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# FEATURING

## Vihang A. Naik

Acknowledged and Recognized by almost all the top Journals and Critics that too with the most delightful praises for his works, Author Vihang Ashokbhai Naik is someone with his name in the prestigious LIMCA BOOK Of RECORDS. Mr. Vihang A. Naik is undisputedly a promising author who always succeeds in bringing something intriguing for his readers and fans!

As mentioned by "The US Review of Books" Author Vihang A. Naik is truly a master of his craft and just to have an idea of his brilliance and excellence, we must know that till now 2 Books had been written upon Author Vihang A. Naik! Well, he had authored 4 Books till now and had translated 5 Books till date and there is no doubt that in the coming days his fans and readers will witness a much longer list to his credits. The Book Viral had described his works as "Recommended Without Reservation" while Readers' Favourite had labelled his works to be "Most Highly Recommended" simply giving us the glimpse of his prowess.

Author Vihang Ashokbhai Naik, who is also known as Vihang A. Naik was born in Surat, in the state of Gujarat, India on 2nd of September 1969. If we look at his background then we get to know that he moved from Surat to Baroda, Ahmadabad and then to a few other cities outside the state of Gujarat. Author Vihang A. Naik had his primary schooling from Navrachana, then he changed his schools as he changed the cities where he lived in the coming days. Whereas his higher education took place from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda with English Literature, Philosophy and Indian Literature in English Translations. Clearly his travel experiences gave him unique insight to life and humanity, as we have witnessed in his exceptionally astounding writings!

One of the most celebrated book, "City Times and Other Poems" by the Author had made its mark by entering into the LIMCA BOOK Of RECORDS in the year 2016 and also in MICHEL MADHUSUDAN PRIZE: 1998 among the other significant awards. The book, "City Times and Other Poems" throws light on the life of a city in all its shades, glory and misery. The book is an anthology of his intuitive and philosophical poems. In addition, the book has been celebrated with some High Ratings and Positive Reviews by top Journals and Critics around the globe like Midwest Book Reviews (USA), Limca Book of Records (India), Indie Readers (USA), Manhattan Book Reviews (USA), Kirkus Reviews (USA), Readers' Favorite (USA), Book Viral (UK), The US Review of Books (USA), Reader Views (USA), San Francisco Book Review (USA), Best Seller World (USA), North Eastern Review (India), Indian Book Chronicle (India) and many others.



Along with "City Times and Other Poems (1993)" Author Vihang A. Naik's other poetry collection books are "Making A Poem (2004)" and "Poetry Manifesto – New & Selected Poems (2010)" while his other poetry collection book, "Jeevangeet (2001)" which is in Gujarati Language and is dedicated to the victims of the Gujarat Earthquake that occurred in January 2001. He also translates poetry written in Gujarati Language into English, including his very own Gujarati Poems too. Author's poems had also appeared in some of the noted Literary Journals and Anthologies like Indian Literature: A Sahitya Akademi Bi-Monthly Journal, Kavya Bharati, POESIS: A Journal of Poetry Circle (Mumbai), The Journal of The Poetry Society (India), The Journal of Indian Writing In English, The Journal of Literature and Aesthetics, The Brown Critique, The Poetry Chain among other significant journals and e publications. Interestingly his poetry has been translated into Japanese, Spanish, Italian, German & Portuguese making the fact much evident that the Author's poems are read by the readers worldwide.

Beside all these momentous achievements of the Author, till now 2 books have been edited upon the author too, adding another feather to his incredible glory! "Vihang A. Naik: A Study of his Mind and Art" edited by Dr Sanjay P. Pandey and "Poetry of Vihang A. Naik: New Literary Dimensions" edited by Goutam Karmakar are the 2 book along with many other significant literary critical essays by literary critics which are written and edited upon the author. During his professional life, he had also taught English at various colleges in North Gujarat and retired from his job as an Associate Professor in the English Language in March, 2019. Now, after his retirement, he is currently living and working in Baroda, Gujarat. India.

# *Exclusive Interview With Vihang A. Naik*

Interview: Vihang, I would like to begin by telling you that your book is one of those rare ones which is very difficult to find these days! How could you think of a theme which is so different in poetry?

Vihang A Naik: Well, as you have pointed out about the theme of my Making A Poem ... I mean, I just was on my way to develop a theory of poetry making or writing you can say creative writing. After much meditation it flashed upon me ...I thought, rather than theorizing I should put it in poetry. Ah, it was than Making A Poem..

Interview: Being a poet yourself, dear Vihang, anyone might ask you this, was it easy for you to write poems on 'Poet' and 'Poetry' or it was bit difficult than random poetries?

Vihang A Naik: on 'Poet' and 'Poetry' are right but I believe that to write poems on 'Poet' and 'Poetry' needs a bent of creative tendency which comes on creative literary pursuit. I don't remember that I have ever forced on any title or theme or thought or emotion, initially it comes naturally than perhaps one can work on it or rework in ones private literary workshop.

Interview: How did you prepare yourself for such an important book? How much time it took to write the complete collection? Please let us know about it.

Vihang A Naik: Making A Poem is creative, intuitive and my personal aesthetics and of course, I often experiment with form and content along with vision of metaphysics (seeing beyond the physical). I tried to compose Making A Poem on the art of making a poem. My personal poetic response to the act of making a poem.

Interview: Do you think that your book can be of help for poets? Or it's just for a pleasant read.

Vihang A Naik: I have not written to help poets neither it, as I consider, a pleasant read. But I cannot help it if turns out to be both.

Interview: What is the difference between poem and novel? Both come from inside; both are the translation of imagination; both are creative!

Vihang A Naik: A good novel can be considered a poem and a bad novel can be considered just a common prose thought both are creative.

Interview: As we all know, you are a well-known poet, but why do you write poetry? For people to read them or for some kind of solace, or poetic relief? Please tell us about it.

Vihang A Naik: I do not know why do I write and poetry in particular. It is some kind of creative urge or poetic relief or solace. One thing is that I like what I do and more than that I do not force myself to be poet.

Interview: I ask this question to most of the poets, do you think poetry has lost the readership and is now limited to a certain group of readers who are all in fact poets themselves? Are you agreeing with this point?

Vihang A Naik: I would like to see it the other way. In our age of internet and electronic devices available world wide and locally there seems to be gaining more awareness of literary pursuits. Never was poets did enjoy this freedom where one thinks poem or even one can compose directly on net. Thanks to internet and advance technology that we can access to all most every literary work on net available at our time and most of it is digitalized day by day. Be it poets poetry or literary work.

Interview: What message do you want to give to the poets who have recently taken up their pens to render their feelings into words?

Vihang A Naik: I usually do not give out messages to young poets who may have recently taken up their pens to go their feelings into words to create their literary oeuvre. Only one thing I would like to stress, as I do not consider myself not other than them, that literary work comes with hard work. I myself have worked and reworked on a single poem. I should of course, thank my editors as well. At times a good editor can turn a scrap into master work or oeuvre. It is good to read out our work in private or public literary workshops where one gets constructive feedback. Rest keep on writing on and on.



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