sapane" in September 2020 ---- an enamouring one on the horns of dilemma, disappointment, failure and extreme pains in life. His books reflect refined blends of Hindi, Urdu and English words which readers are fascinated to. His scene detailing is marvellous. Several articles of the Author have been published in National Newspapers and Magazines like Milli Ittehad, Afkaar, Pindaar, Avadh Pushpanjali and Rahguzar in India. The Author has also been awarded for his literary works.

The circumstances in the life of a person are significant in contributing to and shaping their personality. These circumstances have the potential to change the thinking, perception, and nature of anyone. M. Murtaza, in his work, "Anuradha," attempts to show this effect by the depiction of the life of the protagonist Dhiraj transforming into Seth Dharmdas. Through an engaging and gripping narrative, he does this by showing the life of the character on the canvas of the text.

The cover of the book depicts two people walking in the rainy season and going together, perhaps to the same destination. From the beginning, Murtaza creates the aura of calmness and silence amidst the activities of nature. He has the readers with him and adds a spark to their curiosity altogether. After that, he introduces readers to the main action of the book. The readers are hooked to the narrative from the initial stages itself. As the text develops and unfolds, they remain interested and engaged throughout. The author keeps the plot of the book specific and clear. He does not give unnecessary diversions, which could otherwise make the readers lose interest. This becomes one of the reasons for the readers to remain interested throughout as the plot develops and unveils the story. Simultaneously, he keeps the action grow at a sufficient pace, which does not let the readers get distracted or bored. They remain ready for the next event or twist that the author has to offer.

Murtaza discusses the themes of the position of women and violence against them, how they suffer, and how the people associated with them suffer. Through the character of Dhiraj, "Anuradha" becomes an eye-opener for the readers and conveys the state of mind a male can have and how situations can impact his life. The portrayal of women reacting differently to their circumstances is also something that the readers can notice. Anuradha and Sandhya face the same situations but how they respond and behave later is worth seeing. This also highlights the author's understanding of not just the female psychology but the overall understanding of humans and how different their nature can be. The transformation of Dhiraj to Seth Dharmdas and Sandhya to Rani is the author's way of showing the changing of circumstances bringing a change in the personality of a person. These two characters could be representatives of anyone going through similar circumstances.

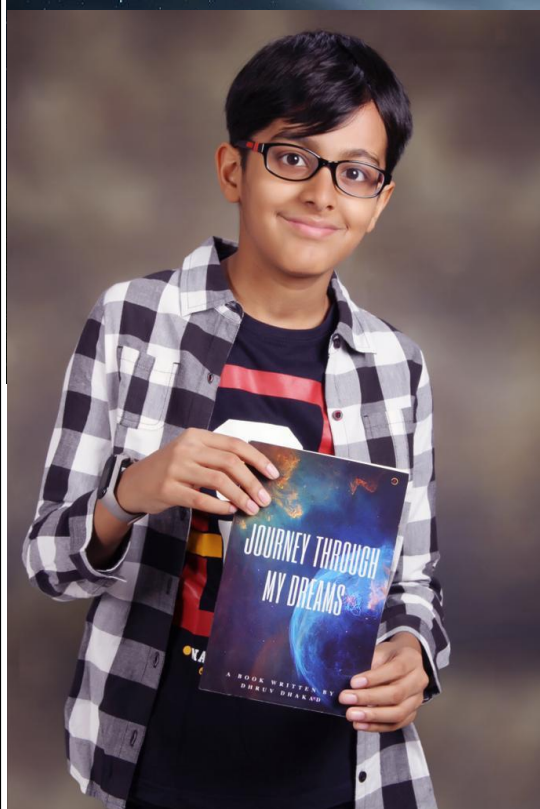
Murtaza opts to keep the language friendly to the understanding of the readers. It is interesting to note how he creates an interesting amalgamation of Hindi, English, and Urdu. Although the dominant language is hindi, the text has flavours of Urdu and English too. At the same time, he builds up strong and individualistic characters who appear to speak for themselves. The author may have given them individual qualities, but as the plot progresses, they break free of the author's control and appear much more robust and close to life. There are a total of 17 chapters in "Anuradha." But, the manner in which Murtaza writes makes the readers visit a different universe, and the impact of the reading remains long after they have finished the book. It makes the readers think, and they do not remain mere mute spectators of the action happening.

There is an air of Indianness throughout the "Anuradha," which is perhaps because of the language that the author chooses and the themes that he explores. An Indian reader would feel interested in reading from the beginning itself. "Anuradha" is likely to become a reading of interest for the mature readers who look for reality-based content which is handled with equal maturity.

The depth and sensitivity of the subjects is something that a grown-up reader can comprehend. After his debut work "Ankur," and other books like "Gosha E Noor," "Raoshni kaa Minaar," "Tasawwuf," "Baagh ki khooshbu," and numerous articles, "Anuradha" displays the maturity and poise of an experienced writer. There is maturity, sensitivity, the understanding to handle delicate subjects, the true depiction of the reality of life and human nature and also, the accuracy of showing the different emotions a human has. Although, younger readers can also try reading and understanding the author's ideas which, they would realize to quite an extent.

**Author**  
**M. Murtaza**  
**Book Title**  
**Anuradha**  
**Pages**  
**184**



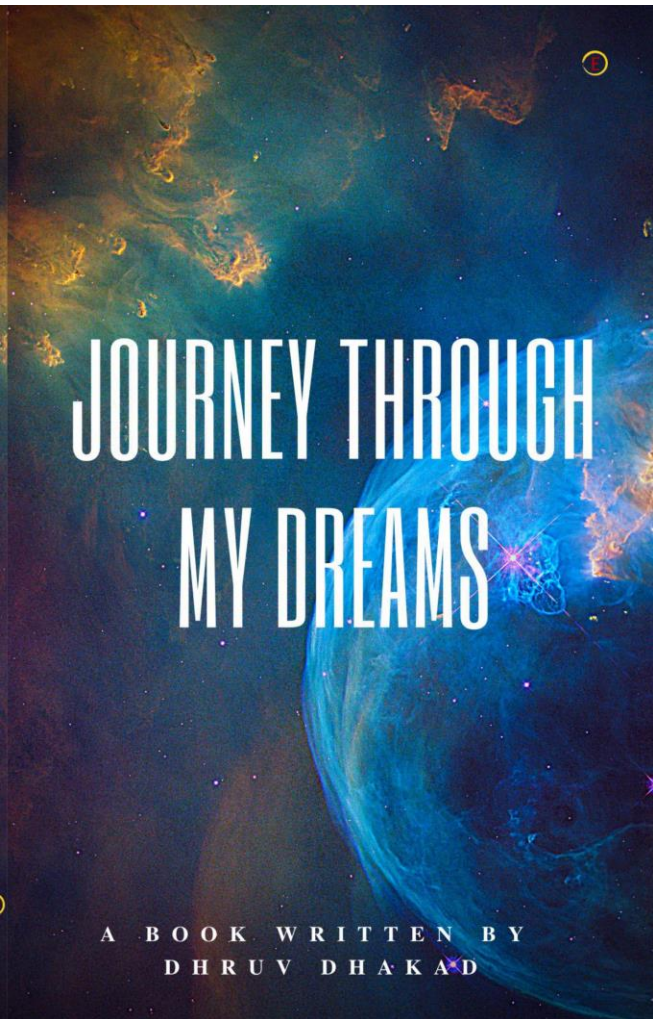


# Journey Through My Dreams

BY DHURUV DHAKAD

Master Dhruv Dhakad is a young writer of 11 years of age who wants to live in a world where Fiction and Fantasies Co-Exist. He is currently in Grade 6 in The Shishukunj International School Indore. He's been applauded in school for writing Fiction stories. At Short age he is said to be Dreamer in his School since he always has the knack to write stories on Fiction and Adventure. He started writing his first book at the age of 10. He wants to travel world to create experience to enhance his books. He has participated in Scholastic Write India Programmed and Selected in 20 Budding Writers among 500 Odd Candidates. He has been appreciated by EX-Vice Chancellor of DAVV Indore for his writing skills. When he's not writing and studying School Books, you can find him watching and playing cricket and he is fond of reading books, watching television and talking with his friends





Every person, old and young, enjoys adventures and adventure stories due to their unexplored facets and the thrill of the unknown. This thrill of the unknown has found ample expression in literary writing and continues to find more through the words of imaginative and expressive authors. One example of such expression can also be seen in Dhruv Dhakad's book, "Journey Through My Dreams." The title suggests the work being about the author's journey, where he explores the unknown and the experiences he gets in this journey. But, the actual content of Dhakad's work is quite different from what the readers may have perceived. It is somewhat different as it is more of a sequence of action packed adventures and stories that the author's characters share through their encounters. These encounters make them come together and work together to get through the circumstances they face and the situations they confront.

The book's cover indicates that it would be taking the readers to a different universe altogether, which is part and parcel of Dhakad's imagination. Herein, he features stories with youngsters as central characters where they are either on an adventure or adventure finds them eventually.

They carry the air of thrill and experience, which keeps the readers in tune with the stories from the beginning. The grown-up readers may be reminded of their younger days when they would also explore the world with their friends in the same way. At the same time, the stories carry the theme of friendship, unity, and standing by each other at all times in good or bad situations.

Dhakad's stories create a universe as Enid Blyton did with his "Famous Five," however, the universe here is different as the characters keep changing, but the common element remains the adventure part. The readers would find a variety of characters and situations being featured in "Journey Through My Dreams." These include mythical, imagined, fragmented, all kinds of situations that the readers may have thought of. Some stories that the readers would enjoy include "The Invisibility Serum," "The Treasure Search," "The World Inside the Book," "The Legendary Blue Gem," and many others. All these stories introduce the readers to the universe of Dhakad's dreams and give their imaginative abilities an adventurous spin altogether. The manner in which he tickles the imagination of the readers is observable and commendable. The readers get an unforgettable reading experience coming from the eyes of a young author.

The author packs every story with a bunch of adventures that unaware characters share, and the stories explore their struggle to sail through the prevailing circumstances and emerge victorious in the end. The young readers would enjoy "Journey Through My Dreams" for the fascination they invoke and the heights to which their imagination can be pushed. In addition, he uses a language that all readers can enjoy. Young readers would enjoy these stories being read to them at their bedtime or any other time. The other feature of having a large number of characters throughout the book also brings the readers closer to Dhakad's dream world. The readers would find characters with whom they can relate and identify. Since the genre is short stories, the characters do not find much space to develop and evolve. Due to this factor, they remain in their positions and explore situations as they come their way.

"Journey Through My Dreams" is recommended for all those readers who are fond of short stories or those who want to have a refreshing experience in reading. They would find characters exploring treasure secrets, fighting zombies, getting invisible, and exploring the consequences or exploring the legends surrounding gems. This book can also be taken by those who wish to initiate themselves in the world of reading or want to explore the genre of short story writing. They would not be disappointed for sure.

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20

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