## $\therefore$

## The <br> Presidency College Magazine

(VOLUME 69)
"Though wild-waves roll between us now" [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]

- Sanjib Ghosh

■ Devasish Sen

- Sanghita Sen
- Swanap Kumar De
- Niranjan Goswami
- Himanshu Kumar
- Debrarayan Chakrabarti
- Bijoy De
- Swapan Kumar Mukherjee
- Cover Design
- Do (Derozio Section)
- Cover Photographs
- Illustration
(Principal)
(Bursar)
(Teacher in Charge of Publications)
(Teacher Editors)
(Senior Librarian)
(Librarian)
(Library Staff)
Anitesh Chakraborty
Souvik Gupta vaya
Avishek Ghosal
Joy Saha
Sangbida Lahiri


## MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

- Sanjib Ghosh (Principal)
- Devasish Sen (Bursar)
- Sanghita Sen (Teacher in Charge of Publications)
- Swanap Kumar De
- Niranjan Goswami (Teacher Editors)
- Himanshu Kumar _
- Anitesh Chakraborty
- Sreecheta Das (General Editors)
(Editor, Hindi Section)
- Soumik Saha
(Publications Secretary)


## Special Thanks to :

Aviroop Sengupta, Bikram Kishore Bhattacharya, Ishita Kundu, Somiddho Basu, Samhita Sanyal

## - Cantents


Sanjib Ghosh
अनिजেশ চক্রবত্তী
दीनानाथ सिंह
अनीक চढ্টোপাধ্যায়
জয়িতা দত্ত
5. দীপষ্কর ভট্টাচার্य 17
মঞ্জুख্রী মুখ্াপাধ্যায় 20

ড. রীণারাণী' রায় 22
अजिজিৎ দত্ত 24

Kaushik Roy 27
Samita Sen 34

দীপাঞ্জন রায় টোধুরী
শ*্ত্র মোষ
নবनীতা तuব लেন
সय্যসাটী पেय

5
7

8

9

| पूরি অनूবाদ কবিত | সমীর কুমার মুযখেপাধ্যায় | 42 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| একটি কবিতা | দেবজ্যোতি মণ্ডল | 43 |
| মষ্যরাত, ১০ (A | তোর্সা বন্ד্যেপাধ্যায় | 43 |
| घूমত্ত কधिन | ঐশিক দাশগুলু | 44 |
| ছেঁড়া নিরিক | সৌমিক সাহ | 44 |
| আকাশ-ডাঙ্ভা | ধৃত্মিন গঙ্গোপাধ্যায় | 44 |
| time | Lumbini Shill | 45 |
| NAMELESS ME | Poulomi Ghosh | 45 |
| SPRING-SONG : A BALLAD | Yashodhara Ghosh | 46 |
| THAT MAN | Amrita Mukherjee | 47 |
| The dark of night nurtured desire | Sunayan Mukherjee | 48 |
| Last Christmas | Sayantan Auddy | 49 |
| गाँव | संध्या कुमारी सिंह | 50 |
| यार : बेकार की लाश | जतीन शुक्ला | 50 |
| नेता की रोटी | शर्मिष्टा घोष | 51 |
| में प्रार्गात हूँ | रेनु सिंह | 51 |
| एक छोटी धारा | प्रमोद कुमार गुप्ता | 52 |
| मैं क्या लिख़ँ? | संतोष सिंह यादव | 52 |


| Thus Spoke The Phoenix | Arka Chattopadhyaya | 53 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fictionesque | Anandaroop Sen | 57 |
| The Romance of Fatehpur Sikri | Parameshwari Sircar | 59 |
|  | अমৃত ঘোষান | 60 |
|  | अर্পিত বানার্জী | 62 |
|  | মলয় ভট্রাচার্য | 63 |
| सरकार－काका | भावना कौशिक | 68 |
| सामाजिक उत्थान में सत्साहिल्य |  |  |
| का योगदान | दीनानाथ सिंह | 70 |
| ＂Junks＂．．．Sorry，We are just Disciples | Amrit Kumar | 72 |
| The Parable of The Mycorrhiza | Aniket Sengupta | 74 |
|  | ছन্দক চ্যাটিঙ্জী | 75 |
|  | ख্㐅⿸丆⿰丨丶⿵门 | 79 |
| 2্যে |  | 83 |
|  | সशহিত সান্যাল | 87 |
| Leaves of Grass－A Journey | Pritha Kundu | 89 |
| On Satan，Satanists \＆Satanism | Ujaan Ghosh | 92 |
| Nationalism Revisited | Somak Biswas | 96 |
| Raniganj Coal－fields－ |  |  |
| A Reality Check | Udita Mukherjee | 100 |


|  | সৃজিত ঘোষ | 101 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| কবিতজর গা｜ছ | সৈকত মিষ্রী | 104 |
| বিঙ্ঞাপনের অর্ধনীতি | অর্মত্যক্য়ার সেন | 113 |
| －डিরোজিও স্মরণ বিভাগ |  |  |
| Extracts from the Proceedings of the Hindu College Committee relating to the dismissal of Henry |  |  |
| Louis Vivian Derozio | Prof．Susobhan Sarkar | 119 |
| ＂Gems in bezels＂－ sonnets of Juvenis | Chaitali Maitra | 122 |
|  | ग্বপনকুমার ঢh | 124 |
|  | দেবপ্রিয় ডড়াচার্য | 133 |
|  | সুরমিতা কাঞ্রিলাল | 135 |
| Derozio－The first voice against conservatism | Shriya Bandyapadhyay | 137 |
| The Fire Sermon | Jhelum Roy | 142 |
| What Constitutes the |  |  |
| Presidencian today．．．（A survey） |  | 144 |
| Editors and Publication Secretaries the Presidencey College Magazine |  | 150 |

## FOREWORD

With this volume, Presidency College Magazine has spanned 69 years of publication. The uniqueness of the Magazine does not stem only from the stretch of its publication but more' significantly from the imaginative vigour exhibited in every issue. The legacy of the College has been imbued and transmitted in the creative endeavour of the students channeled through the Annual Magazine.

Inteliectual engagement, novelty of ideas and the spirit to express them freely have been the guiding principles of the Magazine. The eclectic mosaic of the contributions to the magazine clearly bears out the fact that Presidency College nurtures curiosity, zeal, ingenuity and excellence.

The achievements of the College in this year have been remarkable. Attempts have been made to implement several recommendations of the Seven Member Expert Committee constituted by the Government of West Bengal. Granting of partial financial autonomy to the College has allowed generation of funds and retention of tuition fees. These affirmative measures can lead to the broadening of scope in collaborative research activity. One such project with Tata Steel is already underway. Upgradation and modernization of infrastructure of the College have also been carried on, which includes completion of two top floors of the Central Library Building, developmental work in the Science departments, the ongoing project of air conditioning of Derozio Building as well as planning of a State- of -the art Seminar Room in the College.

The College was honoured by the presence of the Governor of West Bengal, Sri Gopal Krishna Gandhi, who inaugurated and delivered the keynote address in the UGC Sponsored National Seminar on "Henry Louis Vivian Derozio: A Reappraisal" organized by the Derozio Bicentenary Celebration Committee on 22nd and 23rd December, 2008. The occasion was also graced by other eminent speakers. Year long programmes are also underway to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose.

A formal MOU has been signed between the College and Ecole Polytechnique, Paris. Academic teams from the Chemistry departments of Universite Joseph Fourier and Grenoble Codex, France visited the College. PG programmes are slated to be introduced in the Departments of Bengali and Bio-Chemistry from the Session of 2009-10 in accordance with our continuous efforts towards academic expansion. Researtch work in various departments of the college is contributing positively in sustaining high academic standards of the College.

The publication of the Magazine is a continuance as well as enrichment of the tradition of the college in keeping with the necessities of changing times. I extend my best wishes to the students in their effort to inculcate the dynamism that set them apart as leaders of tomorrow in every sphere of their activities.

## Sanjib Ghosh

Principal
Presidency College, Kolkata

## समतthiol

##  <br> 

आবার বিশुদ্ধ হত্ড কতকাল নাদ্!?"











দ্জে না সাপ্রে লাারে পা













न敢 जেখ/ মাক नil"

## सम्वानकीट

भाषा अभिव्यक्ति का सर्वोत्रम माध्यम है। यह अभिव्यक्ति आम जन की अस्मिता से लेकर राष्ट्र के आगत भविष्य निर्माण के लिए भी हो सकती है। इसलिए भाषा का प्रश्न केवल भाषा तक ही सीमित नहीं होता है। यह महाप्रश्न अंततः अपनी पहचान का प्रश्न है। इस तथ्य के समर्थन में हिन्दो साहित्य के शिरोमणण मुंशी प्रेमचंद के शब्द हैं- 'राष्ट्र की बुनियाद राष्ट्र की भाषा है। नदी, पहाड़ और समुद्र राष्ट्र नहीं बनाते। भाषा ही वह बंधन है जो चिरकाल तक राष्ट्र को एक सूत्र में बाँधे रहती है और इसे बिखरने, विखंडित एवं विभाजित होने से रोकती है।' भूमंडलीकरण के वर्तमान दौर में बाजारवाद ने स्वहित के लिए एक ऐसी संकर भाषा को निर्मित किया है जो आज हिन्दी भाषा का जितना सर्वनाश कर सकती है, कर रही है और इसके प्रति हमारो घोर उदासीनता ने हमारी पहचान को प्रश्न के घेरे में खड़ा कर दिया है। चंद रुपयों के लालच में हम अपनी पहचान खोने लगे है।

भाषा की समृद्धि एवं संपन्नता जन-जन की भाषा के प्रति सजगता, सक्रियता एवं जागरुकता पर निर्भर करती है। भाषा का निर्माण भी जनसामान्य करते है, अंततः इसकी रक्षा वही करेंगे, क्योंकि सरकार, आयोग और आयोजन न भाषा का निर्माण करते हैं और न परिष्कार-परिमार्जन। हिन्दी भाषा का उत्थान भी इन्ही जनसामान्य के हाथों में है। अत: इस अभियान में जनसामान्य की जागरुकता के साथ-साथ विद्यार्थी वर्ग की सक्रिय भूमिका को भी हम नजरअंदाज नहीं कर सकते। आज जब हमारा राष्ट्र आतंकवाद के दंश के लगातर झेल रहा है ऐसे में हमारे युवा साहित्यकारों को अपने दायित्वों के प्रति सचेत होना होगा और आम जनता में एकता, स्थिरता, शांति एवं भाईचारे की भावना को विकसित करने के उद्देश्य पर एकमत होकर प्रयास करना होगा क्योंकि यह युग की मांग है।
'‘्रेसिडेंसी कालेज' पत्रिका इसी दिशा में विद्यार्थियों को उत्साहित करने का एक विनम्र प्रयास है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपके समक्ष इस पत्रिका को प्रस्तुत करने जा रहा हूँ। आशा करता हूँ कि मेरे इस प्रयास से सुधी कवि और पाठकगण संतुष्टहंगे क्योंकि उनकी संतुष्टि में ही इस प्रयास को सार्थकता निहित है। यदि कहीं कोई त्रुटि रह गई हो तो मैं आपके समक्ष क्षमाप्रार्थी हूँ। मैं अपने गुरुजनों एवं सहपाठियों को हार्दिक धन्यवाद देता हूँ जिनके परामर्श, मार्गदर्शन और सहयोग के बिना इस कार्य को संपन्न कर पाना मेरे लिए संभव नहीं था।

दीजनाध सिंह

## अन्ड पृर्थियी <br> जनीক চট্টোপাধ্যা!










































































-बीतन्य ज

#  <br> उग़िजा मउত 

অধ্যাপক, বাংলা বিজগা





































 सौक्त शलन.













जঅএব চিত্রা রানাকৃষ্ট একর্রু।















































```
        \mathrm{ निछส\न बाচड नয়न ঢুm\\\क}
```



```
        तया तजन ज्ञा\ अबल \रिमकलं
```


















बनीकान, -










সহায়ক গ্রন্থ :
:1 ठৈতन্যচরিতামৃত :/8।
২। ত্দেব, মদলাচরণ অংশ।
৩। ভক্তিরসরোম্দী — с্রেমদাস।
8। ঢেভ্নাচরিতামত (আদি: ৭/৭৪)।
\&! ख्रीयझ্|গত $8 / 6 ।$
৬। ঢেতন্নভাগবত/মধ্যখণে উদ্ধূত।
৭। চেত্নাভাগবত, মধ্বখজ।
৮। হাজ্জ মুঃ সইদ-এর করমায়েশী সংস্করণ, পঙক্তি-১৫।
৯। শিক্ষ্বষ্টক, ৮ম শ্লোক।
〇०। Cেæ্ণ৭পদ সঞ্কয়ন / গোেবি্দদাস, ২য় পদ।
১১। মানবধর্ম ® বালা কব্যে মধ্ধযুগ : অরবিব্দ পোদ্দার।
১২। ভারতীয় মধ্যযুগের সাধনার ধারা : ক্কিতিমেহনন সেন।
১৩। চেতনাচারতামত / মধ্যলৗोলা, ১৬শ পারিচ্ছেদ।
28। जঢেব।
2৫। মানবধম ভ বাংলা কাব্যে মধ্য়ে : অরাবিন্দ.পোদ্দার।


#  <br>  <br>  





















































 হাগ্গল!








अ্ল স্থীকার :






<br>মজ্রख্রী মুখ্যাপাধ্যা<br>























































#  

## ড. রীণারাণী রায়

द্রিजান, শ্যেनিদ্যা বিভাগ













 कर जढानु।


























## cle5 usid্ডার

## দूটি গब्ख

## অनুবাদ : অর্ভিজিৎ দত্ত, অধাপক, অর্थनोতি বিভাभ










## রুणी




























 जु丁口




## কढ़য়কটি মুখ্খ


























 c竕家 ₹界





















The Battle for Kargil : Post-Modern War in South Asia<br>Kaushik Roy<br>Professor, Department of History

26 May 1999. A batch of MIG 21 unleash air to surface missiles in sub-Arctic conditions along the ice capped Himalayan peaks in north Kashmir. The fight for dominating the battiespace at Kargil has started. For the first time in independent India's history, fighters and fighter-bombers are used in ground strafing missions directed against the insurgents. The Indian Air Force (iAF) supported by the ground combat units start Operation Vijay to flush out the Pakistani backed infiltrators from the Kargil-Drass sector. Towards the end of July, the Indian government claims victory.

But there is a caveat. How is it that the IAF and the best units of the Indian Army supported by heavy artillery needed so much time to drive back the lightly armed Pathan and Afghan guerrillas who were supported by intermittent, indirect artillery fire from Pakistan? ${ }^{\text {; }}$ The bitter truth is that even after two months of grueling combat, the Indian armed forces were unable to annihilate the enemy units. The latter were allowed to pull out safely after hectic diplomatic activities. This lack of a decisive victory is difficult to explain because the same Indian military was instrumental in the capitulation of one-fourth of the Pakistani Army in Bangladesh in 1971.

## Paradigm Shift : Post-Modern War Replaces Industrial Age War :

What has happened after 1971 is not that the Indian military's combat effectiveness has declined due to corruption, and inadequate modernization. Actually the nature of warfare has changed. The end of the Cold War did not result in a warless international order. Rather the dynamics of warfare is transformed. From the 1980s due to technological and political changes, the world witnessed the emergence of a new form of warfare which is termed by the military theorist as Post-Modern Warfare or Information age Warfare of Operations Other Than Warfare (OOTW). This form of combat is the product of revolutionary information techonologies especially in the arena of microcircuitry and is most likely in the ethnic, cultural and religious strife in the Eurasian landmass. And it has rendered useless the conventional military machines with their cumbersome command structures and divisional organization geared for attritional industrial warfare among the states. ${ }^{2}$

What are the features of this new form of warfare? Post-Modern warfare is dispersed, sporadic and scattered. It can occur everywhere simultaneously; along the information highways, in cyberspace, and also in deep space. The minimalist groups practicing subversion might paralyze the electronic nervous system of the developed societies by attacking the civilian and military computers. ${ }^{3}$ A combination of microchip and infotech revolutions resulting in new sensing and targeting technologies have resulted in the horizontal and vertical expansion of the battlespace. ${ }^{4}$ This form of combat is characterized by the concept of 'vanishing battlefields'. ${ }^{\xi}$ Thus the conventional battlefields where the armies used to meet resulting in a headlong clash as evident during the two World Wars and the Korean War is a thing of the past.

Recent flashpoints in the globe which includes Kargil and Kosovo witnessed some features of this new form of warfare. The point to be noted is that the elements of this new form of warfare first manifested itself in the Soviet-Afghan War of the 1980s. Mostly stateless marginal groups when supported by powers that aspire to become regional hegemons conduct this new form of combat. The objective of such combat is to engage limited number of soldiers for limited duration to derive limited political leverages. The insurgents take advantage of the cheap revolutionary technologies which are easily available in the international arms bazaar. The shoulder carried anti-
tank missiles could easily destroy the most advanced tanks available to the armies of the world. Recently, with these weapons the Chechen guerrillas gave hell to the Russian tank armies. Another mass produced one-man missile is the shoulder fired anti-aricraft missile. These lethal weapons could be fired by even relatively untrained militias because these are heat seeking guided weapons. The heat waves emitted by the engines of the airborne vehicles attract these missiles towards them. The Afghan guerrillas with these weapons downed several Soviet ground attack helicopters.

The operational scenario that the IAF faced in Kargit was similar to that faced by the Soviet Air Force over Afghanistan. The terrain of Afghanistan and Kashmir is similar. The nature of threat was alike. Guerrillas motivated by Islam were challenging the sovereignty of the government. The hardware of the IAF was also supplied by the Soviet military establishment. And India committed the same mistakes the Soviets did. However, India has less justification in legitimizing her defects because New Delhi should have learnt from the Soviet fallure.'

Both the Soviets and the Indians faced guerrillas perched along the crests of the mountains and direct assaults on them by the infantry were not only costly but also time consuming. Moscow's solution was to blast the guerrilla strongpoints with airpower. New Delhi also follosed this policy. Initially the Soviets used Mi-17 helicopters armed with cannons to smash the guerrilla strongpoints. But the man-portable surface to air missils soon destroyed so many helicopters that these gunships were withdrawn from Afghanistan. India had brought such assault helicopters from Moscow in the 1980 s.

In the last week of May 1999, the LAF's reaction in Kargil was the carbon copy of the Soviet air policy in Afghanistan. The IAF launched the Mi-17 helicopters against the insurgents trained by Afghan guerrillas. Within two days of launching the operation, one helicopter was lost. Unlike the Soviets, the IAF's helicopter fleet was small. Moreover, the IAF's chopper fleet suffered from a tremendous shortage of spare parts. Hence after the drubbing of May 28, the helicopters were withdrawn from Kargil.s

From June onwards a new policy was followed. Like the NATO Air Force in Kosovo, the IAF used laser-guided precision bombs against the insurgents. The United States Air Force (USAF) and the NATO found out that the Serbian army by making bonfires on the hilltops diverted the heat seeking bombs away from their bunkers. And at low altitudes, the shoulder-fired missiles remained the principal threat for the Western airforces at Kosovo. ${ }^{\text {in }}$ The Mujahideen guerrillas presented the same threat at Kargil. in the end the Indian infantry fought it out and suffered many casualties in the process.

## 'Savage Warfare' of British-India as Precursorl of Post-Modern War :

Why can't we learn from history? The Post-Modern conflicts have lots of simifarties with the low-intensity warfare, which occurred in British-India. Both were insurgency operations conducted by the religious fanatics armed with the latest weapons. The British-indian Army had to face continuous raids by the Pathan tribal guerrillas encouraged by Afghanistan along the Indus frontier just as the postindependent Indian Army is facing challenges from the insurgents supported by Pakistan. Again the British-lndian land forces could not cross the international border between India and Afghanistan to flush out these guerrillas just as the present day Indian Army could not cross the Line of Control (LOC). There was no technological gap between the Pathan guerrillas and the British-indian military personnel. Both sides were equipped with Lee Enfield rifles. Similarly no significant technical gap existed between the Pakistan backed infiltrators and the Indian Jawans. The Pakistani backed intruders were armed with 'Stinger' missiles which could down Indian aircrafts. In an earier era, the Raj's Army had found out that mechanized heavy artillery, armoured cars, tanks and trucks were of limited utility in the roadless hilly terrain of northwest India. The Royal Air Force tried bombing but low population density and absence of highly developed civilian infrastructure resulted in minimal damage. ${ }^{1 \text {. This geographic obstacle which limits the use of high-grade military hardware remains true }}$ in the present scenario. It is to be noted that the use of laser guided precision bombs by state of the art Mirage 2000 fighter-bombers
was of limited utility during the Kargil operations. Since the present day Indian Armed Forces are the lineal descendants of the Rajs military establishment, a study of how the British-Indian military was able to contain the northwest frontier infiltrators might have contemporary relevance.

The Britisi-Indian Army tried to tackle the problem of the Pathan guerrillas 'butcher and bolt' expeditions (termed by the imperial military theorist C.E. Callwell as 'Savage War') through organizational means. These are relevant for present day OOTW. First. top-down centralized comand structure was done away with and the junior officers in charge of patrols designed to track down the guerrillas were given wide authority and autonomy. Thus emerged in the British-Indian Army a sort of command mechanics which the German military literature terms as Auftragstaktik.' The insurgents, then and now present no conventionally equipped mass armies to be annihilated. Again, present day societies vill not accept huge losses inherent in attritional warfare. The rise of lethal technologies has made it mandatory to disperse the troops. Despite the advancements in surveillance equipment, the 'fog of war' remains. And in future batllefields, the human dimension will remain dominant. Hence, a group in the present British Army wants the command apparatus for set-piece encounters to be replaced by a command structure geared for rapid maneuver operations for infiltrating enemy positions. The officers should be encouraged to show initiative, act and improvise in the face of unknown difficulties just as Auftragstaktik demands. Secondly, the officers the British-Indian regiments were politically educated. They were trained to be friendly with the local population along the combat zones, and urged to respect their cultural sensibilities. This made possible procurement of information concerning the guerrilas from the local populace and to prevent the infiltrators from merging with them. ${ }^{13}$ One of the principal failures of the Americans in Vietnami was the inability of the American armed forces to establish friendly relations with the indigenous population. ${ }^{\prime 2}$ At present, the NATO forces engaged in peacekeeping operations are providing political education to their military oficers. Instead of being merely warriors, the officers are trained as soldier-statesman and as soldier-communicator. ${ }^{15}$ Thirdly, some units of the British-Indian Army were specially trained for sub-conventional operations along the frontier. Besides realistic training, these units were composed of personnel who were acclimatized in high altitude light infantry skirmishing duties. ${ }^{!6}$

## Military Strategy of Independent India

Our case is worse than the French Bourbons. While the latter forgot nothing and learnt nothing, we learnt nothing but forgot everything. We forgot the art of low-intensity operations that the British taught us in the course of the nineteenth century. After 1947, India in the dream of becoming a regional superpower, cocentrated on building an ad hoc arsenal designed for conventional Kettelschacht (catidron battle)." The two conventional battles fought by the Pakistanis in 1965 and 1971 strengthened this line of thinking within the indian military establishment. After the Bangladesh catastrophe, Pakistan probably perceived that it had no chance against india in conventional set-piece encounters. India's greater strategic depth and four times numerical superiority had put a fullstop to any conventiona! Pak adventure. ${ }^{13}$ Pakistan then reverted to the strategy it had followed in 1947, that is supporting guerrilla bands in the Kashmir valley. India's failure to tackle the Pakistani sponsored guerrilas in Punjab and Kashmir strengthened Pakistaris resolve to continue sub-conventional warfare on a greater scale.

The BJP government in 1998 by introducing the nuclear factor tried to blunt Pakistan's edge in insurgency operations. However, the nuclear weapons proved to be the 'paper tiger' as Mao Zedong had prophesized in the 1960s. India's incapability and unwillingness to launch tactical nuclear weapons or to cross the LOC due to economic and diplomatic pressures from the international community, encouraged Islamabad to escalate the guerrilla war into a medium intensity war at Kargil. The objective was to gain local superiority in order io achieve local and limited political gains. "a

Instead of Auftragstaktik, the Indian Army follows a rigid top down centralized command structure which gives neither autonorny
nor intiative to the local field commanders facing fluid warfighting scenarios. As a result they could not take advantage of rapidly changing firefight scenarios. Due to absence of training in mission command, the indian land forces failed to react effectively in the initial stages of the Kargil intrusion. Further, the Indian Army's doctrine was designed for attritional warfare instead of maneuver operations aimed to dislocate the enemy through tempo and surprise. ${ }^{2}$. The net result was heavy casulalties among the Indian infantry, which in turn made the public jittery. Due to extensive media coverage of the military operations, manpower losses became unacceptable. Probably, the Indian government's aversion to sustain further manpower losses forced Delhi's hand in negotiating with the intruders at kargil.

## Towards a Future Force Structure :

The information age warfare paradigm necessitates changes in the tactical doctrines, as well as in the organization of the indian military which continues to visualize obsolete war-fighting scenarios. The Indian Army is still hankering for Main Battle Tanks (MBTs). The Indigenous MBT has a long history of failure. The Vijayanta tank proved a failure long ago. The recent Arjun tanks' engines are not powerful enough. So the army is thinking of converting them into self-propelled guns. Hence the army is pressurizing the cabinet either to upgrade the $T 72$ s or better to acquire $T 90$ s from the Russians. Why do the generals want tanks? Probably because they are still thinking about a conventional tank battle on the lines of Kursk, Golan Heights, and Khem Karan to occur again between Incian and Pakistan somewhere in the Thar desert. The adage that the generals always prepare for the wrong war at the wrong time is certainly an overstatement but it does contain an element of truth. Atter the Israeli Blizkrieg against the Egyptians of Anwar Sadat's rag-tag peasant army the world has witnessed no successful tank sortie. The failure of the israeli armour at the Yom-Kippur War along the banks of the Suez Canal proves that the age of armour has passed and that anti tank artillery is getting stronger day by day. Our anti-tank missile system can take care of whatever tanks Pakistan can acquire from China and Ukraine. ${ }^{22}$ And due to the nature of terrain in the probable theatre of operations against China, the Indian Army cannot use tanks. At present the Indian Republic faces the strongest threat from the OOTW conducted by the insurgents backed both by Pakistan and China in Kashmir, Punjab and in the Northeast. And this sort of proxy war by our neighbours is the trend with which we have to live in the future. Will the brasshats tell us which army in the world has used armour in counter-insurgency operation to a successful conclusion?

Airpower is probably the answer for the future. But what sort of military hardware do we need? The IAF's recent acquisition of Sukhoi 30s, which are medium range fighter-bombers, is of doubtful value. Due to limitations in their range and lack of refueling capcacity of the IAF, the Sukhois cannot be used to bomb the Chinese heartland in case of theatre wide warfare with the dragon. So vis-a-vis Beijing, the Sukhois' deterrent value is almost zero. ${ }^{23}$ What use are the Sukhois against Pakistan? Pakistan's width is very narrow which would mean that an aircraft such as the MIG 29 could reach any part of that country. The Sukhois' high speed and inability to operate at low altitudes make them almost useless in ground strafing missions against insurgents.

The Mirage 2000 played an important role in blasting the defensive positions of the enemy troops at Kargil. Thus the government's move to order for more Mirages from the French company Dassult aims in the right direction. However, the point to be noted is that the role of airpower in future sub-conventional conflict is limited. NATO's airstrikes during the Kosovo crisis shows this point. Insurgents armed with shoulder launched ground to air missiles could down any hovering aircraft. Even the role of the stealth bomber is highly overrated. The USAF has lost one such aircraft in Kosovo. No air force of the future could tolerate huge losses in skilled pilots and costly airframes. The future is for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) which are cheap compared to state of the art aircrafts. ${ }^{74}$ India would do better to opt for the UAV option than the advanced fighter design (under the Light Combat Aircraft project) with which it is tinkering. ${ }^{25}$

New Delhi is on the right track with its Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) project. What is lacking is a coherent doctrine for using this item properly. The ALH should be integrated with the army and airforce's planes used for carrying troops. The creation of airborne
or air-assault brigades with its organic medium artillery (for self-sustaining firepower) should be given priority. Such airmobile brigades would function like the American Rapid Deployment Force. These units should be flexible, must be deployable anywhere in 'real time', and would be of great value in future Kargit type operations. They could reach the scene of operations with troop carriers and paradrops. Due to financial stringency, the Indian military may not be able to acquire adequate number of cargo carriers. In such a case the military should enter into negotiations with the commercial airlines. It would be dangerous for us not to take account of the lessons of history. In 1947. the Pakistani backed insurgents were prevented from capturing Srinagar because Indian infantry with medium artillers could be rushed into the valley in the Dakotas left by the British and the Americans in the aftermath of World War Il. ${ }^{26}$ When the air-mobile combat groups are deployed, the ALH will provide missile firepower and thus could contain the situation and prevent escalation till the foot-slogging infantry catch up.

Even in the information warfare paradigm, infantry remains the queen of the battlefield. The action at Tiger Hill proves this point. The indian infantry units would have done better if they had developed on the tactics of the counter-insurgency operations evolved by the coloniai Indian Army. The field command structure should be flexible to alter the speed of battle by generating synergy without waiting for lengthy directives and detailed plans from the corps headquarters. Some units should be trained for mountain warfare. The italian and the Swiss Alpine units could teach us a lot in this regard. Such elite units must have integral air transport for rapid deployment. For command and communications, satellite technology needs to be organically linked with them.

And what about naval platforms required by India? It would be too much to argue that the Indian Navy will have no future role. Littorai wartare will be a vital task for the navy. Another important mission of the navy will be to establish a coastal blockade of the hostile state. For such tasks cheap diesel submarines capable of operating in shallow coastal waters, minesweepers and missile carrying frigates are required. Instead of acquiring such platforms, the starry eyed admirals are thinking of buying an aircraft carrier from Russia and if possible to use the naval version of the Sukhois from the aircraft carrier, ${ }^{27}$ The admirals should note that due to india's long coastline, land based long range bombers could penetrate deep over the ocean from the coastal airfieids. ${ }^{28}$ They could be supplemented by shore based medium range ballistic missiles. The experience of the US Navy is illustrative here. The US Navy in spite of having the largest number of operational aircraft carriers accepts that the carrier battle group concept has become inoperable in the new era of warfare. Even the nuclear powered aircraft carriers are now considered as 'sitting ducks' vis-a-vis the land based theatre wide ballistic missiles. Finally, India lacks funds to create a 'Blue Water Navy'. Rather, she sould go for a competent 'Brown Water Navy' which would be able to project power along the enemy shorelines by landing marines and carrying out limited amphibious operations. ${ }^{29}$ This would prevent Pakistan from feeding more military assets to the crucial air-land battle.

## Conclusion

The Pakistani Foreign Minister, in July 1999 had warned India that there might be "many Kargils" unless India accommodates the demand of the secessionists. If this threat materializes then what should be India's military response? The present Indian armed forces do not have capability to contain several Kargil-ike scenarios simultaneously. Would an increase in the size of the military forces rectify this inadequacy? Well, the defence expenditures cannot be raised beyond a certain limit. The belief that the Indian military is underfunded is a myth. The government spends adequate amout of money but it is not properly utilized. One solution is to transform the army from a labour intensive force to a capital-intensive force along the lines suggested above. The politicans must forget the idea of using the army for policing operations in the disturbed regions. The para-military forces must be revamped for this purpose. Once the army is freed from such policing tasks, the size of the infantry could be reduced. This will result in saving much money which at present goes in pay and pensions. This money could in turn be used for a radical modernization of the armed forces.

The irony is that after the collapse of marxism, the guerrillas as pointed out by Lenin and Mao are emerging as a threat to the national politios. However. rather than motivated by the concept of class struggle, the guerrillas of the future would fight due to their primordial attachments. Hence India needs to reshape its force structure radically and quickly. Otherwise defeat and disaster stares menacingly. For survival, it is necessary to remember a tew lines from the Arthashastra.

There are only two forms of policy, peace and war $\qquad$ whoever is superior in power shall wage war $\qquad$ of these a wise king shall ..... build forts ...... and at the same time harass similar works of the enemy. ${ }^{30}$

1. Vinod Anand, 'India's Military Response to the Kargil Aggression', Strategic Analysis, Vol. 23, No. 7, 1999, p. 1054.
2. For a discussion of the concept of Information Age Wartare refer to Douglas A. Macgregor, Breaking the Phalanx : A New Design for Landpower in the 21st Century (Westport: Praeger 1997), pp. 51-52, 64-65.
3. Alistair Irwin, 'The Buftalo Thom : The Nature of the Future Battlefield', Journal of Strategic Studies, Vol. 19, No. 4, 1996, pp. 229, 231).
4. Stratogic Digest. Vot. 29, No. 2, 1999, pp. 278-9.
5. Alvin and Heidi Toffler in War and Anti-War: Survival at the Dawn of the 21st Century (1993, reprint, 1994), p. 84 introduces the term 'vanishing front' to explain the intermingling of the main battlefront and the home front at the deep rear in near future warfare
6. For the troubles, which the tank-heavy Russian divisions faced against the Chechen, insurgents see Anatol Lieven, Chechnya: Tombstone of Russian Power (New Haven : Yale University Press, 1997). Pavel K. Baev, in The Russian Army in a Time of Troubles (London: 1996), writes that the motor-riflo divisions of the Russian Army designed for conventional warfare in central Europe proved useless against the Chechen youghs armed with anti-tank rifles.
7. Kaushik Roy. 'The Transformation of Warfare', (in Bengali), Anand Bazar Patrika, 19 August 1999.
8. The data for the LAF's sorties is taken from Strategic Digest, Vol. 29, No. 7, 1999, p. 1184.
9. Vinod Anand, 'Future Eattespace and Need for Jointmanship', Strategic Analysis, Vol. 23, No. 10,2000, P. 1625.
10. Stratcgic Digest, Vol. 29, No. 4, 1999, p. 727.
11. For an account of the indian Armys involvement with the trans-Indus frontier tribals during the nineteenth and early twentieth century refer to R.T. Moreman, The Army in India the Development of Frontier Warfare, 1849-1947 (London : 1998)
12. For the importance of Callwell in imperial policing carried out by the British Army and Britain's colonial forces refer to T.R. Moreman, "Small Wars" and "Imporial Policing" : The British Army and the Theory and Practice of Colonial Warfare in the British Empire', Journal of Strategre Studies, Vol. 19, No. 4, 1996. pp. 105-31.
13. John Kiszely. 'The British Army' and Approaches to Warfare Since 1945', Journal of Strategic Studies, Vol. 19, No. 4, 1996, pp. 179-206. The role of chaos in future batties is emphasized by Clayton R. Newell in, The Framework of Operational Warfare (London, 1991), p. 61. For a focus on the human element even in a technologically sophisticated battlespace see Joihn Pay, 'The Battlefield Since 1945', in Colin Molnnes and G.D. Sheffield eds., Wartare in the Twentieth Century (London, 1988), p. 234.
14. For an account of the failure of the US Army and the success of the Victorian British Army on this front see Robert O' Neill, 'US and Allied Leadership and Command in the Korean and Vietnam Wars', in G.I) Sheffiled, ed., Leadership and Command: The Anglo-American Military Expowive Since 1861 (London : 1997). pp. 188-89.
15. Joseph L. Soeters. 'Military and Public Vaiues: Towards the Soldier Communicator', in L. Parmar, ed., Military Sociology : Global Prespoctioves (New Delhi : 1999), pp 154-56.
16. T. R. Moreman, 'The Indian Army and the Northwest Frontier Warfare', Joumal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, Vo. 20. No. 1, 1992, pp. 35-64.
17. L. J. Kavic. India's Quest for Security: Defence Policies, 1947-65 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1965); Chris Smith, India's Ad Hoc Arsenal : Dircction or Drift in Defence Policy (New York : St. Martin's Press, 1994).
18. For an account of the conventional battles fought between Pakistan and India see Brian Cloughley, A History of the Pakistan Army: Wars and Insurrections (Karachi : Oxford University F'ress, 1999).
19. Kanti Bajpai rightly argues that nuclear deterrence in South Asia coulsj not stop low-intensity warfare, Kanti Bajpai, 'The Fallacy of an Indian Deterrent', in Amibabh Mattoo (ed), India's Nuclear Deterrent : Pokhran II and Beyond (New Delhi : Har Anand Publications 1998), pp. 179, 181.
20. Indian Army's authoriatarian command system could be categorized as Befehistaktik. For a discussion of Auftragstaktik and Befeh/staktik concepts refer to G. D. Sheffield, 'Introduction: Command, Leadership and the Anglo-American Experience', in idem, ed., n.14, p.4.
21. For a discussion on the maneuver operation concept see J. J. A. Wallace, "Manoeuvre Theory in Operations Other Than War", Journal of Strategic Studies, Vol. 19, No. 4, 1996, pp. 209-11.
22. For the uselessness of the MBTs in the era of long-range and hand-held short-range missile weapons see Frank Barnaby, The Automated Battlefield (London: 1986). As a response to India's probable acquisition of the T 90s, Pakistan is buying T 80s. Strategic Digest, Vol. 30, No. 1, 2000. pp 50-51
23. Bajpai, n.19, pp. 155-66; expecially p. 164.
24. After the experience at Kosovo, where the airforce not only sustained casualties but also failed to destroy the ground targets in the mountainous region, the NATO is thinking of replacing the manned aircrafts with UAVs. Strategic Digest, Vo. 20, No. 7, 1999, pp. $1234-1235$.
25. Strategic Digest, Vol. 29, No. 6, 1999, pp. 1019-20.
26. L. P. Sen, Slender Was the Thread, (New Delhi : 1973)
27. Strategic Digest, Vol. 29, No. 11, 1999, p. 1759.
28. Ashley J. Tellis in 'Aircraft Carriers and the Indian Navy : Assessing in Present, Discerning the Future', Journal of Strategic Studies, Vol. 10, No. 2, 1987. pp. 141-67, rightly argues that the Indian aircraft carriers with their limited number of combat aircrafts has no chance against the shore based Pakistani fighter-bombers and the submarines.
29. Raja Menon in Maritime Strategy and Continental Wars (London : Frank Cass, 1998) chalks out a realistic naval strategy for medium power like India. Menon emphasizes on diesel submarines for protecting the shorelines and amphibious combat groups for projecting powe along the enemy shorelines.
30. Gerard Chaliand, ed., From Antiquity to Nuclear Age : The Art of War in World History (Berkeley : University of California Press, 1994), pp. 287-88.

Kanti Bajpai, Afsir Karim and Amitabh Mattoo (xds.) Kargil and After : Challenges for Indian Policy, N. Delhi : Har-Anand, 2001

## Should men be feminists?

## Samita Sen

School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Ex-student, Department of History

This time - our time - is characterized by the term "post". Our time is post-colonial, post-modern and in the last few years, it is also being called post-Feminist. A new generation of women in the West - particularly in the USA - are now convinced that feminism hias had its day, it has futfilled its purpose and must now be laid to rest. This generation of women is successful and confident - and equal with men in all ways that they think count.

Whether we agree with this or not-it is difficult to agree with this if you live in India where the vast majority or women are anything but successful and confident and most of them still suffer discrimination, if not outright abuse - we can agree on two things.

First, some, though not all, women have gained enormously from the various women's movements in different parts of the world from the late nineteenth century. For many of us this has been a substantive gain-education, careers, equality in decision-making, ability to assert our rights as women and as individuals and emerging as free citizens in a democratic political order. None of this just 'happened'. For a whole century, women fought in the sireets, in pariliaments, in the home and the workplace. They pushed their nose into the tent a century ago. Since then Feminism has helped women to think about what it meant to be a woman. Were we ordained by God or nature or social good to stay at home and look after children? In the Age of Reason, there was only one answer. Feminists seized this answer to breach the public world of men on terms of equality.

Unfortunately, and this is the second area of agreement, for most of us this has meant only formal equality - the vote, rights enshrined in constitutions that we have neither the knowledge, information, nor financial means to actualize.

From 1880s to 1980s, Feminism was a movement by women, for women and about women. Men have played critical roles, of course. It was John Stuart Mill who provided the first major liberal argument in favour of women's equality. Friedrich Engeis (in the 1880s) gave the first comprehensive social analysis of women's subordination. We understand this very well in India. The chapter on India's modernity and women's emancipation opens with Raja Rammohun Roy, Iswarchandra Vidyasagar and Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

But none of these men were feminists. They sought modernity, democracy and/or socialism. Women--their inequality and subordinationwere of secondary concern to them. When women took the leadership of their own movement for freedom and equality -- they began to emphasise how weman were a victim of all kinds of oppression of the state and its agents, of male violence in public spaces and of mental and physical abuse in the home. These forms of violence are perpetrated chiefly by men but also by other women empowered by patriarchy.

Over time, feminists became impatient of this unrelieved gloom. Their experience did not match the women depicted only as victims. Who is a victim? To whom something is done. The term 'victim' virtually precludes the possibility of any action on part of the victim. Is that how women live in society? As a big nothing? To whom things are done but who do nothing-nothing at all but toil and suffer? But the contrary is true, isn't it? Women are part of the bustling bazaar of all human life. They live, they love, they suffer, they also fight back, they crawi, they bargain, they lie and cheat, glory and triumph-in short, they are part of the entire gamut of human experience. So women are actors, they do things-good things and bad things-they are agents, subjects of their own past, present and future. If you slapped my face, I might slap you back-that would be a physical confronation. I might turn the other cheek-that would a moral confrontation. It is highly unlikely that I would just do nothing at al!!

So women started as victims, came to be understood as agents and actors. But it's still all about women. What about the other part of the equation? The oppressor, the one who slapped my face in the first place - the men?

Educators in Britain are facing a novel problem. Girls are outperforming boys at all levels of the education system. British teachers are pondering a return to segregated schooling, "to enable boys to open up and find their own level". A few decades ago, this was the argument in favour of girls' schools and women's colleges. Have we come full circle? More grist for post-feminist mill? If the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were about the 'Women's Question', is the twenty-first century moving towards an equally intractable 'Men's Question?'

As I mentioned earlier, if you happen to live in India, you would return an unproblematic and emphatic 'no'. There are no indices by which women are ahead of men. The vast majority of women still suffer discrimination, if not outright abuse.

From the 1980s, however, feminists have insisted that women's emancipation is as much about men as women. At the very least this is about a relationship-the relationship between men and women. We even found a simple term for this-we called it gender. Gender is not really about living breathing men and women. It is really about their qualities and associations-it is about masculinity and femininity. It is more about how we understand the meanings and characteristics of men and women. Not the physical-sexual entities that are men and women but how we live or expect to live as men and women in particular social, cultural and historical contexts. There is nothingnothing at all--that is fundamental or natural in maleness and femaleness. Even nature is what we understand it to be.

This takes us to the next significant problem : if women are trapped by feminity and need to overcome it, then so are men trapped into masculinity-and, most emphatically, need to overcome it.

Feminism has helped women to extend and expand the scope of their gender identity. Women have remained comfortable in their traditional domains--as mothers and homemakers-while making a bid for a place in the male world. We can knit when we want to or play cricket. We can assert our difference by wearing a sari when we wish or don suits and trousers when wished or required. We can choose to be full-time parents or decide to work for our living or pursue a dream or an ambition. Some of these may be superficial freedoms, some may be more substantive, some may be able to exercise more choices than others-but in a general way it gives women a wider playing-field, a larger universe in which feminine values of nurture and harmony can be negotiated along with aggressive masculine values of competition and confrontation.

What about men? In the 1980 s, there were two responses from men to feminism. I call the first the 'Iron John' response after the name of a book by the poet, Robert Bly. This proposes a celebration of traditional masculinity against a perceived threat of feminism. The second is the 'New Man' response-first brought to our notice in the cult Hollywood film-Kramer vs. Kramer. It is significant that almost twenty years down the line, Bollywood came up with a re-make of this film. Indian audiences, it appears, are finally ready to give the New Man a hearing. The so-called 'metrosexual' man is one avatar of the New Man, but the first impetus in the 1980s was a broader one. The New Man was an attempt to rework masculinity in response to feminist thinking. One aspect of this craft was to stretch the notion of masculinity to include the world of nurture and homemaking from which men have so far been excluded.

The New Man meant freedom-important freedoms for many men. For the little boy, for instance, who likes food and would love to potter among mother's pots and pans. It may mean freedom for the man who wished to create a home to wield a duster and broom. It might spell a new freedom for the father who would prefer to feed and change the baby, play and learn with young children rather than spend long boring evenings drinking and swearing, wheeling and dealing.

But it is only a freedom. It gives you a choice. You can do it if you wish, not if you don't. A greater range of choices can never be a bad thing, surely? But, freedom creates responsibilities. The New Man must understand a new and greater sharing with womenin all our worlds.

Of these, the most contentious is the home-it is in the domestic field that tasks have been most resistant to re-negotiation. The

Indian middle class have been singularly fortunate in that the availability of domestic wage-labour has allowed us to avoid confrontation over division of domestic tasks. But progress and modernity, if achieved, will one day bring that question before us. Shall we be ready with the New Man by then?

Will we make a peaceful transtition to a new society in which men and women will follow their own dreams and desires without being bothered by what is 'manly' or 'womanly'? Will it ever be enough to be human? A time when to be a man or a woman will not create friction, poison, and violence? The expression of difference will not entail exertion of power so much as an exercise of personal choices. Can we derive pleasure rather than pain from our differences?

Is that Utopia near at hand? Is it even reachable? For it to be, men must turn to Feminism. Women have gained from feminism and can talk about post-feminism. Post-feminism is both a salute to feminism and a declaration of coming of age. It is now surely the turn of men. To seek, to ask as we have done for a century, what is it to be a man? Do you have to be a man in the way you are told you have to be a man? Is there no better way?

Feminism has helped women-some women-to recreate their world in a better mould. Why should men be left behind? Is the power to oppress women worth sacrificing your own freedom? Why cut your nose to spite your face? Join us instead to explore a whole new gamut of experience. In the process, may be, we will all be fully human, not just men or women.


#  <br> দীপাজ্জন রায় টৌধুরী <br> অষ্যাপক (অবসরথ্রুপ্ত), পদার্থবিদ্যা বিভাগ 


 পারে এমন आর কোনও শিক্ষক ছিলেন না। কিস্ুু মনুম হিসেবে এ্রের মাপের কছে সেটাভ সামান্য ব্যপার।

শिক্কা সম্পর্কে শ্যামল বাবুর খুব পরিক্কার মতামত ছিল। তিরিশ বছর সাম্মানিক প্রাক-স্নাতক স্তরে ও কয়েক বছর স্নাতকোত্তর সुরে পড়ানোর শেষ দিকে শিক্ষ ও গবেবষণা



 করেছে।

 কোন্ভ मষ্ভাবনা নেই! অন্তত পদার্থবিদ্যায় ধডের এটটই কারণ।


 হতে বাধ্য করে।
















































 কোন


























 মগজ্র ধোनাই হর্যে ছিল। পরীক্ষর প্রশ্ম ধরে বক্কুতা না করললে আমার ক্লাসও ফাঁকা হয়ে যেত।













 বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পরীক্কর আবশাকত্গ কমएছ।

 সংথ্যা কমবে। তখন পড়ুয়ারাই ক্লাসঘরে পড়ান্নার পদ্ধতি পরিবর্তনের জন্যা ঢাপ দেবে। সমাজের সামপ্রিক চিত্রের নিরিছে শ্যামলবাবু সময়ের থেকে অগিয়ে আছেন। তিনি ভবিষয়ের
 পথে একটি পদক্ষেপভ नেन नि।

 হওয়াটা খুবই জরুর্র।

## জ্যৈষ্ঠিবৈেল

শङ্ృ বোয

তেমরা চলে গেছ দক্ষিণাত্যে-
বললে বলা যায় এ-রকম।
কাগজ কনমের বৃত্তে বন্দী
সাধ্য निই আর জীবঢে মन দিই
গলিরি আলো খুব গোপনে नোম আসে চোেের আলো পাই আরো কম!

বয়স হরলল লেটা ভালো না। ভালো না ভেদ করা সুত্বে ज দूकृष ভালো না यদি লেখি ख্वनो বा মৃत्र জোষ্ঠবিককেলের এমন হাঙয়ারেঙ নিজ্রেরই দিরক ক্রে চালন।।

লड़ইই লাগৌে যাি অহং-এ आল্পে

পাথ্র ছুটে আসে সাক্য্য ঘূর্ণি
শরীরে বিব্রত পণের সুর নিফই
উড়িয়ে 觟 সব বইয়ের অক্ষর
নইইলে বেঁেে আর সুখ कী!

## 

অরুণ কোলাটকরের মূল ইংরেজি থেকে অনুবাদ নবनীতা দেব সেন

কুকুরের প্রতি মানুষের বশ্যতর
গাত়ত্র কোো উদাহরণ চাহালে,
আমাদের বোত হবে ইতিহাস পেরিয়ে,

কয়েক সহম্র বছর টপকে এসে,
 ছার্্যান এলিসসনের "এঝটট ছেলে এবং তার কুকুন"

সর্বত্র নেলড়ি কুন্তাদের কাঢে বইথানা গীতার মতে <েथা!ন উক্ত বই এর ‘‘হলেটা’’
বলি দান করু নিজের প্রেমরু
এবং কুকুরের খাদ্য হি.সেবে পরিবেশন করে
ক্রেষিকাকে, কেবল তার অষুক্ত
সারুর্মে প্রভুটির প্রাণ đাঁচানোর জাগিদে।।

पूरि वरिग<br>সব্যসাচী দেব<br>অধাপা (অবসরপ্রাপ্ত), বাংলা বিভাগ

## निक्यक्य

$s$
মাঠঠর শেযে কুয়াশার দীর্ঘ নদী তার উপর ঝুঁরক আছহ বাঁশের জौণ সঁ!রকা শেষরাতত চাঁদহীন অন্ধকার


२
জন্মাস্তরের দিকক চানन যায় बই রা:
কুশায়া ডিিিয়ে
পাথর এপাশে বোপ, বুন্না ফুল
অন্যপাকে খাদ থেকে মাথা রোকলল
रिম-ভ্রেজা পাইইননর শাখা
ছড়ানো গাথরে আজ নিঃশরক্দর ফেলল-যাওয়া পদচিছি
ঢেকে দেয় ঝরাপাতাগুলো

## এপিটাফ

হিম অন্ধকার; পাহাড়ে হাওয়ার শব্দ বাজজ সংকত রহস্যভরা ল্লেমালা みড়ে থাকক ঘাসের টপর
 তুযার ঢেকেছে পথ, পাহায়়র স্তুন্ধ নিংসঙ্গতা

কেউ একা, তার পাশে আরভ একা চ゙দ।।

# দুটি অনুবাদ কবিতা সমীর কুমার মুতখাথাধ্যায় <br> ইার্জি বিভাগ, অষ্যাপক 

## ম্যারিয়েন ম্যুর-এর কবিতা শৌদ্ডায্য

ভাঙ্টা জাহাজ আর অার শরীরের কাছে
ছিন্সভিন্ন মাস্তুলের নীঢে
এক লেবপালক অ্মড়ি থেয়ে দেয়ে
মাটিতে ঋয়ে অছে এক তপপর্বনীল সীগাল্।
সমুদ্রজাত বিততপাখা পত্স যেন,
ঘनনীन পা মুড়ে, বিস্জ্ধরিত খোनা రৌটট, অनেককাল আগে মৃত মামুষদের স্বাগত জানায়।

ডি.এইচ্ লরেপ্স-এর কবিতা

## অন্ডরূ

মেয়েটি র্তেঁোব্বরে বলল, "তুমি চাওনা আমার ৎপ্রম?" আমি তার হাত্তে তুলে দিলাম আয়না আর অনলাম--



সরাসরি প্রধানতম শক্তির কাত্ছ যাঞ।"
এই বাল্ল তার হাতে স্তুল দিলাম মুকুর।
মেয়েটি आায় ভাঙ্ত যাচ্ছিল আয়নাটি আমার মাথায়।
 আর মুহ্রুর্ত বিস্য়ে হতবাক্ হল লে।


উৎস: ই! মজ্রি্ট প্সাল্রেট্র


## 

लनरह्जाणि गधन


ঘूন পাল়ািি মালিপিসি ચুকুর বাড়ি অয়







 ধুন পাড়ানি গাসিপিসি খুকুর বাড়ি আয়।


## ম্য্যরাগ, ১O (ে

जোর্সা বল্দ্যাপাধ্যাম


जোমার ঐ রক্কের বন্দুক
আমার কপারল नামিয়ে আনো
 সারা রাত ওবুু মেলা আর মিছিলা আর ট্রাপিজের খ্লা...

আমার সামন্নে মাঝে মাঝে নাড়ির়ে দেয় কেউ।

आমার কোনো প্রতিপল্জ নেই
এই তুমি, এই মাত্র এলে,
আমার সামনে...
কত্খানি আঘাত, কতখানি ক্ষমা,
पूমি ওই এক গ্রাস্স ড্ুলে দিভ পারে आমার মুদ্....

এইমাত্র চুম্বন নামালে,
পা থেকে পাথর रর়ে গোন,

जোমাক বলিনি ক্রানোদিন,
 ※家!

घूमक काित<br>ঐশিক দাশগুপ্ত স্নাতক তৃ্টীয় বর্ষ, বাল্লা বিভাগ


শ্লেশ্যাময় শিরা-উপশিরা
বিঘ্রিত জন্ম
इंगl
आবছঙাবর বুকের পুর্রান্গ পর্দায় দুং্य ハ শ্শাক কমিনিট,
কत্যেকটি প্রেন্মর কবিতা,
কनর়বইীন কাन्ञ|

কলিবিলি মাথা একটা সকাল,
হারালা ঢোথথর জল
ত্মি ভুল্লে .याয়া...

হর্ডো লिরিক
সৌমিক সাহা
স্নাতক দ্বিতীয় বর্ষ, বাংলা বিভাগ
মাঝারাতে এপাড়া ওপাড়ার সমস্বর চিৎকার
ধেঁয়াশা জড়ানো গল্পকথা...
কোন্না ন্যালাখ্যাপা গানওয়ালা
তাই নিয়ে গান বাঁধলে
ছিঁড়ে যাবে গিটারের অর।

## ইত্তততः শব্দ হয়ে

ফিরে ফিরে যাবে নিস্তুন্ধতার কহ্থাপকথন
ভীষণ ক্লান্ত, অবসন্न - শেষে নিঃস্ব হয়ে যাবে-
ঘুমের ওষুধ থেয়ে অকাতরে ঘুমোবে অসুস্থ শহর।

## শ্যাভলার গন্ধ পাবে না ....

আবাশা-కাঙা<br>ধৃতিমান গঙ্গোপাধ্যায় স্নাতক প্রথম বর্ষ, ইংরেজি বিভাগ<br>স্বপ্ন নীল — ভগ্নস্তুপ ..<br>চৌখস আকাশ<br>ভাঙা ভাঙা শামিয়ানা<br>তুলে তুলে আঢে<br>ঘুম ঘুম দেঘ মেঘ ছাদে<br>জড়িয়ে থাকি আঁড়ান্না বল্কল ....

## TIME

Lumbini Shill
Department of English, P.G. Second Year
Constant, cheap and copious.
An exact affordable mutual present.
Beginning from the New Year's dawn
Till the dusk of Christmas.
As middle march will see love-sick couples Drenching love in colourful Holi We handcuffed by Time shall wait patiently.

Then with the maddening drums of Durga's arrival
Time shall test us to trust.
With the Diwali crackers attempting the zenith Time will hide our innocent weeps.

Then when too late
Time itself will knock the bruised hearts
And say "I never guiled, in fact I said,
It's always the right Time to do the right thing".

## NAMELESS ME

## Poulomi Ghosh

Department of English, P.G. Second Year

A piece of sky I see everyday
Reminds me of the vast emptiness
That reigns in me,
And the world.
Every grass makes me recollect
The erstwhile green Earth
Every man makes me see the dark soul within.
Years of existence has come to this.
I fail to see the beauty around,
And I cannot enjoy, laugh or praise
Neither can I cry or mourn.
All I feel is a nameless, voiceless space,
in and around me.

## Unknown

Thinking of words..
I learnt hope does have wings-
Walking down memories,
Looking at things;
I am still curious for that light from the dead planet...
Morbid are my wishes,
Pursuing silhouettes of life,
Where love unleashes...
There, in the other side of darkness,
I learnt...
Blessed are those who know me the least.

## SPRING-SONG : A BALLAD <br> Yashodhara Ghosh <br> Department of English, P.G. Second Year

It was a cold winter.
A dry, dusty, old winter.
A winter hoary with age.
Spring-bird sat mute in her gilded cage.
She'd lost her song for no clear reason,
Revered, regal Spring-bird: now a bird out of season.
Her siren-song lost, her signal for spring
Her song for the future, for all the gifts it would bring.
The bold men of the land, they knew it was time, For the ice to melt, for warmer climes.
Beasts were slain, hymns sung.
Offerings made, gariands strung.
She saw all, her parched throat bitter with gall.
Her plaintive song, had held these men in thrall.
"it's been winter forever," they spoke in hushed tones,
The dust in their rusted teeth, the chili deep in their bones.
Would the ice Giants rise again? They feared. Spring bird strained, her plumes wet with tears,
Bitter and angry were her beloved Norse men:
Tired of waiting, of beasts killed in vain.
"Spring-Bird is old. She no longer heralds spring,
This winter only worseris-she can no longer sing."
Hostile from hunger, convulsed with rage,
They eyed with envy her golden cage.

A temple, where late the sweet bird sang,
Where her assuring trills once confidently rang,
Her resting place, their shrine of yore,
Now a ruin of lost affections : a shrine, no more.
They were solemn and sure : "Of no use is she :
She is in disgrace : we will set her free.
Her cage is worth a season's harvest :
This decision we take : it is for the best."
Spring-Bird envisioned the sumny shores of Spain,
She would fly over the oceans, and sport with the rains.
Her bane was now her boon, she blinked in disbelief :
Her cold heart began to thaw, she was filled with relief.
She'd contemplate the Bay of Biscay,
Perhaps the would roost for an entire day.
She could burrow in the warmth of golden sands.
And die in peace on the Canary Islands.
They undid her clasps with severity and gloom,
She waved goodbye with her solitary silver plume.
A parting pirouette, and off flew she,
Her heart soared with new-found, secret ecstasy.
She gasped at the newness of it all,
Cried out in alarm, felt she might fall.
Her sharp high-pitched cry, miraculously turned to song!
The same enchanting notes, lost and gone so long!

The ice began to thaw, and white turned to green.
All in an instant, the sullen land was serene.
The rivers flowed, as the Spring-bird sang,
In tribute to spring, to the ripeness of land.
The Frost-Giants made a hasty retreat.
Men rejoiced; hailed Spring-bird for her feat.
The cage door left smugly open, "she's sure to return:
Injustice was done, but our lesson is learnt."
Yet no sign of her, and day after day
Men felt her loss, as March turned to May.
Her music in their guilty hearts they longingly bore.
Their beloved bird was gone - it was heard no more.
Yet still to this day, if you listen with care,
You may hear her Spring-Song, if you only know where:
in the sunny foothills of the Catalonian Pyrenees
You can hear her singing with mellifluous ease.
And there, of course, it's the land of eternal spring,
The sun always shines, as the bird always sings.
She's snug in her straw nest; so what if it's not gold? In the distant icy Norse lands, her story is still told.


## THAT MAN

Amrita Mukherjee

Department of Sociology, U.G. Third Year

Look at that man so frail and lean,
His wrinkled face and oh! His hands so thin ....
Pedestrians pass by giving some alms to that poor,
But why god you became partial and obscure ...
under the blue sky stays he,
under the cloudy sky sleeps he ..
while several are comfortable and cozy on their slumber
Dreaming of a life ought to be ....
Social Beings are we, think socially ...
But do we care for those unlucky really??

# The dark of night nurtured desire <br> Sunayan Mukherjee <br> Department of English, U.G. First Year 

Not a star shone in the sky,
Not a ray of light to dispel my delusions,
Grappling between the web of tensions
I still aspire!!
So much to do yet so little done
The days have passed, unnumbered moment gone visions blurred, I can't see.

It is not fit to eat, sleep and drink
And make merry while others are in pain,
All the happiness, mirth shrink
All the struggle for existence goes in vain.
Today I saw you little boy
While I was passing by train
Your flaxen head did sway
Showing puckered signs of strain.
Arms outstreched, lips murmuring
You were in deep agony, uttering
In a strange mellow voice -
"I'm not fed Babus, have pity"
Isn't it not us, who have given him no choice
I brooded, feeling guilty ....
Passions upsurged, pangs of cries
Couldn't dither the wordly wise
Nobody thought about his pitfall
Or about his situation, apocryphal.


[^0]
## Last Christmas

## Sayantan Auddy

Department of Physics, U.G. First Year

The bell of Christmas still rings
Among the heavy war clouds,
As the gun thumped with vigour.
The steady ranks of soldiers
Marching through the bloody war field
Towards the demise, the ultimatum.
So did I, bowed with heavy guns
With weights of curse of untamed cruelty.
I realised after years of battle
The pity of war,
The futility with which
It cast the shadow of death.
I wandered on with dilemma
The reason, why I stood here :
In what we call the swing of fate.
Where mere death dangles on mortal eyes
Like a bell of after world.
The call of death inflamed a happier thought
The hay days of my teen life-
Away to my native land
Where Christmas plays a sweeter bell
Among the company of generous mates,
To saturate the young heart
With the essence of eternal love.
It seemed a forlorn fantasy
Blown by the winds of time.
Towards the demise the ultimatum
But still the nostalgic satisfaction
Intoxicated with the essence of love.
I stood amazed in a hypnotic dream
Unaware, unaffected by the malice
The war, the welcoming death.
I felt a cold pain of knife
Which seemed like a breathing balm
Healing my wounds of evils.
To wipe the shadows of envy
By pouring the spirit of love
On wounds, created by years of war.
It was my merriest Christmas,
Where death was my richest gilt
Where realisation and satisfaction
Was my greatest blessing.

## णाँव

संध्या कुमारी सिंह
प्रवक्ता, हिन्द्दी विध刀ग
गाँव: तुम कहाँ खों गए?
बरसों जहाँ तुम्हें छोड़ आर्ड थो
तुम वहाँ तो नहीं हो
पर
मेरी ग्मूलि के उजले पन्नों पर ड़ीतटाय के
पुराने खंडहरों की तरह दर्ज हो
जहाँ अवकदश पाते ही
मन लंनी कुड्डियों पर चल़ा जाता है
तल़ाशने लगता है
विस्मृत हुए चेहरों को
कुत्र ध्रूल-बिस्नरी यादों की कव्रगाह
में कुन्द पुरानी आवाजे
मथने लगती हैं
तब बहुत याद आते हैं
हमारें बाबा, हमाऱी आजो
वहु महुआ का पेड़, बन्ह आम की अमराई़
बह चार बीचा खंत
माटे का आंगन-दुआग
जगर-मगर करने त्तगता है।
कहतंत हैं लोग कि
अब तुम नही़ी ग्रे
पर विश्वम्म कमनं का जी नहों करता।
गाँक! तुम मर नहीं सक्कत
हर पत्त तों नुम्हें
भपनें सीने में घड़कता हुआ पाती हैँ।
कसे कहाँ कि अव तुम नहीं रहे?


## थार : वेकार की लाथा

## जतीन शुक्ला

स्नातकोत्तर. द्वितीय वर्ष, हिन्दी विभाग
गेरों का क्या अपन्नों का प्यार नहीं मिलता
दिल की बात कहूँ किससे, ऐंस्रा कोई यार नहत्रां मिलता
आह भरने की खातिर कोई हमराज नहीं मिलतत
कल्ल होती है हर वक्त अरमानों की मेरो
मगर बचा ले इसे ऐसा कोई यार नहीं भिलनः
बेबसी की जकड़ में फड़फड़ाती है जिन्दरी मेगे
इन सलाखों को जो तोड़ दे एस्ता कोई ग्रार नहीं fिलत्लता
निराशाओं के साझ़धार में दुन रही है किस्मत मेंते
नजर के सामने आज कोई साहल नल़ीं मिलता
बचा नहीं जिन्दगी में अब कोई जीने क? संग्ल पर फूँकने को ल्याश को कोई शमशान नहीं मिलता कहते "सानिध्य" इस दुनिया में कोई नहाँं बाऱं अपने ही मतलब से काईं यार है यार में मिलता।

## बेता की रोटी

## शर्मिष्ठा घोष

स्नातकोत्तर, द्वितीय वर्ष, हिन्दी विभाग
धर्म की छोटी सी चिंगारो लगी समाज में
हिंमा भड़की, अहिंसा के समाज में
भड़क उटी जातीयता
तारतार हुई मानवता
चमक उट्री तलवार
वर्बरता की हुई जयजयकार।
वक्त बीता,
बिलग्बने की आवाज
बदली सिस्तक्यिं में।
यहो चिंगारी पलने लगी
अब ल्लंगों के दिलों में।
नेता चौौका
यही तो है महो मौका
इन चिंगारियों में थोड़ी सी हवा तो दे दुँ,
फिए आगाम से अपनी रोटियाँ सेंक लूँ।

## गें घоराव हैं

रेनु सिंह
स्नातकोतर प्रथम वर्ष, हिन्दि विभाग
वो परम्परा हैं
हर बार परम्परा आकर मुझसे .टकराती है
चाटर खाकर फिर घायल हो जाती हैं
मैं उसे हर वात की तरह
फिर कहती हैँ कि
तू बदल बुद को और समझ मुझको
इस पर वह फिर मुझसे लड़ने
खड़ो हो जाती है।
अगर में चाँहू तो उसे
उसे डाँलूँ कुचनल
जो मरे साँप का केंचुल़ आंढ़े है
और खुद को साँप समझती है
लेकिन फिर
आड़े आती है भावना
बस और बस् के वल भात्रना के कारग
जीते लोगों को मारकर
जी रही हैं ख़दद परम्परा
जिस दिन छड गया, भावना का साथ
उस दिन परम्परा
आएगी मेंरे हाथ
फेंक द्रूँगी प्रमूल उखाड़कर
क्योंकि
में प्रग्रात हुँ
करो मुझ्न पर विश्वास
और चोड़ो
परम्सरा का साथ।

## एक छोटी घारा

प्रमोद कुमार गुप्ता
स्नातक, तृतीय वर्ष, हिन्दी विभाग
संप्रसाद से विपाद तक,
एक छोटी गंगा बहते देखा है!
संं्रमाद की काली छाया में पड़कर,
इस सरिता को थिग्कते देखा है।
बहती हुई इन लहरों में
हाले दिल को भी बेक़ाल होते देखा है!
क्या गुली और क्या गम,
हर हाल में कुछ बयान करते देखा हैं।
गह धारा पवित्र है जिसे बहा देना ही होगा
इन कोमल मोतियों को सीप से निकाल देना ही होगा
प्रत्यक्ष में इसे चमकते देख्रा है हमने!
पियलकर पत्थर को मोम होते देखा है हमने !
क्या यह आँसी क्या यह धारा!
इनकी रोर्शानियों में पंक्तियों का मुहागा!
सामने इसके क्टु हदय को भी हिलना होगा!
कविताओं में सिरजजते हुए हर चक्षु से निकलना होगा!
तभी तो पंक्ति गालिब को
सार्थक क्या है ?
जब आँख ही से न ट्पका
तो फिर लन्ह क्या है ?

## में क्या लिखूँ?

संतोष सिंह यादव स्नातक, तृतीय वर्ष, हिन्दी विभाग में क्या लिख़ँ?
भूख लिखूँ या प्यास लिखाँ बिता रहे दिन अनन्त के नीचे उनको क्या आवास लिख़้ ! सोये फुटपाथों पर निरीह ओढ़े क्या आकाश़ लिख्ड़ँ! लूट रहो अबला चौरहाहों पर अब नारी को क्या लाज लिखाँ? नेता, मंत्री शोषक बन गये क्या भारत को आजाद लिखूँ। देश के रक्षक हो गयं भक्षक फिर अपना क्या अधिकार लिय्यें! आज मिटा दूँ गीता गमायाग को अब्र एक नया हैतिहाग लिग्रूँ।

# The Death of The Author : Thus Spoke The Phoenix <br> Arka Chattopadhyaya <br> Ex-Student, Department of English 

'It'll never be known how this has to be told, in the first person or in the second, using the third person plural or continually inventing modes that will serve for nothing. If one might say: I will see the moon rose, or : we hurt me at the back of my eyes, and especially: you the blond woman was the clouds that race before my your his our yours their faces. What the hell." $\qquad$ Julio Cortazar (Blow Up)
The Death of the Author [written in 1967-first published in the American journal, Aspen, first anthologized in Image-Music-Text (1977)], the essay that made an author out of Roland Barthes, was an integrational culmination of many theoretical crosscurrents. Barthes was not the tone executioner, neither was it a death at one blow. The slow poisoning had started long before and on a collective level too. 1. A. Richards's removal of all authorial and contextual information associated with poems before giving them for interpretation to the Cambridge undergraduates led the way. The primacy of the text was asserted as a part of a sustained critique of the biographical approach as the text was made to vacillate in an autonomous vacuum of anonymity. William Wimsatt and Monroe C. Beardsley, among the American New Critics, had made a similar declaration as early as 1946 while discussing the concept of 'intentional fallacy' in Sewanee Review. In Mikhail Bakhtin's book Problems in the work of Dostoevsky (first published in 1929), the novelistic discourse was recognized as an open-ended dialogue with 'unfinalizable' polyphony and thereby undercutting any privileged existence of the authorial voice among the many voices in the text. The thematic engagement with the figure of the author in High Modernism had already explored the jitters. Stephen in Ulysses (1922) was hardly as author-backed as he had been in A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916) and Finnegan's wake (1939) had already shifted the focus from the speaker to the speech, acknowledging speech as the only speaker. I would even argue that Eliot's idea of 'impersonality' of art in "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (1919) contained in it yet another germ of the authorical removal.

The 'death of the author' phenomenon in Barthes' essay is a derivation from his anti-teleological approach of looking at a text. To him, the text is intrinsically resistant to any originary enquiry into the voices, which operate within its $+\cdots$, ric. Referring to Balzac's story Sarrazine, Barthes shows how the text blurs the identity of the speaking voice by an overlap as it emerges as a "neutral, composite, oblique space where our subject slips away, the negative where all identity is lost, starting with the very identity of the body writing." (Barthes p. 1) With a structuralist legacy as well as an acknowledgement of thr ${ }^{1 r r}$ idean rupture, Barthes posits language as a selfreferential schema where the narrated fact does not interact with the reai but remains within 'the very practice of the symbol itself' (p. 1) i.e. the semiological register of language. Using the Saussurean notion of the pre-givenness of language as a starting point Barthes subverts the operative hierarchy between speech and the speaking being. The ruins of realistic representation make language fall back upon itself and thus any identity of any speaking voice in the text is subsumed by it- "..... it is language which speaks, not the author ......." (Barthes p. 2). This dimension of linguistic autonomy is heavily influenced by the Lacanian psychoanalytical orientation of the subject. Speech introduces a cut in the human being at the point of its entrance. Therefore the speaking subject is a split subject right from its entry into language. The rupture in the Real order is constituted by the chain of signifiers, which then goes on to make the Symbolic (linguistic) order. The Real remains unsymbolifiable, to a large extent. This is what Lacan calis the first of the 'signifying cuts', which separates the speaking voice from the speaking subject. It is language that speaks in human beings rather than human beings speaking language.

In S/Z (1970), Barthes returns to Sarrazine to interpret it elaborately in terms of his 'codes' (Hermeneutic, Semic, Proairetic and Symbolic). Barthes sees in it, the 'readerly' ideal of the classic realist text whereby the reader is no more than a passive recipient of an authorially determined meaning. But as Barbara Johnson has shown us in her eassy "The Critical Difference : Balzac's Sarrazine and Barthe's S/Z", Barthes only unveils a deconstructive potential already present within Balzac's text. When the author is pushed out of the limelight, literature assumes a counter-consumerist character of 'writerliness' and yet the ambivalence remains in the complementarity of the 'readerly' and the 'writerly' (where the reader will be the producer of text). They ('readerly' and 'writerly') are too dangerously akin to the ' $s$ ' and the ' $z$ ' on two sides of the mirror. They blind us all! Even Barthes is not spared!

Barthes's removal of the author opens up the post-structuralist aporias in the text in being Derrida's textual 'metaphysics of absence'. Jacques Derrida's Baltimore lecture "Structure, Sign And Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences" (21 October 1966) destabilizes the idea of the centre as Derrida propounds its positedness, placed both inside and outside the structure. It is the same act of decentring that Barthes performs by beheading the authorial centre of the textual structure. The author, like all speaking beings, is reduced to a signifier as the authorial signified (the author outside the text) vanishes. The signifiers can only relate to each other back and forth as the text is seen as an auto-deconstructive site- ".....writing ceaselessly posits meaning ceaselessly to evaporate it, carrying out a systematic exemption of meaning." (Barthes p. 4) With the disappearance of the 'author-god' [following Nietzsche's notion of God's death in Thus Spoke Zarathustra (1883-85)], the text gets liberated from the singleness of his 'theological meaning' and is made to realize its infinitesimal semantic potentials. The author is denied any pre-existence in the beyond to a text and a textual composition is envisaged as an eternal 'here and now'. Barthes ends with yet another deconstructive reading against the established hierarchical grain by prioritizing the reader over the author. The death of the author leads on to a new birth of the reader for he is seen as the major locus where the text performs the drama of its signification. It is the reader who "holds together in a single field all the traces by which the written text is constituted" (Barthes p.4)

The way Barthes' essay has paved the way for the Reader-response theory or the Reception theory has also made his argument subject to a critique that he only replaces the author with the reader, making another author out of him. In the Derridean reference frame, however, this replacement goes down well with Derrida's notion of a perpetually dynamic and slippery centre, constituted by a constant metonymic displacement of its own. Sten Moslund thinks that Barthes's argument leads to an unnecessary 'mystification' of the text, undercutting not just its author, but the reader also. Much like Booth's idea of an implied 'second self' of the author (The Rhetoric of Fiction - Wayne Booth), Moslund talks about the need to acknowledge a limitation to the proliferation of meaning in the authorless text on the grounds of intentionality, which he wittily calls 'the postmortem footsteps' of the author as a spectral remainder in the text. Moslund argues in favour of a check to the author's authority instead of a complete annihilation of its existence. He also considers the authorial removal to be a dispensation with the discursive potentialities of the text though I would like to add here that the dependence of discourse in general on its author is weaker than what it is when it comes to the specific discourse i.e. the 'literary' one. In what has come to be called postmodern social space, the subject inevitably finds itself enmeshed in discourses, which are ruled by a largely extra-authorial logic. Even Bakhtin, in his positioning of the author in the polyphonic novel does not resort to a rhetoric of absence but rather to one of non-mastery and neutrality - "The consciousness of the creator of a polyphonic novel is constantly and everywhere present in the novel ...... the author's consciousness does not transform others' consciousness ....... into objects and does not give them secondhand and finalizing definitions." (Bakhtin pp. 67-68). However, taking into account Barthes' later works like Sade Fourier Loyola (1971), one may say that even he implies a check to, rather than a foreclosure of, the author-power, as "the pleasure of the text also includes an amicable return of the author" where he returns in a form structured by the reader's desire. This is the 'author guest' of the textual proletariat instead of the tyrannical 'author god' of the class-divided text. The author is removed and
then brought back after a while and it is this tenure of absence that engenders the closure of representation. And in the post-representational world, the author revived or re-arrived can only be a Pierre Menard of a certain Jorge Luis Borges.

Michel Foucault's lecture, "What is an Author?" presented at Societe de Philosophie on 22nd February 1969 , engages with a more historiographical examination of the 'author function'. He might not refer to Barthes by name, but throughout the lecture, Foucault implicitly responds to the Barthesian proposition. Foucault problematizes the authorial notion in the novelistic and poetic discourse (unlike the nonfictional discourse where pinning down the author is easier) by drawing attention to the fissure between the narratorial voice in the text and the writer who writes it in reality. That 'scission' is to Foucault, the locus of the 'author function'. Foucault considers the author as a 'foundel of discursivity', not just limited to his own body of work. To give his own example, Ann Radcliffe, as the Gothic canon sees her, is not just the author of her own novels but an author in relation to the entire English novelistic discourse of Gothicism. Foucault, thus, considers the author, as an ideological product, which operates as an index of the 'manner in which we fear the proliteration of meaning.' (Foucault p. 14)

Foucault's essay opens and ends on a note which contains an altusion to Samuel Beckett [Texts for Nothing (1954)], whom he quotes - "What does it matter who is speaking; someone said;' 'what does it matter who is speaking" (Foucault p.1). Beckett's works consistently demonstrate the otherness of speech where man finds himself in a state of being spoken by language as Unnamable articulates at the end- ".... you must say words, as long as there are any, until they find me, until they say me ..." (Beckett p. 407). The play of voices in Beckett's novella Company (1979-80) illustrates a Barthesian disconnection, disabling the authorial position in the text. A voice comes to the narrator in the dark and tells stories in the second person but the narrator can never make out for sure whether it addresses him or there is another unknown potential voice in the dark. The company of voices extends ad infinitum. Then there is the added complexity as Beckett does not rule out the possibility of the voice speaking of itself in the second person- "He speaks of himself as of another" (Beckett p. 20). What Beckett subtly shows us throughout is the impossibility of uniting the voice that speaks to and in the narrator. Speech always finds an alterity from which it speaks - "Use of the second person marks the voice. That of the third that cankerous other. Could he speak to and of whom the voice speaks there would be a first. But he cannot. He shall not. You cannot. You shall not" (Beckett p.6). The story-telling voices increase in the dark as the 'devised deviser', language itself, 'devises it all for company' (Beckett p.37). In this confusing company of polyphonic voices, 'the fable of one fabling of one with you in the dark: (Beckett pp. 51-52) only admits the loneliness of the author who is alienated from and strangulated by the speech-event. But the paradox hits back when we come to know about Beckett's own dictatorial controlling of the performance of his plays. As history tells us, he even took legal action to stop performances where his instructions were not immaculately obeyed (e.g. Endgame). In the real, does the authorial authority keep tempting him sucessfully?

Italo Calvino's novel If on a Winter's Night a Traveller (1979) has the same paradox, in a different way. The Reader's (the Reader is a character in the novel) infinitely deferred reading of the Calvino novel leads to a totally disjointed string of multiple anonymous texts across nations and cultures, de-constructing all myths about authorship. As Silas Flannery's diary (chapter-8) tells us, it is only the readerly dialectic that controls the composition of his work. Computer softwares replace the author and the authorial function by completing works left unfinished by dead authors. To Flannery, writing is nothing but "the respiration of this reader, the operation of reading turned into a natural process" (Calvino p. 169), and he often temporally overlaps writing and reading -- "at times it seems to me that the distance between my writing and her reading is unbridgeable ....". In one of the narratives within the narrative, authorship even assumes a politically conspiratorial dimension (chapter-6). None of the books, the Reader finds in the novel, is the Calvino-book he wants to read, and none of the books he ends up reading is found to be written by the name of the author stamped on it. While the frame-narratives so pervasively destroy the authoriat role, the basic narrative, written predominantly in the second person where the
author keeps instructing the reader, stages a revengeful return of the author. This is not a Barthesian return, however. The returned author structures the reader's desire instead of being structured by it. The independence of the Reader is made to turn on its head as the author's voice pitches in with only parodic allowances - "adjust the light so you won't strain your eyes ..... Do you have to pee? All right, you know best" (Calvino p.4). The entire course of the Reader's actions--his search for the Calvino-book, his fling with Ludmilla and so on-are all dictatorially thrust on him by the speaking voice in the main narrative. If on a Winter's Night a Traveller does foreground the role of the reader as per Barthes. The novel deals with book-readers, electronic text readers (Lotaria), non-readers (Irnerio) and comes up with all sorts of discourses of readine e.g. the difference between listening to an oral narration and reading a written text (chapter-4). But, is this foregrounding not another name of a textual politics of the author whereby he implicates the reader by locating him inside and not outside his text and thus turring him into a ventrloquist dummy? Pirandello's play Six Characters in Search of an Author (1921) voice the rebellion against the authorial tyranny. But the characters still fail to go beyond Pirandello's drama, in spite of succeeding in moving out of the unfinished play mentioned within the play. The all-inclusive power of the text perhaps only camouflages the authorial power-paradigm, just like the modern day welfare state has been able to mask and certainly not annihilate the repressive state apparatus. Who is killed at whose hands? The answer is confusion, which is certainly not devoid of the polemic.

## Works Consulted :

a) Bakhtin, Mikhail, Problems of Dostoevksy's Poetics, Minnesota Press, 1984.
b) Barthes, Roland, "Death of the Author".
http://social.chass.ncsu.edu/wyrick/debclass/whatis.htm.
c) Beckett, Samuel, Nohow On : "Company", "III Seen, III said" and "Worstward Ho", Calder Publications Ltd. 1989.
d) Beckett, Samuel, The Grove Centenary Edition. Volume II : Novels, Grove press. 2006.
e) Burke, Sean, The Death and Return of the Author: Criticism and Subjectivity in Barthes, Foucault and Derrida, Edinburgh University Press. 1998.
f) Calvino, Italo, If on a Winter's Night a Traveller, Vintage Classics; New Ed edition. 2007.
g) Derrida, Jaques, Writing and Difference, Routledge. 2001.
h) Foucault, Michel, "What is an Author?" korotonomedya2.googlepages.com/Foucault-WhatlsanAuthor.pdg
i) Lacan, Jacques, The Seminar of Jacques Lacan Book VII the Ethics of Psychoanalysis 1959-1960, W W Norton \& Co Ltd. 1992.
j) Mosfund, Sten, "The Phantom Walking The Text: The Death of The Author Reconsidered", Forum : The University of Edinburgh Postgraduate Journal of Culture And The Arts, Issue l-Origins and Originality, Autumn 2005.
k) Young, Robert, Untying the text : a post-structuralist reader, Routledge. 1990.

## Fictionesque

Anandaroop Sen<br>Ex-student, Department of History


#### Abstract

What is the point? Cartographically or otherwise one answers in terms of direction, imagine the usual, crossroads, four way exits, or entry, whichever way one wants to see, usually away, farewell bash? Perhaps. Goldfish, sewing forgefful flowers, not quite in full bloom, is interested in the texture of things, will move down south to become Hollywood.That then is a point.

FISH AND BULL STORIES ARE NOT ALWAYS PLEASANT. ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE PRECOCIOUSLY GIFTED. ESPECIALY WHEN THEY CAN CHANGE INTO EACH OTHER, WHERE BULLS HAVE GILLS THAT BREATHE IN THE DEEP AND FISH HAS HORNS THAT TEAR APART CLUMPS OF HAIR. BUT THEN THEY SWITCH. AGAIN. FISH JUMPS BACK ON DRY LAND, NO ALCOHOL, ARSE frozen, museum of cold. bull flies on an aeroplane, before cribbing around in city by the sea, fat men, hanging tongues, yoko ono shades, ah the electric embrace corrupted by local trains, unwelcome butt CRACKS OF HOSTS ON A TWO DRAG HIGH. FISH IN THE MEANTIME, LAGS BEHIND LATE LATE NIGHTS, ASKS FOR FORGIVENESS, FROM THE LARGER GODS OF SWITCHEROO, SO IT CAN STOP TAKING ITSELF SERIOUSLY, ALL THE STINK OF THE MARKET, DEAD EYES BEREFT OF PAIN, LAUGHTER SNIGGERS, HALTINGLY, PREPARES TO MOVE EAST FOR WARMTH. BULL IS KIND. BULL THINKS ABOUT TURNING INTO TWISTED CAT, WHITE QUILTS, RED IN A COLOUR BLIND WORLD. BULL AND FISH PUMP BLOOD TO THE HEART. THEY ARE ABOUT TO MEET. FISH AND BULL DECIDE TO bE NICE TO EACH OTHER. FISH LEARNS TO COOK AND BRINGS BREAKFAST TO THE BED, BUYS BULL AND FRIENDS FANCY HAIR GELL, VIBRATING CONDOMS. HAPPINESS IN A GAS CYLINDER, GROWS, TILL MEDIUM GODS OF ACCIDENT INTERVENE, RIPS THROUGH THE KITCHEN TO LEAVE SCATTERED SCALES OR FLAKES OF HORN, WHICH ONE? I DONT KNOW WHICH ONE BLEW UP, THE FISH OR THE BULL, FOR AS ONE ALREADY KNOWS THEY COULD CHANGE INTO EACH OTHER ...

Music makes things easy. Bearable sunhshine, desired tan, rabid radicals all buried, wilting evening melancholy, pure contagion infecting with happy deaths. A minor third doesn't fit in with some of these things, snap change in wrist positions to fit into time, tucked inside tuxedos, simple major chord progression, one doesn't know much about these things. Boxed sets blare or soothe without agenda. Depends on how one is feeling. How are you doing? There is a tale about a lyre made up of bones of a musician who lost out in love, crossed out other pockets to delve into depths of invisible flesh, no label to take up a broken heart when it is not prepared to sell, lyre sounds are difficult to hear, music while making things easy washes away history, sparkling, bubble gum teeth, clear like a knopfler note, sound of water on water.

Four o clock is a not yet. Like a sleep is a not yet. It will come. The comfort and certainty of futures that remain simple. Motor reaction like, knee jerk, not haif as calamitous. Bordering on the banal. The story was on a ship. Saling across sea, chasm like, vacuum cleaner in suction mode, at night, things remained rudimentary. There was work at day, there was work at night, there was work in


between. Like air. Enough for all to breathe in without worrying about greed. The crew couldn't talk. A breed of rats that had bred itself near the huil brought in a plague once. None died. Only tongues started to rot. Cutt off one by one, elements of conversation walked the plank. Silence was established. It was a fair deal. Sea was not in suction mode. It needed things to feed on. Secrets that tongues might have hid fit the bill. Or so it seemed. There was still a treasure to search. As always there is. On better days it was called hope, on nights of lust it turned to gold. Where? On an island with the siren sitting on a tower with fancy flutemen dressed in suave blue and nude fallen Adams, sometimes eves too. All this magic but rarely any hares running down holes, slight hunger pangs, music from top of the tower, only song allowed to be sung, Ain't no jelly in the jelly fish darling, and doors, all shut with silver locks, a card game on the edge, these everybody wait for the crew to come, separated by absence, the two sets, the two thickened spaces, linked by a ship, yearn for the other. Absence sea lit, split wide wide open.

Only black comedy comes in and leaves without conirol. No sentries at the gate. Please. You are welcome. Do come in. Share your drink. Remember to be kind.


Artist: Thatatan Gogit

# The Romance of fatehpur Sikri <br> Parameshwari Sircar <br> Department of English, P.G. Second Year 

An emperor builds a magnificent city as an act of gratitude to a penniless saint, makes it the capital of his empire and then abandons it - An insight.

The thundering success of the never-ending celluloid saga Jodha-Akbar suddenly turned the almost four and a half centuries old, planned capital city of the eponymous Emperor into one of the hottest holiday spots in India rivaling that of the Taj Mahal, even for indigenous travelers. As a keen tourist, with a tremendous interest in History, I was fortunate enough to visit Fatehpur Sikri without having to envisage Hrithik's royal gait or the Bachohan bahu's delicate blushes.

Fatehpur Sikri is breathtakingly beautiful, and that is a fact.
Not only is the place an architectural marvel, it simply brims over with a vitality of its own. "It is a truth universally acknowledged" that the Taj Mahal seems to be poetry in marble. No offence to Miss. Austen for the ad hoc of her most famous opening but it does get the message across. To continue with the Taj, yes, it is a lovely wonder but it is also a "makhbara", and the grandeur wears off with a really good, hard look. Not to mention that on a scorching day, the marble under your feet feets like a bed of blazing coals. (Seriously). With all due respect too, the place is always teeming with foreign backpackers with their Lonely Planets (who, by the way, still think that our country has elephants and snake charmers at every nook and comer) and who have come to "do the Tal" and experience Indian colour and culture for moksha. (No kidding again).

On the other hand, Fatehpur has an aura and charm of its own. It is like one of those beautiful, veiled ladies, whose kohl-rimmed, sparkling eyes mesmerize one and all. The abandoned city is comprised of two distinct sectors - Fatehpur, the royal residence and administrative area, and Sikri, the dargah of the famous Sufi saint, Salim Chisti, where "mannats" are fulfilled even today. The skeptics would rubbish any claims of miracles, but the devoted can feel the power that the dargah exudes in the very core of their being. And the best part is, the saint welcomes and blesses each hapless soul that seeks refuge in His tranquility.

To wander among those red sandstone passages is one of the most surreal of experiences. The historical records of Mughal India seem like a flashback sequence in a black and white movie and whisk you back to the time when Jalal-ud-Din Akbar rode through the Buland Darwaza (which incidentally trumps even the Arc de Triumph in Paris) after a victorious campaign, to be welcomed by his proud queen, the royal court and his euphoric subjects. In fact, even today, while walking through the Ibadat Khana, or the Panchmahal, or even where Tansen sang the Deepak Raaga, you can feel the bustle and beat of medieval life. Also, the exotic sights and sounds of the aromatic and vibrant Meena bazaar and the deserted palaces of the queen (summer and winter) seem like an out of body experience. Standing in the middle of the courtyard with eyes closed, you can see the women in all their finery, with jangling bangles and the tinkle of anklets, scintillating the sense. Such is the allure of Fatehpur Sikri.

Once you step out of the boundaries of the ancient city into the crowded streets, the reality of the present hits you in the gut, and leaves you craving for more of the past. The well-known quotation from Francois Villon's poem serves as a befitting conclusion to my tryst with history and romance, "Ou sont les neiges d'antan?" ("Where are the snows of yesteryear?")

##  <br> অমৃতা ঘোষাল <br> 














"बउन्श जमाড় आजि, চুহ্নু বুঝিनि।



"घর कड ল্লেক ছিল, जাই ঋ⿵ স্থ’কার করিনি।










 -












( अनाけन : পূর্ররাগ)








"...........দশক শতক ষার बর





# nख্মা numা 

अर्পিज ব্যাनাজ্রौ




















#  <br> घनয় डजुाठार्य <br>  



























 পড়াে? বলো না, মান করতে পারার চেট্টা করো, আমার .... আমার ঘুম পাচ্ছে .... হয়তো ঘুমের বড়িণুলো .....



বিভাজিকায় দাঁতের মুদু কতে
उ প্রেম তুমি তাকেই থুঁজে নিও ....,
.... মনে পড়ছে সুর? ভালো লাগছে? কিন্টু তুমি হঠাৎ এমন করে কবিতাটায় आটকে গেলে কেন? আটকে যাওয়া তো তোমার স্বভাব নয়, ছকে পড়তে তো তোমার বরাবরের अनिशा, पूমি জানতে চইছো না কেন আমি কে, তোমাদের এরো অনুপুর্ফ্র থবর .... তবু .... তবু আর কেন জনতে চাইছো না কেন আর আমি কে? কেন?
 आসছে ....




 मুর ..... সুর শোনো ..... ওঠো সোনা ..... লেষ লাইন কটাই তহলে ওনে যাও .... সুর .... শোনো বাবু .... সেই লাইনগুলোর সত্যতার মধ্যে দিয়ে, নির্ভরতার মধ্যে দিয়েই আমায়
 याও-

> शूँजে यमि ना পাও তুমি ও প্রেম
> ঋততে মুখ লুরোয় ঘনিষ্ঠত
> ভেবো না এর পুরোই বাতুলতা
> ওদের ঘিরেই আগুন বেঁচে থাকে ....।

- आসলে তুমি কি চাইছো তুমি নিজেই কি জানো অनिকেত? কিংবা গভীরভাবে আদৌ কি কিছू চাইছে তুমি? চাইলে এত বাপটানি কেন, এতো ছেনালি! কি চাইছো অনিকেত?
 চাইছো আসরেन অनিকেত? आা্রয়? চারদেয়ালের খাচা?
- অiیি এতটা আসলে এক্বারে ডেবে ড১তে পারি না, কেমন সব ঔুলিয়ে যায় ...
- आচ্ছা এক এক করে বলো .... আঃ অনিকেত আমার নরম স্তনদुটোকে এবার রেহই দাও .... আমার কথা লোলো .... একে একেই বলো - কাল বিনতার সাথে, গত
"Locked Mind"







 यूৰ্রা आদাপ ছাইছো कি বেহায়া?



















 ছাভ়া যাক....


 সन्ধে সাভ়ে পাচটা নাগাদ।


 यাত্ কিন্ন সূশ্ম রূeের প্রসার কম।


 मদঁড়ায়।


## 8






 অযথাছ, अকরার গভীরতায়, आর সব বাদ দিয়ে সুর-কে এত বেশি হার্ট করতে খাকে অা সে নিজেও বুকতে পারে না, ....
.... जার ....

সে গब্ত शাক ....








斤িকে रिিরে তাকায়।



 বারবার, বারবার ....



 जাগ হতে ..


## सरकार-काका

## भावना कौशिक

स्नातकोत्तर, द्वितीय वर्ष, हिन्दी विभाग

जैसे ही सूरज की किरणों बन्द आँखों के परदे पर गिरती, सहसा अल्पविराम से छुटका बाहर आ जाता। आँख मलकर उठ खड़ा होता और भागकर बाईं ओर पर उस संकरी-पतली गली में हलवाई की दुकान पर जाकर पूहता, "काका-काका! क्या बजा है तुम्हारी गोल घड़ी में .....? और काका बताते, "छुटके तेरे $8: 30$ बज गए, चल जल्दी-जल्दी तैयारी कर ले।" बस पूरा वाक्य तो छुटका सुनता कहाँ था, $8: 30$ सुनते ही भाग पड़ता था। बरामदे में से जल्दी-जल्दी अपना गद्दा-रजजई समेटता और नहाधोकर अपनी साफ-सुथरी, इकलौती नीली कमीज डालकर खिड़की में रखी, छोटी सी, माँ की तस्वीर के आगे हाथ जोड़ता। बस यहाँ तक तो दिन की शुरुआत ठीक रहती पर ...... बड़ी हिम्मत जुटाकर, धीरे से वह अपने बाबा का कमरा खोलकर देखता कि वह क्या कर रहे हैं। हर रोज उनकी यही हालत होती है; कमरा भराब की बू से भरा, शराब की बोतलें जमीन पर पड़ी, हर चीज बिखरी।

जितने पैसे छुटका अखबार बेचकर कमाता था, वो सारे बाबा छोन लेते। वह कुछ बोलता तो चटाक से एक तमाचा उसके मुँह पर जड़ देते, पर छुटका अब समझ़ गया था, अब कुछ पैसे पहले ही बरामदे में रखे गमले के नीचे दबा आता और बाकी बाबा छीन लेते। आखिर अगले दिन अखबार बेचने के लिए, अखबार खरीदने के लिए भी तो पैसे हों।

छुटका कहीं जीवन की तस्वीर के रंगों में ढल चुका था, वह सत्य और स्वप्न के बीच की पतली-हल्की झिन्नी के आर-पार देखना सीख गया था। वह 6 साल की उम्र में अपनी माँ को खो चुका था, बाबा रात-दिन शराब के नशे में धुत्र, ना कोई दोस्त ना रिश्तेदार। पढ़ाई के नाम पर छुटका कहता था, "अँगुटा छाप नहीं हूँ, देखो मुझे अपना नाम लिखना आता है।" मासुमियत और त्रासदो की गहरी परछाईयाँ उसकी आँखों में सदैव चमकती रहती थी।

छुटका आत्मसम्मान एवं स्वाभिमान से परिपूर्ण था। नौं साल की उम्र में वह अपनी जीविका स्वयं कमता था। कभी गलती से उसकी हालत पर तर्स खाकर कोई गाड़ी वाले साहब 5 रुपए का नोट उसकी ओर बट़ा देते तो छुटका फट से उन मासुम आँखों को चमकाते हुए, एक भौंह ऊपर कर, टेढ़ी मुस्कान के साथ कहता, "साहब; एक अखबार डेढ़ रुपया।" उसके अंदाज को देख लोग बिना मुस्कुराए रह नहीं पाते थे। शहर के अजंता मार्ग पर रोज आने-जाने वाले लोग तो छुटके से इतना जुड़ गए थे कि भले ही घर से अखबार पढ़कर आते हों पर छुटके से अखबार जरूर खरीदते थे। एक कशिश थी उसकी आँखों में जो स्वयं में ढ़ली एवं शांत थी जो सहसा देखने वाले को आकृष्ड करती थी।

कई बार कई लोग ट्रैफिक जाम के वक्त आ-आकर पूछते रहते, तरह-तरह के सवाल करते-पद्ता क्यूँ नहीं रे? पढ़ना चाहता हैं? अरे! ये तो तेरे खाने-खंलने के दिन हैं.. तेरे माँ-बाप हैं ? पर छुटका कुछ ना कह कर अपनी वही माभुम मुस्कुराहट और बुलन्द आवाज में चिल्लाने लगता 'आज की ताजा ख्बबर, आज की ताजा खबर $\qquad$ .
कितना सहज, शांत, समझदार। कितनीं हो सहजता से उसने अपने जीवन में आए हालातों को स्वीकारा, उनसे लड़, उन्हे जीत लिया। सच! जंगल के शेर से कम नहीं था, जिस्र उम्र में बच्चे दोस्तों, ऐशो-आराम, खिलौनों और सपनों में खोए रहते हैं, उस उम्र में वह अकेला, हर तरह से अकेला, पूरा दिन जीवन की कहोर सच्चाई से रु-ब-र होता वह अपनी जीवन नैग्या को खींचे लिए जाता था।

पर एक दिन एक और तूफान उसके जीवन में आया। इस बार वह परेशान था, वो आँखों की मासुमियत, उनकी चमक कहीं खो गई थी, कुछ्छ ऐसा हुआ जिसे आज वह मुस्कुराकर नहीं ट्राल पा रहा था। जब तैयार होकर अखखार वाले चाचा के पास पहुँचा तो चाचा ने अख्रबार का बण्डल देने से मना कर दिया। वह कुछ पूछता तरी चाचा बोल पड़े, "रे छुटके तू थोड़ी देर बाद आना देख अभी बहुत काम है, ठीक है ?" छुटका धड़कते दिल से घर की ओर भागा। बरामदे की सीढ़ी पर बैठा, अपनी

नौली शृं पहने, दोनों हाथ गालों पर रखे, बाल बिखरे, आँखे भरी ....... वो उदास था। वहाँ बाबा बार-बार चिल्ला रहे थे, खाली घर अँधेरी गुफा सा जान पड़ता था।

तभी ‘थोड़ी देर' बाद छुटका भाग कर अखबार वाले चाचा के पार जाकर बोला, "क्या गलती हुई मुझसे चाचा, क्यों आज अखबार का बण्डल नहीं दिया मुझको ? खिलखिलाते छुटके को हतना दुःखी देख चाचा सब काम छोड़ कर उससे बतिताते हुए कहने लगे, "ना छुटके तुझसे नहीं कोई गलती हुई रे, वो तो सरकार ने बाल. श्रम के विऱेध एवं इसे रोकने के लिए कानून सख्त कर दिए हैं ताकि बच्चों का भला हो, इसलिए अब तुझे मैं अखबारों का बण्डल नहीं दे सकता, समझा ...... ? अपनी मोटीमोड़ी मासुम आँणों को घुमाता छुटका पूछता है, "चाचा! सच! पर अगर में अखबार नहीं बेचुँगा तो मेरा 'भला' कैसे होगा, मैं क्या खाऊँगा ...... ? क्या करूँगा ..........? बोलो ना चाचा, ऐसा मत करो, ना करो चाचा।" चाचा ने ऐनक ठीक करते हुए कहा, "भई अब इसमें मैं क्या करुँ, क्या कहूँ, ये तो सरकार ही तुझे बता सकती है रे छुके'" इतना कहकर चाचा फिर अपने काम में लग गए पर छुटके का दिल तो अभी भी धड़क रहा था, सिर खुजाता चाचा को बोला, "ये 'सरकार काका' कौन है, मुझे इनका घर का पता' दो ना, मैं पूछता हूँ कि ये सब क्या और क्यूँ हो रहा है, मैं मिलना चाहता हूँ, बोलो चाचा, पता बताओ सरकार काका का।' इतना सुनते ही चाच्चा व्यंग्गात्मक हँसी हँसते हुए उसे नेताजी के घर का पता देते हुए कहते हैं, "सुन यहाँ से सीधे चलकर, चौक से दाँए मुड़ जाना आगे दस कदम चलकर एक बड़ी सी सफेद रंग की कोठी आएगी, जिसका बड़ा सा दरवाजा होगा, जिस पर चार दरबान खड़े होंगे उनसे कहना कि तुम्हें सरकार काका से मिलवा दें।" हँसते हुए चाचा ने कहा, "अब तो जा, और मुझे अपना काम करने दे चल।"

छुरका चल पड़ा, जैसे पूर्णत: सरकार काका तक जाने वाली डगर को, सड़क को समर्पित, हर धड़कन में एक सवाल लिए, हर साँस में एक उम्मीद लिए, हर कदम पे एक उमंग लिए पर अचानक हौँसले की ड्स साधना में एक खलल पड़ा। जब छुटका सरकार काका की कोटी के बड़े दरवाजे पर पहुँचा तो दरबानों ने उसे झिड़क दिया पर वह अड्ग्य रहा और सरकार काका से मिलने की जिद्द करता रहा तभी नेताजी जो अपने बाग में सैर कर रहे थे दरबानों को आदेश दिया कि, "क्या है, क्या हो रहा हैं वहाँ? आने दो इस बच्चे को ......" अन्दर ही अन्दर खिन्न मन से सोच रहे थे कि क्यों लोग सुबह-सुबह परेशान करने आ जाते हैं।

छुटका रुँधे गले, भरी आँखों से हाथ जोड़ कर सरकार काका को प्रणाम कर कहता है, "सरकार काका! मेरी माँ नह़ीं है, मेंरे बाबा कुछ नहीं करते सिर्फ शराब पीते हैं, मैं सड़कों पर अखबार बेचकर, पैसे कमाता हूँ और अपना पेट भरता हूँ पर अब आपके कानून की वजह से, वही कानून जो आपने मेंरे भले के लिए बनाया हैना, उस्की वजह से अब अखवार वाले चाचा ने मुझे अखबारों का बण्डल देने से मना कर दिया।" नेताजी को देर ना लगी स्थिति भाँपते पर वह नि:स्तब्ध खड़े रह गए और छुटका एक साँस ले फिर बोल पड़ा, "अब आप बताओ में कहाँ से रोटी खाऊँगा, भूखा ही मर जाऊँगा और बान्बा को भी पैसे नहीं दूँगा तो वे मुझे बहुत पीटेंगे ...... वह अपनी डबडब करती, टिमटिमाती, मामुम निगाहों से अपने सरकार काका को देखने लगा। नेताजी सिर्फ छुटके को निह्हार रहे थे, इतना मजबूर एवं निरुत्तर उन्होनें खुद को कभी नहीं पागय। तभी छुटका उनके हाथ को हिलाकर कहता है, "बोलो ना सरक्कार काका क्या अब रोटी, पैसा आप दोगे, क्या काम करवाओगे, आसान सा या बिना काम करवाए ही रोटी और पैंसा दोगे $\qquad$ ? वैसे में सब काम कर सकता हूँ अखबार वाले चाचा से पूछना"" वह सरकार काका का हाथ अपने हाथ में लिए खड़ा, उनकी आँखों में देखता, अपने उत्तर की प्रतीक्षा कर रहा है पर नेताजी ना जाने उसकी आँखों में क्या दूँढ़ रहे हैं .........

# सांमाजिक उत्थान मों सत्साहित्य का योगदान 

दीनानाथ सिंह
स्नातकोत्तर, प्रथम वर्ष, हिन्दी विभाग

साहित्य अपने व्यापक अर्थ में जीवन की अनुभूति की गहरी अभिर्य्यक्ति है। साहित्य शब्द की व्युत्पत्ति के अनुसार साहित्य की परिभाषा इस प्रकार है : "साहित्य वह शब्दार्थमयी रचना है जिसमें शब्द तथा अर्थ एक दूसरे के सहयोग में रहकर परस्पर पोषण करते हुए रचथिता के अभिभ्रेत अर्थ को सहददय के मन तक संप्रेषित करें और उसके मन को उत्तेजित तथा प्रसन्न करने के अतिरिक्त व्यष्टि-सर्माश्रि के लिए मंगलकारी सिद्ध हो।" मानव हृदय की भाव भरी वीणा से काव्य के स्वर फूटते है और शब्द, छंद, अलंकार सृजित होते हैं। साहित्य की यह सृजनशील ज्योति व्यक्ति और समाज को नूतन दिशा और दशा प्रदान करती हैं। अनुभव की तपिश से तपे लेखन के दम पर इतिहास के रुख को पलटा और परिवर्वित किया जा सकता है। स्वर्णिम भविष्य की नींव रखी जा सकती है। उत्कृष्ट और श्रेष्ठ साहित्य किसी समाज और राष्ट्र की प्रग्ति और उन्नति का परिचायक होता है। यदि किसी व्यक्ति, समाज और राष्ट्र का परिचय प्राप्त करना हो तो वहाँ के साहित्य को टटोलना चाहिए। चरित्रनिष्ठा और आदर्शवादी व्यक्तित्व के गठन में श्रेट्ट साहित्य की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है।

साहित्य सामाजिक मूल्यों को प्रभावित करता है। कुछ विच्चारक एवं समीक्षक इस तथ्थ्य को अस्वीकार करते हैं। वे केवल साहित्य को व्यक्तित्व की ही अभिव्यक्ति मानते हैं। वड्र्स्रवर्थ, कालरिज, ब्लैक जैसे स्वच्छंदतावादो विचारकों ने काव्य को केवल आत्मा की अभिर्व्यक्ति का सौन्दर्य माना हैं। उनके मतानुसार कवि और पाठक के बीच किसी अन्य का अस्तित्व नहीं है। काव्य केवल आत्मिक अनुभूतियों की अभिव्यक्ति मात्र है। समाज से उसका कोई संबंध नहीं हैं। उपर्युक्त सिद्धांत के समर्थन की साहित्य के क्षेत्र में 'कलावाद' नाम का एक नया वाद चल पड़ा। कलावाद के प्रमूख सूत्रधार क्लाइव वेल, डॉ. ब्रैडले रोजर, फ्राई स्विनबर्न आदि ने 'कला-कला के लिए' का नारा बुलंद किया। इन विचारकों ने कला को आत्माभिव्यक्ति का साधन माऩ है तथा समाज या जीवन से उसके संबंधों को अस्वीकार किया है।

साहित्य और कला को समाज या जीवन से अलग बताने वाले इन विचारों में कितना भी पैनापन क्यों न हो पर ये अपने आप में अपूर्ण और एकांगी है। कोई भी भावना जब किसी संवेदनशील हृदय से प्रस्फुटित होती है तो इसका प्रभाव अपने आस-पास के परिवेश, पर्यावरग को छोड़े बंगैर नहीं रहता। आधुनिक साहित्यकार आई. ए. रिचड्र्स मे इस मत की कड़ी आलोचना की है और काव्य तथा समाज के संबंध को स्वीकार किया है। कविता का संसार किसी दृष्टि से शेष संसार से अलग वास्तविकता नहीं रखता। कविता का सूजन उन्हीं अनुभवों से होता है जो हम समाज में रहकर प्राप्त करते है।

साहित्य को जीवन से अलग करके देखना संभव्र नहीं है। साहित्य जीवन के सुन्दर और असुन्दर दोनों पक्षों का यथार्थ चित्रण प्रस्तुत करता है। साहित्य जीवन के रस, रंग में इस तरह बुला-मिला है कि उसे अलग करने का तात्पर्य है एक दूसरे के अस्तित्व को समाप्त करना। एक साहित्यकार जीवन की गहराई में उतरकर ही अपने रचनाकर्म में सफल हो सकता है। सामाजिक जीवन की यथार्थ अनुभूति ही उसकी लेखनो में प्राण फूँकती है।

साहित्यकार अपनी प्रतिभा से जीवन को यथार्थ गतिविकियों, उतार-चढ़ावों और हलचलों को साहित्यिक धरातल पर अभिव्यक्ति प्रदान करता है; उसमें सौन्दर्य को स्थापना करता हैं; उसे भावपूर्ण और सरस बना देता है। इस प्रकार व्यक्ति और समाज का समन्वय ही साहित्य का मुख्य लक्ष्य होता है। समाज व्यक्तियों का समूह है और व्यक्तित्व का गठन भी समाज के परिवेश में होता है।

वैज्ञानिक प्रगति के इस युग में ज्ञान प्राप्ति के विभिन्न साधन उपलब्ध हैं। रेडियो, समाचारपत्र, टेलीविजन इत्यादि, जिसके अंतर्गत आते हैं। किन्तु सत्साहित्य का अध्ययन इन सब साधनों में सबसे प्राचीन और सबसे अधिक प्रभावोत्पादक है। अन्य किसी वस्तु में ऐसा स्थायित्व नहीं जो चिरकाल तक मानव समाज को लाभान्वित कर सके। बड़े बड़े भवन धराशायी हो जाते हैं, राष्ट्र नष्ट हो जाते हैं, किन्तु साहित्य के संसार में बड़े-बड़े ग्रंथ जीवित रहते है। वे बार-बार प्रकाशित होते हैं और वैसे ही नवीन बने रहते हैं।

आर्षग्रंश में उल्लेख मिलता है-
संसारविषवृक्षस्य द्वे फले ह्ममृतोपमे।

- काव्यामृतरसास्वादः संल्लाप: सज्जनै: सही।

संसार है तो दिष्वृक्ष, परंतु उसके दो फल अमृत समान है। एक है काव्यों का रसास्वादन और दूसरा सज्जनों के साथ वार्त्रालाप। सज्जनों का सत्संग प्राप्त होना संदिग्ध हैं। इन परिर्थिथितियों में व्यक्तित्व विकास और समाज निर्माण का एक हो मार्ग दिखाई देता है, वह है सत्साहित्य का अध्ययन।

संसार-सागर के भीषण झंझावातों में, उतार-चढ़ावों में साहित्य की पुस्तकें ही प्रकाश स्तंभ की तरह सहायक होती है। प्रगतिशील जीवन का मार्गदर्शक और प्रेरणा-स्त्रोत साहित्य ही है। भाव, प्रखर विचार, सत्यनिष्ठा, ईमानदारी, साहस, संयम, धैर्य आदि गुण व्यक्तित्व का निर्माण करते है। यदि ऐसा संवेदनशील व्यक्ति अपने धधकते विचारों से लेखनी उठा ले तो वह समाज की जीवं हिलाकर रख देगा। लेखनी की इस आग में सामाजिक कुरीतियाँ, अंधविश्वास, कुप्थाएँ आदि भस्मीभूत हो जाती हैं और वह समाज को विवेकपूर्ण दिशा में चलने के लिए प्रेरित करती हैं। हैरियट स्टो की 'टॉम काका की कुटिया' साहित्य की ऐसी ही महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है।

आज साहित्य के प्रति निराशा का सघन भाव तथा समाज में पसरे पड़े कुत्सित और अश्लील साहिल्य की भरमार क्यों है? इसका कारण विकृत मानसिकता और असंवेदनशील हाथों में लेखनी का सिमट जाना है। निकृष्ट और घटिया साहित्य और साहित्यकार, व्यक्ति और समाज, दोनों के लिए अभिशाप है जर्बकि सत्साहित्य इन दोनों के लिए वरदान है। मिल्टन का कथन है- "अच्छी पुस्तके महान आत्माओं का जीवन रस है।" श्रेष्ष साहित्य के गर्भ में महापुरुषों का निर्माण होता है जो समाज को सभ्य और सुसंस्कृत करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका का निर्वाह करते हैं। जो साहित्य व्यक्ति और समाज में गति और शक्ति न पैदा कर सके, विचारों और भावनाओं को आगे बढ़ने की दिशा न दे सके, वह साहित्य, साहित्य नहीं, मात्र प्रवंचना ही होगी। प्राणवन विचारों तथा निर्मल भावनाओं से ओत-प्रोत साहित्य ही समाज का कल्याण कर सकता है।

# "Junks"...Sorry, We are just Disciples 

## Amrit Kumar

Department of Mathematics, U.G. Third Year

I reckon, at least some of you won't have an iota of doubt, when I say, 'Most of the productive deeds, don't get germination at night', they do have preludes in the shearing day-light.
"...... BTW my good hindi is all thnx 2 tv
n u r rite, U R INSANE ......"
It was an AFTERNOON sms, scribbled with a derisive remark by one of my 4 am friends, devoid of which, this compilation wouldn't have been anything more than a surmise.

Some 90 yrs back, on another AFTERNOON, two heavy-weight philosophers chaired a discussion at Cambridge University, when great Bertrand Russell (Bertie to his friends) said to Ludwig Wittgenstein :
"You are mad".
Zap came the non-trifling replay: "God preserve me from sanity". Soon the dialogue turned monologue and Ludwig was in Bertie's latitude. Russell was consonant with him, as both were the apostles of the belief that "One must understand or die".

Born in 1889 in Vienna, in a filthy rich family, Ludwig Wittgenstein escaped his home by going to Manchester University. His aim was to be a pioneer in aeronautics which he soon gave up, as his experiments suffered teenage failures. He later studied philosophy with Russell at Cambridge, with Ludwig's lofty centre of gravity, invariably arresting him.

As a philosopher is a citizen of no community, probably Cambridge did not have oxygen for him as he said "I've prostituted my mind talking to inteligent people". He left teaching at Cambridge for a while, and got himself exiled to the margins, so as to do something for the way we see this labyrinthine world. His first book on ideas ended with the writing "Whereof, one cannot speak, thereof, one must be silent". With misty eyes, he once said to one of his students : Are you happy? You should give up philosophy. Get out, while you still can. But, he didn't know, philosophy needed him more than he needed it.

For Russell's request to Ludwig to return, an epoch for Cambridge to say Cheese arrived. There, he started to find out the limits of language and what it is, to have communication with one another.

His thoughts (on the bijection between the world and the lariguage) journeyed through the cosmic realm :
"I know this world exists. But, its mean'ng is problemaic. Am I good or am I evil? When my conscience unsettles my equilbrium, then I'm not in agreement with something. What is it? Is it the world or is it God?"

Unspooling parts of his book "Philosophical Investigation", among a college of philosphers :
"If a lion could speak, we'd not be able to understand what he said. I can't understand a lion's language because, I don't know what his world is like. To imagine a language, is to imagine a form of life. It is what we do, and who we are, gives a meaning to our words. We imagine the meaning of what we say, as something queer, mysterious. But, nothing is hidden.

I used to believe that, language gave us a picture of the world. Words like chair, gives a picture of chair. But, how about, 'hey' 'hello'.

What picture do they form? So, that's a misleading metaphor. Moreover, language can't give a picture of how it does that. It's like to see yourself, seeing something. How language does that, is beyond expression. Limits of our language are the limits of the world.

Now I think, language isn't the picture at ail. It's a tool, an instrument. There isn't just one picture of the world. These are different, in different forms of life. Different things we do with the language, I call them language games. We are what we are, because we share common language and common forms of life. Meaning of a word is just the way it is used in a particular language game.

People often puzzle over the nature of, what we call 'soul'. It's beause they think of soul along the lines of physical objects. They are confusing one way of talking with another. Philosophical puzzles arise only because we tend to mix-up one language game with another. Philosophy leaves everything exactly as it is, while it sorts out these language games."

Abandoning century-old ideas of some philosophers, he chucks :
"Philosophers at the time of Descartes pictured of a lonely self at the centre of philosphy, brooding over its private sensations. But, this soul is the prisoner of his own body and locked out of contacts with others by the walls of their bodies.

There can't be a private language. We learn to use words, because we belong to a culture; a form of life, a practical way of doing things. We speak as we do, because of what we do. All this has to be a public affair."

The best part of his ideas, which I liked from a non-philosophical domain:
"Ptilosophy is a sickness of mind and it doesn't infect too many young men".
Moreover, the legal distinction between sanity and insanity solely rests upon the concept of free-will Insanity is a legal concept; it's not a medical or psychiatric term.
"If people did not sometimes do silly things, nothing intelligent will ever get done".
It's just my 'indulgence', which my ingenious friend wobbles with the concept of 'insanity'. Now, I can reply HER to whet her brain.
But this time, it'll be night for obvious reasons ....

# The Parable of The Mycorrhiza 

Aniket Sengupta
Department of Botany, U.G. Third year

The orchid seed was fast asleep. It never knew when it had been liberated from its parent plant. Now it lay on the forest floor. It was minute - a dark dust of orchid embryo, a tiny speck of life abandoned in vast possibilities of the forestscape. The night rolled in and it was damp and cold out there. Dews started condensing on its face and it woke from its long hibernation. It was alone and afraid for it knew not what to do. It knew not where it was and who it was. It was hungry. When the parent plant packaged the seed and its siblings, she put very little food stored in them. There were so many children that she nearly starved when she fed them and each didn't get enough for itself. Now the tiny seed was looking for food. Alas! It did neither have roots to draw water from deep into the soil nor did it have green leaves to cook its own food with sunlight. Cold and hungry, the miserable seed started weeping.

It was yet an infant but it knew that if it didn't have food soon then it would die. Suddenly it felt a warm touch. Something coiled around it like a snake. It was afraid. "Fear not son, I shall protect you", the thing whispered. She was soft and curled herself further around the seed. "I am a fungus, a sister of mushrooms and toadstools." She embraced the seed gently and it was no more cold now. "If you let me, I will forge a mycorrhiza with you. That is, I shall feed you with my roots till you have your own. I can send my roots deep into the earth and will bring the best nutrients for you. My body will give you anchorage and protection."

The mold sent her arms of ribbon-like hyphae into the seed's embryo, its heart. It nourished the seed with good nourishment and the seed started growing and soon germinated into a seedling.

Days passed and the next spring arrived with a promise of life. The seed was no more a seed but a full grown orchid plant. It bore elegant flowers delicate and pleasant in aroma. Now it held seeds of its own and ready to be swirled into the air for destinations unknown. Throughout the entire year the fungus had supported it in its efforts to grow into a full-fledged plant. Spring was gone and gone was the eastern wind which took with it the orchid seeds. The Orchid was self-supporting now and no more needed the fungus. It has its root inside bottomless earth, its green leaves an efficient cook. The fungus was now weak at the ripe old age of one year. Its embrace loosened, so did its roots which dried up. Bacteria and bugs of the soil bothered it a lot. Old and decrepit, it could not resist them. "Son", it said to the Orchid, "good bye, it's my time to go. It was nice and happy to have you all these months with me."

The Orchid listened silently and then said, "When I was weak and feeble, you nurtured me. It's my time to serve you. Now I shall take care of you." sending its roots deeper into her it whispered, "mother."
(Mycorrhiza is a symbiotic association between a plant and a fungus. Orchid seeds do not carry nutrients with them. The symbiotic fungus feeds it as a seeding. When the orchid is independent, it supports its benefactor - Author)

#  <br> ছ্ন্দক চ্যাটার্জী <br>  
















"অন্ধকার আর একটু জমুক ঘুমুক পাশাপাশ্যি ঐ পাড়াগুলো
আমরা পা টিতপে টিপে বের হবো তখনই
মুগের બপর এঁটট নেবো মুতোশ
হাত্র নেবো টধ্গি, যাতে রাত্তর দাগ্গ লেগে আছছ।"










 आকमমकि।








 রক্ষার :বিষয়ে কাজ কার।

 চর্মারোগ।





 মাহা্্য। তিরতির ক্রে বইছে সুলুক্গা কান্দর।

এরপর ঋাদन বড্দলাল।













 tर्ती।
























 एलে জমির ফলनনীীতা কমরো। মাটির জ্রল ক্রমাপত নামডে ওরু করলো এবং বাঁধ দেওয়া নদীর ক্যানেল পলি পড়ে তকোল্ো। বীজ সার কীটনাশকের দাম বাড়ার সাথে সাহ্থ


आলোচনা চলতেই থাকে। আমি আবারও বেরিয়ে পড়ি স্থানীয় হাটে-বাজারে। মূলত হাড়িয়ার গক্ধে গন্ধে।৮ থেকে ১০ টা বাঁশের কাঠারোর উপর ট্রিপল খটানে। চলছে বিকি-কিনি।


 উল্মাসে।





 অসদ়ছ কয়লার্খনি প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস উत্তোলক কোম্পানিরা।

 जাজ মলিন।
"অরণে্যের দিনরাত্রি’ কাটিয়ে বাড়ি ফেরবার পালা এবার। শহীদ এঙ্সেপেসে আমি সওয়ার।




"भा থেকে মাথা টলমল করে, দেয়ার্ দেয়াল, কার্নিশে কার্নিশ
यুটপাত दদল হয় মধ্যুরাত্।
বাড়ি ৎেরার সময়, বাড়ির ভিতর বাড়ি, পায়ের ভিতর পা
दুকের 心িত্র বুক!"

#  <br> ख্রুতি গোস্বামী <br> স্নাতক বিতীয় বর্ষ, বাং্ना বিজাপ 



 ছি়্িয় পড়বার যার প্রবन আশী।






 করে।





$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { "সতঠাকুর সোনারায় গাইরস্তক দে তুই বর। } \\
& \text { ধন্ন বণশে বারুক গিরি চন্দ্র দিবাংকর।" }
\end{aligned}
$$


 ऐয় ना-
"जোলা মাতির কন্नা য্যামোন হল্ফল্ হল্ফ্ল্ করে-
ঐ মর্ত नারীর ত্যেবন দিিন দিত্নে বাড়ে।"
ব, "শাক তোলং মুঞ্ঞি মুটি মুটি - কোচর করোং ভারী

ঐ মতোই দারুণ ব্যেন বাহর হয় কাপর ফারি।।"
দেহে মনে যোবন পার্পাড় মেলছে। এমন দিনে ঘর-সমাজের বাধন দুঃসহ। নীতিবিধানের বন্ধ দরজার সামনে মনের জমাঢ বাধা অন্ভব প্রকাশের পথ পায় না, সমাজের নিষ্ঠুরতা থেকে সরে এসে সে তাই হাত বাড়ায় গাছের কাছে-
"ও বিরিক্ষে শিমিলা রে - গগন্ন ম্যালে ঠोল্।
नারী হয়া রসের বৈবন রাইথেবো কতকাল-
বিরিক্ষো শিমিলারে।।
পাহাড়ে কন্দে মালঘুগরা রে-বিরিক্ষে মন যাওi যাওং করে
পরার পরুষ পদ্দের ফল-সদায় মনে পডে. নিামলা রে।।"



"তোমরা যাইবেন মইষ বাতানে রে, মৈমাল আমার পোড়ে হিয়া
এই সোনার যৈবन কি রাথিম কাপড়ে বান্দিয়া,

## মইযাল ও।"

বা, "মইয ধরিয়া যান্ রে মৈবাল, উরায় রে বাবরী চুল,
তোর পীরিতে পরিয়া ঝৈমাল ভাগ্গল রে জাতি কল।"

"ও মোর সারিন হাতার মাহত রে
সে দিন মাহতত आসাম যায় নারীর মন মোর জ্রালিয়া রয় রে।
আকাশেকে নাইরে চর্র্র, কি করে তোর তারা,
যেবা নারার সোয়ামী নাই রে — ও তার দিনে অন্ধিহারা।।"
ওদিকে মাহত ওুনে পায় না কোনো কান্নাই। বষাশেষে শরতের মেঘ-রোদে তার প্রাণ ছুটে চরে মত্যময় জীবনের দিকে। ফাঁস দিত্রে পোযা হাত ধরা. তাড়া করে ‘গড়ে’ হাতি
 বা বডো-গারো-রাঙা এক পথে চলে. হাতির সামনে দাড়র়ে "আi্qাহ আল্মাহ বলরে ডাই হায় আল্মাহ্ রসুল" বলতে কারো জ্জাত যায় না।

অবশ্য মাহতের মনও তো পাথর নয়। হস্তীক্ন্যার দয়া পাবার আশায় সে-ও ঘরের কথা বনে দুঃখ করে-
"বালুणিল্টিত্ পফ্ফী কন্দে বালুতে পড়িয়া,
গৌরীপুরিয়া মাহত কান্দে ও সথি বাড়ী ছাড়িয়া।
আই ছাড়িলং, তাই ছাড়িলং, ছাডিলং সোনার পুরী
বিয়াও করিয়া ছাড্যিয়া আসিলং ও র্সখি অল্প বয়সের নারী।।"




 मराइ लाल-
" ऊারার বাশ কাটিয়া রে ও দয়ার কাক: রে


জামার পড়ন-রেতা রর পরর লইয়ী যাইবে রে














जরে ঙরে নিফু মাখ র







जশালীन মनে इয়? তত寸 (হাক!





শিশিরবিन্দুগুলো ঝরে यা! চু বে!


<br>लुচिস্মিতা ঘোষ<br>










"Modhu was a genius. Even his foibles and eccentricities had a touch of romance, and a taste of 'the attic salt' that made them savoury and sweet."



















"We ought to take up Indo-Mussalman subjects. The Mahomedans are a fiercer race than ourselves, and would afford splendid oppurtunity for the display of passion. Their women are more cut out for intrigue than ours."






















































E: "The new breed of academic critics tend to think of themselves as a new avant-garde which has supplanted the old breed of 'creative' or 'imaginative' writers. As a result they take themselves very seriously indeed, they write almost exclusively about 'each other, and they have created a criticism that is self-referential, self perpetuating and self-everything else. But esstntially they are simply a
new breed of university careerists, establishing and prepetuating their position with their own linguistic version of bureaucratic red-tape.:










 ‘ব্ভ্জিবিবেক’-এর একটি কারিকায় -
"রসসনুখণ শক্দার্থ চিন্তান্তিমিতচেতসঃ।









#  

সংহিতা সান্যাল

স্নাতক দ্বিতীয় বর্ষ, বাললা বিভাগ















 गु।






















 ..... |

# Leaves of Grass - A Journey <br> Pritha Kundu <br> Department of English, U.G. Second Year 

It is a story of growth- from the tiny leaves of grass to a vast stretch of green - God's handkerchief. It is the story behind the making of a book reappearing in many versions, expanded and transformed as the author's experiences and the nation's history modified itself and grew.
"Here / sit gossiping in the early candle-light of old age", Walt Whitman wrote in a prose epilogue to his Leaves of Grass,
"I and my book casting backward glances over our travel'd road. My book and I ... what a period we have presumed to span."

The book, for him, was more than a book- it was his another self. Together. Whitman and his book saw a young nation approaching and then, surviving the terrible bloodshed of the Civil War. The United States, in the late nineteenth century, was gradually overflowing its continental limits, becoming an industrialized world power. Whitman glowing with his spirit of nationalism, set out to write the poetry of this New America, in the 'American language'.

When Leaves of Grass first came out in 1855 it was peculiar in both makeup and content. Inside the cloth cover, the reader's eye was to draw to an engraved portrait of a bearded man, as 'one of the roughs'. It was hardly received as a 'promising' book in his own nation during his life time. Nor did the democratic leaven the American workingmen, farmers and artisans- to whom Leaves of Grass had been addressed embrace it warmly. The only significant appreciation, as it seems, came from Ralph Waldo Emerson, who wrote to Whitman-
" greet you at the beginning of a great career.. I rubbed my eyes a little, to see,
if this sunbeam were no musion, but the solid sense of the book is a sobre certainty."

In 1856 Whitman released a second edition with a total of 39 poems. Over the course of his life, he continued to rework and enlarge the volume, publishing several more editions of the book. The 'death bed edition' left in 1892 contained 383 poems in 14 sprawling sections : Inscriptions, Children of Adam, Calamus, Birds of Passage, Sea drift, By the road side, Drum Taps, Memories of President Lincoin. Autumn Rivulets. Whispers of Heavenly Death. From Noon to Starry Night, Songs of Parting, First Annex, Songs of Seventy and Second Annex: Good Bye. my Fancy. Each edition is self-sufficient. Famous poems from the Deathbed Edition include 'When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd', and 'O Captain, my Captain', both written on the memory of President Lincoin, along with Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking' and 'America' the poem he chose to record lines from his own voice.

Whitman's subject has been made up of America, with an expansive variety of smaller subjects, capturing essence of his nation including slavery, democracy, education, occupation, landscape, war, aging, death as well as immortality, romance and spirituality- everything in his poems essentially American. "Hear America Singing" is an excellent example of how he uses these disperate subjects to create an impulsive portrait of America. He hears 'varied carols': the machines, the carpenter, the mason, the boatman, the woodcutter, the mother, the young wife - all.
"Singing with open mouths their strong melodious song."
Whitman's greatest legacy is his invention of a truly 'American free-verse'. His groundbreakimg, open, inclusive poems are written
in long sprawling lines embodying the democratic spirit of his 'New America'. The critical and popular response to his style was mixed and bewildered. Leaves of Grass was most harshly criticized, for his free-verse did not fit into the dominating British model of poetry. Mathew Arnold wrote,
".. while you think it is his highest merit that he is so unlike everyone else, to me, this seems to be his demerit."
Ezra Pound expressed an ambivalent admiration:
"His crudity is an exceedingly great stench, but it is America. He is the hollow place in the rock that echoes with the time."
Since then, reactions to Whitman have been at both extremes: His book has been banned for 'sensuality' one decade, and then praised as the cornerstone of American politics. the next. And recently, with the 150th anniversary of Leaves of Grass, the American poets and critics have regarded Whitman as the man "who came to shape our readers of nationhood, democracy and freedom." (poets.org from The Academy of American Poets)

From the very beginning Whitman foresaw a grand scale-almost epical, for the book. He accommodates the history, politics and culture of the nation-state in verse:
"The greatest poet forms the consistence of what is to be from what has been and is ... he says to the past, Rise and walk before me that I may realize you'... he places himself where the future becomes present".

Now one may realise that the main genesis-motive of the Leaves of Grass was the poet's conviction, as he himself said, 'the crowning growth of America is to be spiritual and heroic".

And the leaves of grass, for him, emerged." ed as a motif of this growth - spiritual, because an expanded bed of grass is "the handkerchief of the Lord.
A scented gift and remembrance designedly drapt...",
and heroic, because "... a leave of grass is no less than journey work of the stars."
Life, vitality, vigour and growth - the qualities of the green grass are the qualities of the zeitgeist, as the poet believes.
Whitman sought out to seek a collective identity of the countrymen, he insisted on being indivisible from the people about he wrote,
"The proof of the poet is that his country absorbs him as affectionately as he absorbed it", The metaphoric amalgamation of the poet and his countrymen finds an eloquent expression in 'Songs of myself'-
"I celebrate myself
And what I assume you shall assume
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you."
Another way in which he wanted to unite the individual selves of the Americans in the 1855 edition, created a controversy that haunted him throughout his life. Drawing upon the then legitimate science of phrenology, he calied for a re-evaluation of sensual ant sexual desire in all forms celebrating those as God given, and, therefore, 'one' and unified. Both the human body and soul bear the inimitable impress of the Almighty.
"Leaves are not shed from the trees or trees from the earth than they are shed out of you."
While reviewers such as Emerson welcomed Whitman's iconoclasm, others regarded it as 'vile'. Rufus Griswold, a famous Baptist minister turned journalist screamed abuses against the poet. Nevertheless, abuses were something that Whitman was to get accustomec to. It is an irony that he had seen his book take its place in world literature. British intellectuals like Oscar Wilde, Swinburne, Hopkins.

Tennyson, were his fervent readers; but in his own dear land, it remained to a certain extent, an 'out law book'. One early reviewer called it
'a mass of filthy stupid'. Another asked-
"Who is this arrogant young man who proclaims himself the poet of the time, and who roots like a pig
among a rotten garbage of licentious thoughts?"
In 1865, he was fired from his clerkship in the Interior Department, because the secretary found the leaves to be in violation of "the rules of decorum and propriety prescribed by a Christian civilization. " In 1881, the district attorney of Boston, ordered Whitman's publisher to exclude the poems like 'A woman waits for me', 'The Dalliance of the Eagle' and 'To a common prostitute', regarding them as 'obscure'. Whitman made no compromise, and managed to find a horre for his edition in Philadelphia. He reflected at that time:
"I tickle myself with the thought how it may be said years hence that at any rate no book on earth ever had such a history."
The poet, despite all these blows, never gave up: Can the growth of grass ever be checked? Whitman's work lives on, an inspiration to the poets of later generations. He hoped that the readers in future would find the creator alive among the 'leaves', and they would also find themselves in his embrace. The dream, the appeal has really come true -
"Camerado, this is no book,
Who touches this touches a man,
Is it night ? are we here together alone ?
It is I you hold and who holds you,
I spring from the pages into your arms."


# On Saton, Satonists $\mathbb{Q}$ Satonism 

Ujaan Ghosh
Department of History. First Year

To God? He loves thee not;<br>The God thou serv'st is thine own appetite,<br>Wherein is fix'd the love of Beelzebub;<br>To him t'll build an altar and a church,<br>And offer lukewarm blood of new born.<br>IDoctor Faustus, Christopher Marlowe, Act 2-Scene 11

Faust or Faustus (Latin for "auspicious" or "lucky") is the protagonist of a classic German iegend, who makes a pact with the Devil in exchange for knowledge. Faust's story is the basis for many literary, artistic, cinematic, and musical works such as those by Christopher Marlowe, Goethe, Thomas Mann, Washington Irving, Mikhail Bulgakov, Gustov Mahler, Franz Liszt and Oscar Wilde. Faustus signs over his soul to Lucifer (Satan), in return of keeping Mephistophilis, Satan's agent, for twenty four years whom he summoned by the power of magic. Mephistophilis agrees to fulfill all earthly desires of Faustus including love, knowledge and power in exchange for his soul. Free and effortless access to everything that men may die for, makes Faustus choose selt-damnation, though he seems to take a chance to repent from time to time. However, each time the devil appears and warns him not to by means of temptation tor more power, more knowledge and more magic. In the end Faustus is strongly urged by an old man (representing the spirit of angel) to make repentance but it is too late. The devil carries him off to hell.

Though Satanism as an organized activity did not exist much before the 17th century, the devil worshipping was found everywhere during the Renaissance as an act of defiance among those who opposed the authority of the Christian Church. The Grimoire of Honorious, a magical text book first printed in the 17th century (but perhaps older), gave instructions for saying masses to conjure demons. in the 17th century, satanic activities were conducted by Christians who indulged in the magical rites of the Black Mass presided over by the priests mostly defrocked by the Catholic Church. In England the 'Heilfire' club was founded by Sir Francis Dashhood in the eighteenth century which has often been described as satanic. However, in activity it was little more than a club for adolescent-like men to indulge in drinking, sexual-play with women called 'nuns' and such outrageous behaviour. The members were said to conduct Black Masses but it is doubtful that these were serious satanic activities.

In the 19th century the Church of Carmel was formed by Eugene Vintras who claimed that he was the reinacarnated prophet Elijah and had received visions of the archangel, the Holy Ghost St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary for establishing a new religious order. Vintras went about the countryside preaching this news and acquiring followers including priests. By 1848 The Church of Carmel was condemned by the Pope. Later in 1851 Vintras was accused of conducting Black Masses which mostly encouraged sexual obsecenities during prayers at the altar. Perhaps the most famous Satanist in the 19th century France was Abbe Boullan who formed a splinter group of the Church of Carmel upon Vintras' death. He ran the group for eighteen years and allegedly practised black magic and infant sacrifice ritual of satanic worship referred to in the opening quote of this article.

Aleister Crowley known as the Black Pope never considered himself as a Satanist; but his writings The Book of Law and The Equinox become the basis for modern Satanism. He is reported to have crucified a toad as Jesus. He was a drug addict whose son mysteriously died duing a private ritual, which only two had attended. Crowley had to end up as a babbling incoherent idiot. A Black Mass was pertormed at his funeral.

It is time to say a few words on The Black Mass, a popular ritual observed by most of the occultists including the worshippers of Satan. In an article named The Black Mass Diane Vera writes that the Black Mass is not just one single ritual, it is a category of rituals which used the format of Catholic Mass but involved prayers to Satan and/or blasphemies against the Christian God. The Black Mass has influenced the occult scene in general and not just Satanism. For example, Crowely's Gnostic Mass or the kind of the Mass practiced by the members of the Priory of Sion in Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code does not involve prayers to Satan or any of the cruder anti-Christian blasphemies usually associated with the Black Mass. It is only another creative variation on the Catholic Mass and does borrow key elements of streotypical Black Mass such as the women on the altar.

It is important to note in this connection the ritual of the left-hand Tantrists consisted of a kind of black mass in which all of the taboos of conventional Hinduism were conscientiously violated. Thus, in place of the traditional five elements (tattvas) of the Hindu cosmos, these Tantrists used the five m's : mamsa (flesh, meat), matsya (fish), madya (fermented grapes, wine), mudia (frumentum, cereal, parched grain, or gestures), and maithuna (fornication). This latter element was made particularly antinomian through the involvement of forbidden women-who was identified with the Goddess. [Encyclopedia Britannica]

Black Mass is conducted with the view to obtaining magical powers, and this is the ultimate rite for a real Satanist to obtain magic powers. There is a group of secretive Satanists who believe in the traditional "hate Christianity" ideals, what is good in the Bible turns bad to them. They believe in burning crosses, sacrificing children on the altar, spitting over the crosses when the ceremony is over and last but not the least crosses being tattooed on the soles of the feet so that the symbol of Christ is continually trodden underfoot. Not only the fictitious Faustus but also the real life rock idol Kurt Cobain, the lead singer, guitarist, and songwriter for the Nirvana was a staunch worshipper of Satan who proclaimed "get stoned and worship Satan". He is said to have decorated his apartment as he explained, with baby dolls hanging by their necks with blood all over them (Rolling Stone, Inside the Heart \& Mind of Nirvana, by Michael Azerrad, April 16, 1992).

However, Satanists are divided in a number of categories and they differ in the way they perceive the idea of Satan and perform his worship. The most popular and well known category of Satanists are the one who follow the Satanic Bible and are members of the Sataric church at San Francisco. Anton Szandor La Vey shaved his head and created the Church Of Satan [COS] on April 30, 1966 and he is considered as the father of the modern Satanic Movement. The only available scripture is the Satanic Bible which was written by Lavey himself. Other works of Lavey include The Satanic Rituals, The Satanic Witch, The Devil's Notebook and Satan Speaksall these renders a great overview about the history and contemporary practices of the COS.

The Satanists follow Nine Satanic statements and Eleven Satanic rules on Earth as found in the satanic bible-they are as follows:

## The Nine Satanic Statements :

1. Satan represents indulgence instead of abstinence!
2. Satan represents vital existence instead of spiritual pipe dreams!
3. Satan represents undefiled wisdom instead of hypocritical self-deceit!
4. Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it instead of love wasted on ingrates!
5. Satan represents vengeance instead of turning the other cheek!
6. Satan represents responsibility to the responsible instead of concern for psychic vampires!
7. Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all-fours, who, because of his "divine spiritual and intellectual development," has become the most vicious animal of all!
8. Satan represents ail of the so-called sins, as they all lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification!
9. Satan has been the best friend the Church has ever had, as He has kept it in business all these years!

## The Eleven Satanic Rules of the Earth :

1. Do not give opinions or advice unless you are asked.
2. Do not tell your troubles to others unless you are sure they want to hear them.
3. When in another's lair, show him respect or else do not go there.
4. If a guest in your lair annoys you, treat him cruelly and without mercy.
5. Do not make sexual advances unless you are given the mating signal.
6. Do not take that which does not belong to you unless it is a burden to the other person and he cries out to be relieved.
7. Acknowledge the power of magic if you have employed it successfully to obtain your desires. If you deny the power of magic after having called upon it with success, you will lose all you have obtained.
8. Do not complain about anything to which you need not subject yourself.
9. Do not harm little children.
10. Do not kill non-human animals unless you are attacked or for your food.
11. When walking in open territory, bother no one. If someone bothers you, ask him to stop. If he does not stop, destroy him.

There are also nine Satanic sins they are : Stupidity, pretentiousness, solipsism, self-deceit, herd conformity, lack of perspective, forgetfulness of past orthodoxies, counterproductive pride, and lack of aesthetics.

The Church of Satan derives its concept from Pagan image of power, virility, sexuality and sensuality. Satan is viewed here as a symbolic force rather than a living deity, It has nothing to do with darkness, torture, hell and profound evil. The major emphasis in satanic religion is given to the individual rather than on a God or Goddess.

There are no elements of Devil worship in the Church of Satan. To the Satanist, he is his own God. Satan is not a conscious entity to be worshipped, rather a reservior of power inside each human to be tapped at will. Thus any concept of sacrifice is rejected as a Christian aberration - in Satanism there's no deity to which one can sacrifice.

Satan (Standard Hebrew Satan'el, English accuser) is a term that orginates from the Abrahamic faiths, being traditionally applied to an angel in Judeo-Christian belief, and to a jinn in Islamic belief. While Hebrew ha-Satan is "the accuser" and Satan itself means "to overcome" - the one who challenged the religious faith of humans in the books of Job and Zechariah. Satanism, thus, is the worship of the biblical Satan. The first blow that Satan hurls in God's domain is the event surrounding the Fall of Man. In Book Four of Paradise Lost Milton calls Satan "an infernal serpent" for his seduction of the Mother of Mankind. However, in Gnostic faith he is represented as one showing the ignorant the actual path of knowledge.
"The Christian creation account was not simply a candid tale for children nor was it of merely theoretical interest", says Paul A. Cantor in Creature and Created; Myth making and English Romanticism. He draws support from Harold Bloom's Agon : Toward a theory of revisionism to show that the biblical acount of creation or the garden of Eden story embodies a conservative moral which is intimately bound up with the efforts of the old regime to maintain the status quo in Europe. Man's arrogance in breaking God's commandment, i.e. eating the Forbidden Fruit from the Knowledge Tree ruined his Paradise where God gave him the opportunity to be completely happy,

The lessons to be iearnt, therefore, is that man should never again try to improve upon God's handiwork, but instead obey him without question, which in practice means to obey his constituted authorities in Church and state on earth. One must learn io accept human condition as one finds it, and endure its pains with patience and humiiity. The peculiarly gnostic form of creation myth provides the revolutionary reply to this religious conservation man need no longer be in awe of his creator; he need no longer even be grateful for being created: one is reminded of Tagore's famous song, "amaye noite tribhubaneshwar tomar prem hoto je michhe". It is in this connection perhaps that Satan or Lucifer appears to be the unsung hero of the Bible-one who courageously stood up against God's tyranny and injustice. And to curb the spirit of rebellion God put Satan in a bowl of fire.

However, Satan's image as the champion of anti-establishment fails to earn him any great respect in the minds of people over the ages. He is no Prometheus suffering eternal torment for championing the cause of liberty by giving mankind fire or ability of science. With all his beauty, boldness, and quality of leadership Satan remains no more than an evil shrouded in darkness for his vile intention and wrong means to the end. in his introduction to Prometheus Unbound Shelly argues that in spite of many similiarities in character and spirit the feature that strongly alienates Satan form Prometheus is act of Selfishness and obession for power. Behind all his effort to challenge a great authority was soiely the intention to fulfill his own interest.

Moreover, Satan wanted to create a world parallel to God's which was otherwise dissociated from mainstream life. Even Miltor's powerful and sympathetic characterization of Satan in BK. 1 of Paradise Lost cannot hide the fact that isolation from nature seems to be the permanent price one has to pay for his over-reaching ambition. Hence "A Dungeon horrible, on all sides round ....". Standing up against the conventional social political and economic principles of a society may be appreciated as the spirit of anti-establishment but an act of "tearing down the Establishment" alone without any proper agenda of human welfare does not help in bringing about real change necessary for setting up a new order or building up a better world. To be the sole creator of one's world seems like a g!orious prospect until one realizes the hideous consequences of seeing one's self mirrored everywhere one turns.

## Notionolism Revisited

## Somak Biswas

Department of History, U.G. First Year

Wishing away history is a notoriously difficult task. It has the irritating habit of resurfacing now and then, often at inappropriate times. Far easier, however, would be to put on a myopic lens to have a selective view of it. History is more often shaped by such selective perceptions rather than holistic and unbiased facts. There is a certain attraction inherent in perceptual history as well as imaginative geography that often lead to a severe dereliction of its material dimensions. For a theme as complex as nationalism, the diiemma is dual - perceptual, as well as material.

## Defining Nation

The idea of nation has been a remarkably ingenious invention. It has the persuasive power to engage the lay and learned alike; without being bothered about the necessity of its being. The idea of nation is an abstract one. Quite characteristically then, the ideology of nationalism has to be necessarily an abstract set of ideals. For a nation to be shaped, it is necessary to fill the political, social, and cultural space with real or imagined constructs, often culled from a selective appropriation of history. To sustain the idea of a nation, these constructs are crystallized to invent the powerful ideology of nationalism.

Tagore defines a nation, in the sens of the political and the economic union of a people, is that aspect which a whole population assumes when organized for a mechanical purpose.' Society, as Tagore emphatically observes, has no ulterior purpose. It is an end in itseif. Nation is a mechanical machinery that welds colossal power and authority for the governance of a definite territory. For a country to become a nation, it must fulfill the criteria of having a definite territory a uniform culture, and a distinct degree of homogeneity. These are particularly the classical European parameters of nationhood. The composition of a western nation has generally been homogenous in cultural and religious terms, and the functions largely determined by the long history of state-church conflicts. A nation is primarily a political civilization and, as Tagore says, based upon exclusiveness. For a nation to consolidate itself in the minds of its people, it has to create durable imageries of its enemies. Nationalist mythmaking has often been assigned the task of manufacturing a national consensus based on erasing unnecessarily complex and conflicting diversities in favour of a monolithic and simulated unity. Nationalism is a powerful unifier in the sense that it helps to create a plethora of viable symbolisms to give credibility to the ambitious project of nation-making.

A nation implies the idea of an imagined community. It is necessary to bequeath it with an imagined history, whereby the tale churns out some fable of a glorious past, followed by a decadent present, and a resurgent manifestation of the past into a glorious future. An imagined history is critical for constructing an imagined identity. Nationalism is a useful tool to manufacture this imagined 'national' identity. The supposed solidarity thus achieved is a thin covering over various conflicting diversities. In a pluralist society, manifesting the idea of a singular nation is difficult to sustain because of the multiplicity inherent in its very nature. The existence of parallel nations tied solely to religious roots is neither exclusive nor rare. Indeed, such a phenomenon has been observed to occur globally. Identities, more specifically communal identities tend to knit themselves closely around religious divides. Intra-religious identities are also not atypical. The existence of multiple identities within a religion can be underscored by a simple example : within the Hindu religion, a Dalit may think of him/herself a separate entity, having a distinct socio-political identity. This tendency to equate whole communitarian identities in socio-plitical terms may further the urge for establishing parallel societies. The existence of parallel societies also give continuous
fillip to the idea of a parallel nation. Hence, when we speak of Indian nationalism, it would be intelligent to note that it does not refer to any singular force of nationalism operating throughout India. Instead, it is an aggregate of multiple sub-nationalisms (ethnic, religious, cultural and the like), existing simulataneously with a pan-Indian one.

Thus, within a multicultural and substantially diverse country as India, people may end up identifying themselves with their respective communal identities and sympathizing with their respective loyalties. That there could exist multiple nations coterminous with a nation is often missed by us. Admittedly, the co-existence of such notions bears the direct harbingers of separatist tendencies in the divisive manifestations of communalism and terrorism.

## The Case of India

Perceptually speaking, India may be easy to identify as a nation. Materially, however, it is not. Tagore was perhaps correct when he commented that the word nation is literally non-translatable in Indian languages, however much we bequeath it with novel connotations. The duplicities inherent in the term may seem non-palatable, but that is more due to its obvious characteristics than its non-translatability.

In may ways, we imagine India. When we imagine India at a 'national' level, she appears to us as a nation. Nevertheless, perceptions, though deceptive, cannot be wished away. However, the solidarities necessary for the construction of the Indian nation are more superficial than real. For all its greatnesses combined, India is yet to become a nation. It hardly wants to notice the fact that India barely fulfills any of the requisite criteria that are necessary for the making of the national fabric. Part of the paradox may be answered by stating that India is a nation in its own right. However, it scarcely solves the much broader issue at large. For, in accepting this, India's capacious past will suffer substantial falsification, if not whole.

India's nationhood has been a matter of national debate since the early nineteenth century itself. As Sunil Khilnani remarks, it were the ideas of India that shaped the future India. The factuality of India as a nation was actively debated and discussed and this marked the definitive journey of India as a well-defined political entity. Be that as it may, India has been one of the classic examples of a multicultural civifization that fits better within the broader term country. A country is more of a geographical idea than a definitive political state. India as an idea is much more inclusive and broader than any narrow attempt to fit it in the hermetic confines of a Nation. India has been a cradle of diverse cultures existing under a common umbrella. The vast degrees of heterogeneity make any attempt to categorize it as a singular nation virtually self-defeating. However, the tradition of tolerance enabled a great magnitude of accommodation that helped in the peaceful co-existence of diverse social groups. To be sure, accommodation was not an exclusive phenomenon. But the fabled assimilative powers of India were more mythical than real. If there was accommodation, there has to be assimilation. But to push the case for assimilation too far is not always a wise idea. Accommodation occurred in the form of parallel accretion of cultural traits, which meant that subtle and gross distinctions did not disappear altogether. Had it indeed been a case of pure assimilation, we would not have found our legendary 'unity in diversity' stumbling now and then on real and imagined ruptures.
india has been a composite civilization. At the same time, India was not Greece, a one-time great civilization. A glance at the number of foreign invasions would have suggested that India, being highly vulnerable to assault should have dwindled to dust while the ancient and militarily powerful Greek civilization should have existed with full vigour. Contrarily, the Roman civilization had faded to oblivion while the Indian civilization still lives on, a billion strong. This inherent tenacity to absorb new elements in its cultural fabric has lent it a plasticity to its advantage. Again, society evolved in India in its own distinct way. The tremendous ability of India to accommodate differences has led to a profuse cultural exchange within the subcontinent, leaving us a rich legacy of cultural flowering. In contrast, the history of a nation (Britain and France are fine examples) is replete with alienation, and hence can hardly claim to be multicultural.

To evoke an ancient ideal as that of India's cynosure may seem simplistic; but maitree seems to be India's innate social affinity.

How the Idea of India got a political expression in the world map as a nation has a long and bivid history, but that need not undermine India's greatness as a multicultural country.

The 19 th century saw India wake up to the fierce ciarion calls of nationalism. But the nationalist opinion it generated was fractured. There emerged a penchant to return to a pristine 'Hindu' past, adulterated by a decadent Muslim rule and further degraded by a tyrannous British presence. Such one-dimensional readings of history were no doubt perverted, but the fact that it gained wide coinage shows the pervading power of such perceptual histories. The real contestations of defining India's future, however, came to the fore at the time of independence. Nehru utimately emerged victorious in this war of ideas and his implicit faith in modernity meant that India was to function within the framework of a nation-state imbibed with his innovative improvisations. Unlike Gandhi and Tagore, Nehru differed from his political and intellectual mentors in this regard, since both didn't look upon the state as a benign protector, rather they saw it as an unnecessary persecutor. But the real problem lay elsewhere. The passing of legislations didn't automatically weld india into a nation. The transition of India from a non-nation into a nation was not painless and serious incompatibilities kept cropping up. Sometimes, the costs seemed to outweigh the benefits secured, which then made it an entirely urviable process.

## Nationalism vs. Patriotism

Ramachandra Guha, noted social scientist and academic, once observed that to consider a noble ideal vilified just because some narrow-minded fanatics have used it to serve their own selfish purpose is not only presumptuous, but also falsifying the truth. He was referring to the use of saffron colour - the colour of renunciation according to indian monastic traditions - that had been put to serve some narrow end by the Hindutva outfits. Nothing better can serve the parallel drawn between the nationalism - patriotism paradox, a much discussed but often misunderstood concept.

The boons associated with nationalism may be obvious and undoubtedly, varied. Nevertheless, that need not turn into an excuse for wishing away its banes. With nationalism, comes the abstract idea of legitimate force. For its sustenance, huge military expenses are incurred at the cost of humanitarian needs. Poor countries like India and Pakistan spend about one-fourth and one-half of their revenues for the purpose of defense, ali for the sake of nationalism. Why, if U.S. spends even one-thirteenth of their $500 \$$ billion defense budget on poverty alleviation, it can be mitigated on a global scale. Being ignorant to the immediate needs of the society is not only irresponsible, but to advance the military machinery to encroach upon humane needs is simply outrageous. The materialist dimensions propagated by the capitalist nation are a result of the law of demand and supply, which has an insatiable appetite for more than is required. Competitiveness is good, but to allow it to exceed beyond its healthy limite leads to 'a large waste of labour and crippling of social consciousness'. Nationalism has the bad habit of imposing an orthodox ideology of blind and unquestioning allegiance to one's nation. In doing so, we often forget that no nation can exist in isolation; they thrive because others do. The predatory nature of nationalism is often missed deliberately, but the action it perpetrates under the self-fustifying title of nationalism generally remains a violent one.

Patriotism is frequently thought to be synonymous with nationatism. However, that is a habitul misnomer. Nationalism is roughly similar to rashtravad while that of patriotism - rashtrabhav or jatiyabhav. Rashtravad is more of a political ideology, while jatiyabhav - that of a consciousness. The fundamental difference lie in the optimism that patriotism exhibits. True that both refer to the same fable of loving one's homeland, but the idea of country occupies a much broader expression in the case of patriotism. It is not built upon the selfish premise of 'ours and theirs' assumption. Love for one's own homeland is quite justified but a necessary hatred for certain others isn't. A patriot need not antagonize other countries for the sake of loving cnes own. Seen in this light Tagore or Vivekananda is no less a patriot than Gandhi or Nehru. Indeed, their love for their country ouid be observed at a much broader perspective. They observed their country as a manifestation of the same thread of humanity that runs through all bemos, irrespective of national or religious barriers. The danger imminent in fragmenting humanity to suit one's platter coud not hava missed ther musings, leading them to observe the utter futility of
 far and wide. Unlike in nation, an ascribed national identity need not come before reason. In fact, reason rationalsed it

## A Synthetic Approach

The mechanism of defense is necessary to sustain the idea of Nation. Confrontation between two nations yay aro aro an act of nationalism or demonized as a terrorist act by each other. To wit the truth, however, they represert the fosie sude the same coin. Nevertheless, divorcing it from the idea of nationalism will prove helpful in having a fresh lock al the problem sime seeing such acts through the spectacles of nation runs the imminent danger of clouding out its other aspects. particularly the fermon concerns involved. The idea of nationalism may be abstract. The untold suffering caused due to it is, however, not. The affliction reflects the reality, while nationalism, the illusion. That an act of violence is primarily an act of violence in any setting should be recognized first, rather than relishing the victory or suffering the defeat. Acts of profuse violence show, often ironically, that the blood of the martyr is deemed more sacred than the ink of the scholar. War memorials bear fine testimony to this gruesome tact.

Whatever our approach is, a violent act remains thus, whether it is termed nationalism or terrorism. This strange paradox arises out of a fundamental flaw in our approach of considering it. How we perceive a problem may yield altogether different results. A humanitarian approach may not be so novel, but it is neither outdated. Emphasis on a 'solitarist' interpretation of civilization can be harmful as it tends to break up mankind into discrete fragments rather than observing it as a conceived whole. Promotion of narrow-minded communal dividends in the name of nationalism has done incalculable harm to the society, eroding the very foundations of humanity. As such, three issues need to be addressed. Firstly, there has to be a common identity. Secondly. a common cause should be envisaged that should be well-gefined in its characteristics. Thirdly, common ends to which this means should be directed in the long run.

## Epilogue

The force of the nation lay in its successful and legitimate use of force, which has an objective to conquer. As Einstein reiterated, "the arms industry was indeed one of the greatest dangers that beset mankind which with its evil power of nationalism was trying to plunge the whole worid into a war'. Einstein was right. Seventy years hence, we can ask the same question to ourselves. And the answer is quite obvious. The threat hasn't receded; indeed, it has increased manifold. The ideology of nationalism is a parasitic concept that constantly feeds upon imagined constructs. The forging of an exclusivist national identity impedes the very possibility of creating a global consciousness based upon global identities. However, this is not a blind prescription for mindless internationalism, as that would replace a bad system with an equivalent one. A society can function within a broad framework of 'anarcho-communitarianism'. Our being a human must not be choked by our being an Indian, a Hindu, or a Muslim. If a religion fails to identify humans as humans first and foremost, it is hardly worth a penny. Humanity, as Tagore pointed out, is the last sacred shelter of mankind. In the poetic words of Tagore, 'when the morning comes for cleansing the blood-stained steps of the nation along the highroad of humanity, we shall be called upon to bring our own vessel of sacred water - tile water of worship - to sweeten the history of man into purity, and with its sprinkling make the trampled dust of centuries blessed with fruitfulness.'

Nationalism will perhaps die a natural death after the gradual realization of its futility. However, the lesson learnt will not go in vain. Faith, faith' and faith on humanity alone will determine the future course for mankind.

References. 1. Nationalism - Rabindranath Tagore
3. The discovery of India - Jawaharlal Nehru
5. Beyond nationalist frames - Sumit Sarkar
2. The idea of India -- Sunil Khilnani
4. Identity and violence - Amartya Sen.

# Raniganj Coal-fields - A Reality Check 

Udita Mukherjee
Department of Geology, U.G. Final Year
In this era of jetsetting lifestyles and huge industries, India, with $2.7 \%$ of the world's coal reserves ranks sixth in the world when it comes to coal resources, which is one of the basic requirements of industrialization. Raniganj, one of the major coal-fields of India, is thus a place to reckon with in the world. Bearing a huge supply of lower gondwana coals inside its rocky cover, this coal-field extends over an area of at least 1500 sq.km.

Starting from the colonial times human endeavours have unearthed the black diamonds hidden inside the black earth of these regions for economic benefits, sometimes by private enterprises and at other times, by government initiatives.

But years of unplanned mining is now taking its toll on the region. Filling up of the vacant mines with sand after unearthing the coal is essential to resist the accompanying environmental and social hazards. However, surprisingly, year after year, the coal has been mined out of this region, but the craving for some excess profit had stopped the entrepreneurs from properly filling up the vacant space with sand. At places, they have built some pillars, but of course, these do not provide the sufficient amount of support required to overcome the superincumbent pressure acting on the void created, thus leaving ample chances of caving in of the upper layer of earth. In and around Raniganj, tremors are a reality that people often face. There are a number of foik-songs of this region that testify to this fact.

Of course, a tremor of sufficient intensity can lead to a disaster and if a landslide occurs, then, well, everyone can very well imagine the effects. The fractures that cut through the roads and settlements of this region are glaring testimonials of the facts. Even the esteemed G.T. Road bears the brunt of this problem and if the railways are affected, then almost a major part of the eastern India will be cut off from north india.

More importantly, a landslide not only dismantles the settlements but also the social and moral set-up of the individuals. Even if properly rehabilitated, the sense of rootlessness, accompanying such incidents, is enough to mar the mental strength of any normal human being. Moreover, the forefathers of the present miners, forming the bulk of the population, were transported from the Santhal Parganas to the coal fields and the sense of rootlessness and the pain of losing home are their heirloom, their 'inheritance of loss'. So we can only imagine but never feel the effect of this social catastrophe for them.

Due to the accumulation of methane gas in the vacancy, coal-fires are a day-to-day affair in this part of the world. The remnant coal gets combusted in this fire, thus leading to the collapsing of the upper strata. Moreover, carbon dioxide evolved due to combustion of coal and methane further adds to the environmental problem.

The minuscule coal particles also pose threats to the environment. Statistics show us that people of this region are more prone to tuberculosis which is due to the high level of air pollution.

Another major problem is due to the water-logging in the void present. The water, coming in contact with the toxicities present, becomes unfit for use. But still, due to lack of awareness and amenities, it is used leading to numerous health hazards and related complications.

The water stored may break the adjoining walls and can flood the entire mining region, thus repeating the horrible tragedy of chashnala.

But do we want that to happen?
It is high-time the concerned authorities take note of the situation and make the required amends so that the life and property of many innocent people are saved. Can't we expect even that from you, respected "to whom it may concern"?

#  <br> সৃজ্রিত যোম 

স্নাত্ অ্র্ম বর্ষ, অথনীতি বিজাগ

































































## जथामृত्र :





## यद্ণি小ার গাছ

## लनखु मिंत्री

স্নাঢক，প্রথম বর্ষ，উল্ভিদিদ্যা বিভাগ
＂＇রাংলার মুখ আমি দেখিয়াছি，তাছ আমি পৃথিবীর রূপ
অুঁজিতে যাই না আর：অন্ধকারে জ্জেগ টढু ডুমুররর গাছছ
চেয়ে লেখি ছাতার মতন বড় পাতাটির নিচে ব＇সে আছে
心ারের দায়ললপাた－＂

 গ্রাল্মর মুখ，বাংলার কত্তিপয় শহরের মুখ নয়।




 রুই পার প্রচুর গাছপালার জন্ম ভ আশ্রয়স্তল। এই গাছ，আর নদী－এরের সম্পর্ক বড় নিবিড়।
 প্রথেেই নদীমাতৃক বাংলার বিস্ত্তী听 সবুজ প্রান্তরের কথাই আমাদের মরে আসে।



 ェ：গ্রগতি। কবিতার শেবে দেখা যায় যুবকটি অার মনের জশ্রয় খুঁজজ পাত্ছে，বেখানে－＂অনন্ত গোধূলিলাম

সইখাল্小
বशি চढলে ই．লেশ্বরী，



[^1]

























 fruit that descended from paradise I would say this is it because the paradisiacal fruits do not have pits ..... eat from these fruits for they prevent hemorrhoids, prevent piles and help gout." (Bukhari).
















 ursinus :


















































মन-পাতননর দাঁড়!
যেথায় কেশবংী সিনান করের




 যায়! গাছটি সাম্্রিক্ডাব দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার টপধৃলবর্তী জলাভ্ভূশি অঞ্চাল পাওয়া যায়i








 গাছটি জন্মায়।

 অছছ।

অশ্বখ গাছেন বিজ্ঞানসম্মज নান Ficus religiosa L. গোত্র Moraceae.












Fिन्युएর








































 <2]

মृन 与


 क्रा एर्।
































sকান্তর।








 সমার্থক বৈজ্ঞাन্जिক नाম Clerodendrum infortunatum auct. non Linn. গোত্র Verbenaceae.





 সর্দিকাশির মভ্তে जরাগা नितামরয় ব্যबह্ত रुয়।

পাত্র টাটকার রস সকললেলা খালি!পাট কৃমিনাশক रिजেবে चভয়া হয়।










##  <br> অর্মত্যকুমার সেন























| बমট অরচ | 心の రের্রীর খ¢চ | বিজ্ঞাপনের খরচ | জিঞ্রের পরিমাণ | 的｜ | जब゙も आए |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 200 | b－ | 20． | 8 २ | $\bigcirc 110$ | 289 |
| $=00$ | bo， | ২० | 80 | 8 | 330 |
| 200 | 40. | रQ | －6 | 81：0 | 293 |
| 200 | 40 | 00， | 0 \％ | 9 | 390 |
| 200 | ¢ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc 2$ | 310 | ১心か。 |

[^2]





| ब小ী | সবঢুুয়ে বেশী খরচ | मবזऽ＜＜＜বেশী जाड | জিকিসের তৈরীর খরচ | বিজ্ছাপনनয ચরচ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ৯。 | 2も0． | १०， | せ | そ¢ |
| 200． | 298 | 94 | 90 | 00 |
| 230， | 2io． | bo， | 94 | $\bigcirc{ }_{0}$ |
| 220 | こลく | 9® | bo． | 80 |




































 मংश्श्श इए।



 दिख्धाभन্ब দान খুব সামানাই।


 रिएশ








 ব্যবসায়ীদের श্রতিदাদ্রের মূন্য अढनক।





 বাৰস্য়র উপর।




Expanding bike the petals of young flowers Swatch the gentle opening of your minds Th fo sweet loosening of the sheaf that binasis? Sour intellectual energies an St.

Cheese young binds in soft s si
wings to try their strength If ancomstance, and freshening er
Of early knowledge, and unnum ser. Of new perceptions shea their min woo Ina how you worship truth'sommif encoded What joyance rains upon me, whet? see Fame in the mirror of futurity Weaving the chaplets you have yet to your And then I feel I have not lived in vain.


## REPAINT

## Extracts from the Proceedings of the Hindu College Committee relating to the dismissal of Henry Louis Vivion Derozio <br> Culled by - Prof. Susobhan Chandra Sarkar

## Saturday, April 23, 1831

## Present :

Baboo Chundro Coomar Tagore - Governor
H. H. Wilson - Vice Presdt.

Baboo Radhamadub Banerjee
Baboo Radha Canto Deb
Baboo Ram Comul Sen
Da Hare Esqr.
Baboo Russomoy Dutt
Baboo Prasonno Coomar Tagore
Baboo Sri Kishen Sinh
Luckynarayan Mookerjeea - Secretary
Read the following Memorandum on the occasion of calling the Present Meeting.
The object of convening this meeting is the necessity of checking the growing evil and the Public alarm arising from the very unwarranted arrangement and misconduct of a certain Teacher in whom great many children have been interested who it appears has materially injured their Morals and introduced some strange system the tendency of which is destruction to their moral character and to the peace in Society.

The affair is well-known to almost everyone and need not require to be stated.
In consequence of his misunderstanding no less than 25 Pupils of respectable families have been withdrawn from the College. There are no less than 160 boys absent some of whom are supposed to be sick but many have purposed to remove unless proper remedies are adopted

Memoranda of the proposed rules and arrangements.

1. Mr. Derozio being the root of all evils and cause of Public alarm, should be discharged from the College, and all communications between him and the Pupils be cut off.
2. Such of the Students of the higher Class whose bad habits and practices are known and who were at the dining party shoul be removed.
3. All those Students who are publicly hostile to Hindooism and the established custom of the Country and who have proved themselves as such by their conduct, should be turned out.
4. The age of admission and the time of the College Study to be fixed 10 to 12 and 18 to 20 (sic).
5. Corporai punishment to be introduced when admonition fails for all crimes committed by the boys. This should be left at the discretion of the head Teacher.
6. Boys should not be admitted indiscriminately without previous enquiry regarding their character.
7. Whenever Europeans are procurable a preference shall be given to them in future their character and religion being ascertained before admission.
8. (sic) Boys are not allowed to remain in the College after school hours.
9. If any of the boys go to see or attend private lectures or meetings, to be dismissed.
10. Books to read and time for each study to be fixed.
11. Such books as may injure the morals should not be allowed to be brought, taught or read in the College.
12. More time for studying Persian and Bengatly shouin is allowed to the boys.
13. The Sanskrit should be studied by the Senior Classes.
14. Monthly Stipends be granted only to those whe have good character, respectable Proficiency and whose further stay in the College be considered beneficial.
15. The student wishing to get allowance must have respectable pioticiency in Sanskrit and Arabic.
16. The boys transferred from the School Society's Establishment to be admitted in the usual way and not as hitherto and their posting class to be left to the head Teacher.
17. The practice of teaching boys in a doorshut room should be discontinued.

With reference to the 1 article of the above the following proposition was submitted to the meeting and pout to the Vote.
"Whether the managers had any just grounds to conclude that the moral and religious tenets of Mr. Derozio as far as ascertainable from the effects they have produced upon his Scholars are such as to render im an improper person to be intrusted with the education of youth.

Baboo Chandra Coomar stated that he knew nothing of the ill effects of Mr. Derozio's instructions except from report.
Mr. Wilson stated that he had never observed any ill effects from them and that he considerec. Mr. Derozio to be a teacher of superior ability.

Baboo Radha Canto Deb stated that he considered Mr. Derozio very improper person to be intrusted with the education of youth.
Baboo Russomoy Dutt stated that he knew nothing to Mr. Derozio's prejudice except from report.
Baboo Prosonno Coomar Tagore acquitted Mr. Derozio of all blame for want of proof to his ciisadvantagt
Baboo Radha Madub Banerjea believed him to be an improper person from the report he heard.
Baboo Ram Comul Sen concurred with Baboo Radha Canto Deb in considering him a very improper person as the teache; of youth.
Baboo Sri Kishen Sinh was firmly convinced that he was from being an improper person and Mr. Hare was of opinion that Mr. Derozio was a highly competent teacher and that his instructions have always seen most beneficial.

The majority of the managers being unable from their own knowledge to pronounce upon Mr. Derozio's disqualifications as a teacher
the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the negative question.
Whether it was expedient in the present state of public feeling amongst the Hindoo community of Calcutta to dismiss Mr. Derozio from the College.

Baboos Chandra Coomar Tagore, Rudha Canto Deb, Ram Comul Sen, and Radha Madub Banerjea voted that it was necessary.
Baboos Russomoy Dutt and Prasana Coomar Tagore that is was expedient and Baboo Sri Kishen Sinh that it was unnecessary.
Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hare decined voting on a subject affecting the state of native feeling alone. Resolved that the measure of Mr. Derozio's dismissal be carried into effect with due consideration to his merits and services.
[Ed. Rules 5, 6, 11, 12, 19 were adopted. Rules 7, 9, 13 were adopted with modifications. Rules 2 and 15 were supposedly already in force.]
-No. 30. Letter from Mr. Derozio communicating his resignation and commenting on the Resolution of the Committee passed at the Special Meeting to dismiss him without examining the circumstances thereof and affording him time to vindicate his character from those accusations which have been fixed upon it. - 25 April.

No. 31 Letter from Ditto furnishing replies to the Queries put on him by the Vice-President as to have inculcated the following lessons.
Firstly Denying the existence of God. Secondly Disrespect to Parents, \& thirdly marriage with sisters. - 26 April.
[Ed Socrates was tried and sentenced to death for "Corrupting the youth"]

# "Gems in bezels" - sonnets of Juvenis 

Chaitali Maitra<br>Department of English

The Eurasian poet Henry Louis Vivian Derozio was a most promising young talent in the third decade of the nineteenth century. In the rife times of the Raj, when the Christian missionary goals were definite and defined, when Hinduism was understood more evidently in terms of orthodoxies and less so in terms of enlightenment, Derozio was a man in his own orbit, trying to induce free-thinking which could uphold the concept of spiritual illumination. As a teacher of the Hindoo College (Presidency College), he had ample means to cultivate his thoughts among the students. Although in his salad days, the endeavour to uplift the moral consciousness, without siding with any particular religion did not go without opposition and this resulted in his forced resignation from the college in 1831. His prolific literary output was only the result of his effort, after a very busy schedule which included editing and sub editing magazines like "India Gazette," Calcutta Gazette", "The Bengal Annual" and "The Kaleidoscope", apart from managing the first debating society called Academic Association, established in 1831.

Among his different types of poems, the sonnets (mostly published in "The Fakeer of Jungheera") can be grouped as the most succinct expression of his intense imagination. Sonneteering was a pronounced, contemporary practice of Bengal Renaissance and the scope of these poems allowed the poets to be forceful and terse. The sonnets of Derozio have definite diversity in themes. Some are deeply patriotic, some have been written with a particular person in mind; the more thoughtful ones are subjective, trying to deal with the themes of pain and death. "The harp of India"and "My native land" are charged with the patriotic fervour : the sonnet to Henry Meredith Parker, and the one on the Philosophy of Bacon, show his deep veneration and reverence for these meteoric personalities while about six of these poems are on death. Although Derozio is accepted in the arena of the lesser Romantics, his attitude to death, tempered by intense suffering, is able to rise above the mere mundane. Frequent classical allusions show the influence of Drummond, under whose aegis Derozio received his education from the age of six, in 1815. David Drummond was a Scotsman, who used to run the famous schoof Drummond's Academy in "Dhuramtalla'. The poet's introspective mind developed further as a lonely child; he lost his mother in the same year. Insult and injury sometimes found expression in his sonnets:
"Misery on misery - I soon shall be / Like Atlas with a world upon my back / My heart's almost worn out" or a painful accent like :
"Where are thy waters Lethe? I would steep/My past existence in their source ......
Death is welcomed, obviously as an agent who can release him from the sufferings of the world and promise a better life:
Death! My best friend if thou dost open the door / The gloomy entrance to a sunnier world / It boots not when my being's scene is furled/So thou canst aught like vanished bliss restore."

The influence of philosophers like Hume, Bentham and Paine was immense in the young poet's mind. The concept of enlightened self-interest, extension of individual liberty and equalization of political systems became his keynotes too; in his essay on the colonization of India by Europeans, he writes;
"Upon the whole then, we must draw the inference that colonization would not be beneficial, unless the British Legislature interferes and materielly alters the present system of Indian policy, by admitting natives and Indo-Britons to a participation of priviledges; ....

The basis of good government is as Jeremy Bentham observes, "the greatest good of the greatest number"...... (The Kaleidoscope, September, 1829).

He was an extremely popular teacher and in his 'Conclusion of my address to my students before the Grand Vacation' in 1829 , he said,
'As your knowledge increases, your moral principles will be fortified; and rectitudes of conduct will ensure happiness. My advice to you is that you go forth into the world strong in wisdom and in worth; scatter the seeds of love among mankind, seek the peace of your fellow creatures, for in their peace you will have peace yourselves.' (Thoughts on various subjects; Calcutta Literary Gazette Januray 3rd. 1835).

His confidence and fearlessness had disastrous consequences and he was charged by the vice-president of Hindoo College, Mr. H. H. Wison as to the clamour raised for his inclinations. To his question, 'Do you believe in God?' Derozio's answer was open and straight; the same attitude to independence is seen in his sonnet 'On the philosophy of Bacon'. Derozio wrote to Wilson :
'Setting aside the narrowness of mind with which such a course might have been evinced, it would have been injurious to the mental energies and acquirements ..... I can indicate my procedure by quoting no less orthodox authority than Bacon;' if a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubt.' (Correspondences, April 26th, 1831)

He corroborates the same in the sonnet on Bacon :
Man must remain/Shut from the light of Truth nor shall he see
That sacred path (where mortal cannot erriln gaining her bright temple) till he be Great Nature's servant and interpreter.'
Derozio's translation of Maupertuis also shows his preoccupation with pleasure and pain as part of human existence. Statements like :
'Misery is the sum of good that remains after deducting the good.'
'Happiness is the sum of good that remains after deducting evil.'
'In ordinary life the sum of evil exceeds that of good.'
find a more pointed expression in the sonnets :
"Human ill/s with our nature linked eternally/Man and misfortune are twin-born - 1 feel
This to be true, at least "twas so with me."
Entwined with this idea, are the moon sonnets, which evoke a sense of dreamy, soft landscape reminiscent of "Bright Star" of Keats. 'The pale light', 'the melancholy brow', 'the ceaseless gazing on the thousand showers / Of ill that inundate this world of ours' - makes the moon the 'melancholy queen' on whose cheek 'the red rose has sickened'. Finally, the moon is compared to a 'griefstruck maiden',
'who has heard revealed/To all the world that which she wished concealed-
Her trusting Love's and hapless Frailty's tale'.
The poet, teacher and journalist Derozio took the pseudonym Juvenis which pertains to youth and its similar attributes. He has also been compared to the stormy petrel - the smallest, web-footed bird who hardly touches the land except for laying eggs. Derozio's life was too short for his promising voyage through the troubled, colonized and orthodox India. The clarity and enlightenment of his mind is clearly in evidence in spite of his premature death. Remembering the lines on the grave stone of this prodigy would be a fitting close :
"We look around/But vainly look for those who formed a part/Of us as we of them and when we wore/Like gems in bezels, in the heart's deep core."

# 11 अবিম্মরীয় হেন্রি কিরোজিজ্য 11 <br> স্বপনকুমার দে 

অষাপপক, বাংলা বিভাগ





 निर्মिত হয়।:





 जক বিদूষী ইংরেজ মহিলাকে বিয়ে কররন।




 তাঁদ্র্র পরিনারের অবসান ঘঢ় :*
(२)






























"Henry Derozio - First in Recitation, Reading, Geograpy and general extraordinary acquirements at 8 years of age. - A Gold Medal"
"Henry Derozio -.. First Reader in the School and remarkable powers in recitation, etc. ( 9 year of age). - Walker's Elocution (Prize)"








 घট্াাক (কে্র্র কার। কাহিনীর ঈুর এভাবে









"Think'st thou she dreams of love, and for whom?
The parted dead whose home should be the tomb?'
 बুরিয়ে যায় नि।

ডিরোর্রিe তাঁর এই কাবা সম্পার্ক বালাছছন :
"Although I once lived nearly three years in the vicinity of Jungheera, I had but one opportunity of seeing that beautiful and truly romantic spot." ${ }^{\text {" }}$





এই সময়ে লেখা ডিরোজিও-র একটি কবিতা এখানে উদ্ধৃত করা যেতে গার্র-

## GOOD NIGHT

Good Night! - Well then, good night to thee,
In peace thine eyelids close;
May dreams of future happiness
Hlume thy soft repose!

I've that within which knows no rest,
Sleep comes to me in vain;
My dreams are dark - I never more Shall pass good night again.






(8)





"On monday the 20th instant the school of this Institution was opened at 10 O'clock. Before 11 all the scholars were assembled to the number of 20 , which is more than expected. They were dismissed at past ....."


"The plan for Hindoo college is, we understand, in considerable progress ..... In the primary school the pupil is to be instructed according to the Lancasterian plan in reading and writing English, and in copying."



Goldsmith's History of Greece, Rome and England.
Russell's Modern Europe.
Robertson's Charles the Fifth.
Gray's Fables.
Pope's Homer's lliad and Odyssey.
Dryden's Virgil.
Milton's Paradise Lost.
Shakespeare, One of the Yragedis.



















(a)


"..... the objections which Derozio published to the philosophy of Kant were perfectly original, and displayed powers of reasoning



"It was at last proposed to establish, in 1828 or 1829, a debating club, called the academic association, at the house now occupied by the Wards' Institution."













"The general tone of the discussions was a decided revolt against religious institutions. .... The young lions of the Academy roared out, week after week, 'Down with Hindusim! Down with orthodoxy.":



(心)

 Assembly's Institution-13 July 1830)


 आलिख्यक :
".... That lecture fell like a bomb-shell amoung the college authorities." ${ }^{\text {s" }}$





"The interference is presumptuous, for the Managers, as managers, have no right whatever to dictate to the students of their time out of college.":



 थ্রয়াস চন্ভে লাগল। .....




 কর্রিয়াছ্ন।":>


(9)

रेन ন















"..... That he did not view Christianity as communication from the divenity to fallen man is well known; but it is perhaps impossible to say in what manner he came to fall into such an opinion.":s


 a. 1








"There, all in silence, let him sleep his sleep,
No dream shall fitit into slumber deep-
No wandering mortal thither once shall wend,
There, nothing o'er him but heavens shall weep,
There, never pilgrim at his shrine shall bend
But holy stars alone their mighty vigils keep!








## औ, ब्निधनृत्ब :


\&. Sakti Sadhan Mukhopadhyay (Complied and Edited), Derozio Remembered, Birth Bicentenary celebration commemoration volume, Sources and Documents, Vol. 1. 1830-1947, Derozio commemoration committee, Kolkata, April 2008, p. 281.




9．Thomas Edwards，Henry Derozio，the Eurasian Poet，Teacher and Journalist，W．Newman \＆Co．Ltd．，Calcutta，1884，pp．17－18．


20．ㅍ．Thomas Edwards，op．cit．p． 23.


১৫．শিবনারায়ন রায়（সম্পাদনা），পূযর্বোক্ত গ্ৰন্থ，পৃ．১৫৩－১৫৪।
：8．Thomas Edwards，op．cit．，p． 29.

2y．ㅍ．Rev．Lal Behary Dey，Recollections of Alexander Duff．
：9．Rev．Lal Behary Dey，op．cit．
is．Thomas Edwards，op．cit．56－57．
১৯．স্মাচার চল্রিボ，২৮ এপ্রিল ১৮っこ।
२०．Asiatic Intilligence，Vol．7，p． 174.
2．） 13 February 1832.

之心．Derozio Remembered，lbid．p．xxix．

<br>দেবথ্রিয় ভট্টাচার্य<br>অধাপক, বাংলা বিজাগ














"Ail those students who are publiciy hostile to Hindooism and the established custom of the country and who have proved themselves as such by their conduct, should be turned out:"



 of Hume's celebrated dialogue between cleanthes and Philo, in which the most subtile and refined arguments against theism are adduced. But I have also furnished them with Dr. Reid's and Dugald Stewart's more acute replies to Hume - replies which to this day continue unrefuted:"




















## मूত্রनिर्দেশ


२: Edwards, Thomas; Henry Derozio; Riddhi-India Ed.; Kolkata 1980; Pg 84.


#  <br> সুরমিত কাঙ্জিলাল <br>  

Gדథx শ



 गड़।







阿侖


















পমকিন্ লাট কুমড়ো, কুকুম্বর শশ্।।"




 শিক্ষা, তাঁর ছাত্রদের শেখাললা প্রশ্ন করতত, বিশ্লেষণ করতত।



 ারা বড় রকান্! आাי্দালন তিরি করতে গরেনি।








Derozio - The first voice against conservatism<br>Shriya Bandyapadhyay<br>Department of History, Third Year


#### Abstract

Whenever a society stands at the crossroads of change it faces many commotions. Impetus of change may come from outside or from within. This commotion takes the form of confrontation between the forces of change and those of stability. This confrontation between forces finds expression differently in different societies. This conflict was present in the French revolution, the civil war of England or in the Russian Revolution. These are somewhat of extreme category. In the 19th century Bengal the process was more or less peaceful but the fundamental point remains - commotion and confrontation between two mutually contradictory currents. in this essay we would try to place Derozio as a force confornting with the orthodox force represented by Radhakanta Deb, Ram Kamal Sen etc. We would note how the platform was initially prepared for change by the spread of western education and then how in this juncture Derozio and his students appear in the scenario. They brought a new philosophy of life which perturbed the orthodox and religious conservatives. Here we must keep in mind that Radhakanta Deb representing the orthodox authority of Hindoo College was also a pioneer in the spread of female education. His role was also fascinating in bringing change in social sphere. But he was basically a religious conservative, always trying to secure Hindoo college from radical ideas. So after one point of time he stood against Derozio. As a result of this conflict Derozio's career as a teacher came to an end. Actually things were already in motion, changes were in the air, radicalism was the language of the youthful Derozians. In this situation Derozio acted as the most explosive single catalyst.

We know that Hindoo college was primarily established for the education of the boys from rich Hindu Merchant class, in due course which gradually transformed into the most radical and top grade institution. We shall look back to its foundation.

When it was found that in the Charter Act Rs 1 Lakh was given for the purpose of the education of the indigenous masses there was a debate among the anglicists and the orientalists over the type of education on which the money would be spent. Raja Rammohan Roy, David Hare, Radhakanta Deb all were supporters of western education. Raja Rammohan even wrote a letter to Lord Bentinck in favour of it. In this context was established the Hindoo College in 1817. So the balance ultimately fitted in favour of western education. Already Christian missionaries (for eg. Hare) started opening schools in different parts of Bengal. The british intention was to create a new class of western educated people through whom western education would infiltrate in Bengal, then other parts of the country. As a result the indigenous society would benefit from superior education, superior moral and ethical ideas. For utilifarians it was the greatest good for the greatest number of people. Obviously the greatest good was British rule and greatest number of people meant the Indian native population. We may realize the desperate need of the imperialists to establish the legitimacy of their rule. The British were now trying to create a class of collaborators. It had other necessities too. The British policy was to recruit Indians in petty administrtive iobs in great number, as they would be offered inferior payments than their white counterparts. The policy becomes clear when we see that the important administraive posts were always occupied by the Englishmen. Gauri Visvanathan said truly that "colonial education system deployed English literary studies in its curriculae as an instrument for ensuring industriousness, eifficiency, trustworthiness and compliance in native subjects." So English education, introduced initially to inculcate, a spirit of loyalty, gradually exposed to Indians


to quote A. R. Desai "the nationalist and democratic thoughts of the Modern West." Their new ideas constituted a new ideological package which Dipesh Chakravarti has called "political modernity", consisting of such concepts as citizenship, the state, human rights, equality before the law etc. This English education also generated some questions about imperialism.

However, the first successful attempt to institutionalize English education got momentum with the establishment of Hindoo College in 1817. The first meeting was attended by Harimohan Tagore, Gopimohan Deb, Ramtanu Mullick, Abhay Charan Banerjee, Ramdulal Dey, Ramratan Mullick, Kalishankar Ghoshal, Gopimohan Tagore. In the second session it is interesting to note that five sanskrit pandits Chaturbhuj Vidyabhushan, Taraprasad Nyaybhushan, Subrahmanya Sastri, Mrityunjay Vidyalankar, Raghumani Vidyabhushan were new additions along with Wilson and Dr. Wallis. This was a very crucial session in which the primary aim for the foundation of Hindoo college "National education of the Hindu children" was expressed. It was stressed "The Primary object of this institution be the tution of the sons of respectable Hindoos in the English and Indian languages; and in the literature and science of Europe." We may note the phrase "sons of respectable Hindoos." So, from the very beginning, Hindoo college carried with it elitism in the true sense of the term. The college gate was closed for lower caste Hindoos and obviously for Musalmans and Christians etc. So on 20th January 1817 the long legendary journey of Hindoo college began with twenty students in the house of Gorachand Basak, at Chitpore. In 1819 David Hare was appointed as the Visitor of the college. Within 1824 (by the time once again the college was transferred to the house of Firingi Kamal Basu in Chitpore road in 1819) the increasing number of students demanded more teachers and non-teaching staff. In 1824 the governors sought government help for the college. We find the second letter of the governors saying "It is scarcely to be apprehended that any question would arise in which the opinion of the native and European Managers would be exactly balanced but should such an event occur we hope it will not be thought unreasonable in us to propose that a negative voice may be allowed to the native managers that is to say that any measure to which the natives express an unanimous objection shall not be carried into effect." It was also said that "we beg further to observe that in thus expressing our readiness to play the Vidyalaya under the joint mangement of the natives and Europeans we do so in the full confidence that not only an informed course of study but the satisfaction of the native subscribers and managers of the Hindu community will be equality the object of both and we entertain no doubt therefore that in all modification of the rules of the college it will never be forgotten that it is a Hindu institution for the purpose of cultivating especially English literature and science alone, that the admission of persons likely to injure that respectability and consequently to contract the utility of the college will always be strictly prohibited and that works directed against the character and principle of our countrymen will be also excluded." (G.C.P.! Unpublished records Vol. 8. P. 96; 98). This letter was signed by Chandrakumar Tagore, Ramkamal Sen, Gopimohan Deb, Rajkrishna Sinha, Radhakanta Deb, Rosmoy Dutta, Guruprasad Basu, Ladlimohan Tagore, Radhamadhav Banerjee, Kamalakanta Das. We may realise the strong conservative elements dominating each and every sphere of the college, namely - the course of study, the admission of students, also the sentiment of Hindu society in the modification of college matters etc. This letter is of immense importance in realizing the nature of the college authority. Consquently, the Government accepted all the terms and conditions presented by the managers of the coliege and took the financial responsibility of the college. Government sent Horace Wilson as the Visitor of the college along with another government representative in the managing committee.

The new Visitor of college Wilson had to play a crucial role in the evolution of Hindoo college. He planned an exclusive syllabus and realised that to materialize it an efficient teacher was necessary. On 1st May 1826, seventeen year oid Derozio was appointed as a teacher of Hindoo college. Wilson realised the shortcomings of the institution. He said - "as long as Enfield's speaker and Blair's

Exercises are the only books read by the upper classes, however valuable such books may be accessory and introductory to our literature it cannot be admitted that they convey accurate notions of its worth." According to him - "upper classes should lay aside Miscellenies and enter boldly upon our best writers in prose and verse." Now, he said - "The general result of the operations of the Hindu college is to give students a considerable command of the English language, to extend their knowledge in History, Geography and to open to them a view of the objects and means of science." Gradually he changed the syilabus and obviously in this matter received the help of Henry Louis Vivian Derozio.

The new syllabus of 1830 , includes Mental philosophy, History, Mathematics, Natural philosophy, Geography, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Dryden, Johnson, Goldsmith, translated Homer in the sphere of literature - Bacon, Locke, Stuart, Reed etc in philosophy and in science three sections of Newton, Optics, Mechanics of Porter, Differential and Integral Calculus of Hall was included. The history syllabus then consisted of Gibbon, Hume, Robertson, while in Economics Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations was incorporated. Logic included Mills Whitely; perhaps the days of glory for Hindoo college got its momentum. Many leading newspapers criticized that Hindoo college had totally rejected religious teaching.

Now I will concentrate on Derozio's conflict with the orthodox authority of Hindoo college, which is my focal point of discussion. Derozio's teaching was really an eye opener for the young students of Hindoo college. New Western education gave birth to several questions in their minds against the existing society, superstitious practices, the nature of imperial government, refigious conservatism and other evils of society. These quests found their expressions for the first time in the Academic Association, a debating club, established in 1828, by Derozio and his students. In its first session topics like - freewill and fate, virtue and vice, patriotism, argument for and against the existence of God, the shames of idolatry and priestcraft were discussed.

Hindoo college boys now started a magazine - "Parthenon" on 15th February 1830 which discussed matters like - women's education, colonization, necessity of cheap justice and the curse of supersition. Derozio himself at this time delivered a course of lectures on metaphysics in his school which attracted a few hundred audience, inspired by the philosophy of Bacon, Locke, Hume, Smith, Paine and Bentham. Criticizing the "Parthenon", 'India Gazzette' said - "this Magazine is Hindu by birth yet English by education". In this context radical sentiments were emerging among the students. In 'India Gazettee' a Hindu college student sharply attacked the coionization process of the British. On 10th December 1830 two hundred persons celebrated July revolution in the Town Hall. On the eve of Christmas a tricolour flag of French Revolution was seen on the Monument. The suspects were obviously the Derozians.

Conservative society felt agitated for they suspected that Hindu religion was in danger. Sensational news were published in the leding newspapers about the activity of the Derozians. Humor spread that students when required to chant mantras they would recite from the lliad. One student instead of bowing down to the idol of Kali, greeted with a 'good morning madame'. Samvad Prabhakar and Sarnachar Chandrika raised a hue and cry against the students who imitated the 'Vagabond Firingis'. Now the managing committee of Hindoo College began to take repulsive measures. The first clash of Derozio with the managing committee of Hindoo college occured when Derozio wrote a poem expressing his deep pleasure, on the eve of abolition of Sati. He wrote -- "Hark! heard ye not? the widow's wail is o'er. A rising spirit speaking peace to man". (India Gazette, Quoted in John Bull, 14 December, 1829)

We can recall Hindoo college managing committee were hardcore religious conservatives, naturally a clash with Derozio in very near future becarne inevitable.

The first attack came upon "Parthenon". Its publication was forbidden and all copies were destroyed. Most probably "Parthenon" stood
strong against the interest of conservatives along with the imperial and colonial policies of the Raj. During the time Radhakanta Deb wrote to the Visitor of the college, Wilson - "They (students) are guilty of fornication and sodomy to the utter disgrace of the institution." Harsh measures were taken against - 'Academic Association'. Now it was not allowed to convene its sessions within the premises of Hindoo college. During this time Scottish Missionary Alexander Duff came to Calcutta. His lectures attracted a large number of students. The college authority was alarmed. It imposed a new decree by which it was declared that any student who would attend political, religious discussion in different societies would be severely punished. In the opposition to this black decree, two letters were published in 'India Gazette' Some say the writer of which was Derozio himself. However 'Calcutta Monthly Journal' said it was the political discussions which offended the college authority.

The opposition of Derozio was active throughout the time. Even before the newspaper campaign started the managing committee of the college tried to create a quarrel between Derozio and the Head master D'Anselme. Rumours were heard that Dakshinaranjan one of the Derozians was going to marry Amilia, Derozio's sister. This news had a strong reaction obviously among the conservatives. The Presidency College still preserves a volume of manuscript record, says Prof. Sushobhon Chandra Sarkar, which contains the proceedings of the meeting of the directors of Hindoo college on 23rd Aprii 1831. It was said - "Mr. Derozio, being the root of all evils and the cause of public alarm, should be discharged from the college." It was declared that Derozio's 'Misconduct' was responsible for the withdrawal of students from the college. These written allegations were made by Ramkamal Sen and Radhakanta Deb. They also brought nineteen counts of charges against Derozio. Not that all the members of the managing committee were unanimous over the alegations. The governor of the college Chandrakumar Tagore said, before this report he had not heard anything negative about Derizio's teaching method and conduct. To Wilson, Derozio was a teacher of a superior quality. Rosmoy Dutta whose two sons were students of this college expressed his ignorance on any 'Misconduct' on Derozio's part. Lawyer Prasannakumar Tagore pointed out the allegations were not sufficient prool against Derozio. Sri Krishna Sinha dismissed the allegations saying that those had no real basis. David Hare expressed his view that a teacher like Derozio was rare. So only three among nine members of the managing committee were against Derozic. Ramkamal Sen and Radhakanta were desperate. Finding no other way to insult Derozio personally or as a teacher they tried to play the Hindu sentimentai card. They raised the question if was expedient in the contemporary state of public felling amongst the Hindu community of Calcutta to continue Derozio in the college. Chandrakumar Tagore, Rosmoy Dutta were convinced by the arguments of Radhakanta and Ramkamal especially after Radhakanta had shown the members the complaints of guardians, he brought with him.

We know that in any moral question of college the right to vote was only restricted to the natives. So now it was said - "Resolved that the measure of Mr. Derozio's removal be carried into effect with due consideration for his merits and services." There were also eighteen other proposals raised by Radhakanta and Ramkamal which points to their immense Hindu conservative attitude and effort to make Hindoo college an institution guided by Hindu Orthodox sentiments. They were strongly opposed to the political activities of the students. But this was dismissed by the opposition of other members. Some surprising, at the same time ridiculous, proposals were there which had been rejected by the authority. For example - the doors should not be closed during the time of teaching eic.

Derozio in due course was informed about the discussions of the meeting. He sent his resignation on the 25 th Aprii, along with a personal letter to Wilson.

In every society there are some orthodox elements who try to crush any new development good or bad. Especially Hindoo College from its very beginning was elitist and conservative in its nature. Orthodox elements were dominant in the authority also. They always
practised stringent control over the admission, syllabus, method of teaching of the college. In this context Derozio brought with him new ideas. His immense influence on the students opened their eyes. In the excellent language of Dr. Suresh Chandra Maitra-


Their eyes were now filled with new dreams, new ideas. So the very basic aim for the establishment of the College was going to be unsuccessful. The hatred of orthodox Hindus against Deriozio was represented in the drama 'Persecuted.' From the very beginning the confrontation of the college authority with Derozio was inevitable. Here the representatives of the authority of college were Ramkamal and Radhakanta.

From the personal letters of Wilson and Derozio we come to know that the main three allegations against Derozio were - (1) Whether he asked his students to be atheist. (2) Whether he asked his students to disobey their parents, (3) Whether he preached in favour of marriage between brothers and sisters. Derozio's answer was that he had not preached his own ideas. What he taught was to question, to challenge every thing with free thinking. He not only taught the Philosophy of atheist Hume but at the same time also taught the ideas of theist Reed. The second allegation was baseless and the third he denied with immense hatred.

It is doubtfull to what extent Derozio's termination served the interest of the orthodox elements. The students of Hindoo college had already received the taste of modern, liberal thought. The imprint they left on society was powerful. Several associations were established by the Derozians. Thus the first wave Derozio brought in the intellectual sphere, continued after his sack and death. Through different associations, thought of Derozio spread widely, which continues to influence us till today. From that time on Hindoo college never looked back torwards orthodoxy. The 175 year old history of the legendary institution tells this. Here fies the success of Derozio. He was the person who was the real founder of the modern Presidency College.

1. A. R. Desai - 'Sociai Background of Indian Nationalism.

2. Susobhan Chandra Sarkar - 'Derozio And Young Bengal.'


# The fire Sermon 

## Jhelum Roy

Department of English, U.G. First Year

March 1828 : a small candle was lit at heart of the Hindoo College, as a young man of Seventeen entered, with dreams in his eyes, energy in his heart and firmness in his mind. He was assigned to teach a bunch of equally eager, dreamy-eyed students the intricacies of literature and European history. It was then the journey began ... the spell named 'DEROZIO' was unleashed ....

No one in the Hindoo College had ever taught with such zeal and enthusiam. Thus the fire called 'Henry Louis Vivian Derozio' soon caught the young minds. His mode of teaching was as unconventional as were his ideas. His brilliant lectures presented closely related arguments based on his wide reading, giving his teaching a critical outlook. His students learned to reason out everything and denounced everything that cannot be reasoned. He took great pleasure in his interactions with students, writing about them :
"Expanding like the petals of young flowers
I watch the gentle opening of your minds ...."
But this was not all. The candle that was lit, now wanted to break open the confinement of the classroom and spread far and wide. Derozio's radicalism thus, caught on the young minds like wild fire which gave shape to a band of radical thinkers, known as 'DEROZIANS'. The derozians established a literary and debating club of their own known as the Academic Association, which provided a common meeting ground outside the restrictions of the classroom where young men under the guidance of Derozio could discuss freely the various topics that absorbed their attention. Their motto was: 'He who will not reason is a bigot, he who cannot reason is a fool, and he who does not reason is a slave.' Derozio encouraged his students to read Thomas Paine's Rights of Man and other free-thinking texts and, infused in them the spirit of free expression, the yearning for knowledge and passion to live up to their identity, while questioning irrational religious and cultural practices. In the Academic Association, he encouraged debates on subjects like : free will, free ordination, fate, faith, the sacredness of truth, the high duty of cultivating virtue, and the meaness of vice, the nobility of patriotism, the attributes of God, and the arguments for and against the existence of the deity as these have been set forth in Hume on one side, and Reid, Dugald Stewart and Brosn on the other, the hollowness of idolatry and the shackees of priesthood.

As Haramohan Chatterjee states about the debates in the association:
"The principles and practices of Hindu religion were openly ridiculed and condemmed, and angry disputes were held on moral subjects; the sentiments of Hume had been widely diffused and warmly patronised." "The accusation of being irreligious is not entirely correct. The Derozian aim was in truth" to summon Hinduism to the bar of reason." When Derozio was dismissed he wrote back, "That / should be called a sceptic and infidel is not surprising, as these names are always given to persons who think for themselves in religion ...."

Derozio died in 1831, however, the Academic Association was kept alive till about 1839 with David Hare accepting the presidentship after Derozio.

The DEROZIANS, inspired by their fire-brand teacher formed the YOUNG BENGAL - a movement that like a mighty storm tried to sweep away everything before it. It was a storm that lashed society with violence causing some good, and perhaps quite expectedly, some discomfort and distress. The movement was the morning star of what later came to be known as the BENGAL RENAISSANCE ..... The flame, thus went higher and higher...
but like always storms came upon to shake the flame, to blow it off. The orthodox Hindu families revolted accusing him of corrupting
the young minds, demanding his expulsion and threatening to withdraw their children otherwise. The Hindu-dominated management comrnittee of the college, and the chairmanship of Radhakanta Deb, expelled him as a faculty member by a 6 : 1 vote, for having inaterially imured [the student's] Morals and introduced some strange system the tendency of which is destruction to their moral character and to the peace in Society ..... In consequence of his misunderstanding no less than 25 Pupils of respectable families have been withdrawn from the College."

His dismissal, however, did not curb the flame. He continued his interaction with his students, help them bring out several newspapers .... thereby, keeping the flame of derozians burning ...

The flame then spread nationwide manifesting itself into papers like The Enquirer and Jnananvesan. He had opened the floodgates of free thinking, which, now flooded the entire Bengal - bringing about a revolution - with derozians -- Krishna Mohan Banerjee, Dakshinaranjan Mukherjee and Rasik Krishna Mallick - in the lead. A movement, which, brought on a whirlwind of radical change in the thought process of most educated Bengalis $\qquad$ people started questioning the orthodox rituals and customs, seeking for logic and refused to accept anything without reason ..... the seed sowed by Derozio has started to bloom $\qquad$
The fire thus raged on and on ...... ravaging the illogical social norms, cleansing the nation of the vices of superstition $\qquad$ the fire still burns on ....... when we at some point of time in our lives fan it by thinking freely, rationally, revolting against being a slave to social rules .... when we too stand up for a cause - reason, fight, rebel - or rather in one word - turn DEROZIANS .... and take forward the baton of this revolutionary, fire-brand gentieman named HENRY LOUIS VIVIAN DEROZIO - the fire that consumed itself to give us light!

## What constitutes the Presidencian today...

Disclaimer: We agree with everything, and yet nothing, in the following survey. The following views are not ours, yet ours as well. We have surveyed a mere 150 people, and employed exaggeration, vulgar generalization and non-sequitors of quite breathless effrontery. The results are not meant to offend, and if they do, PLEASE don't lynch us.

## 1. What is the focal point of a Presidencian's life?

Contrary to empiricai evidence, $72 \%$ of Presidencians claim that "Porashuno" is the focal point of their college life. $7 \%$ spend their time dancing around trees, singing lovey-dovey songs, $16.25 \%$ have something to do with the Revolution (whether they cheer it or jeer it). The grand old man of the college, Pramod da, is the focal point of a mere $4.75 \%$. For his sake, one hopes that they are all women.


## Moving on to mushier waters...

Prem:
2. Should homosexuality be legalized?


Strangely enough, we start off with homosexuality, and, in a healthy indication: a resounding 83\% do not find "queerness" queer. Among the reactionaries who do, $92 \%$ find it contrary to our culture (what culture?!), $7 \%$ are not that fiberal yet, and a
mere $0.83 \%$ have moral scruples against it.

## 3. Do you believe in the institution of marriage?

Yes-70\%
No - $30 \%$

## 4 a) Would you consummate your relation before marriage?


b) Would you live in with your partner before marriage?

Probabiy - 12.75\%
Probably Not - 60.25\%
Definitely - $6 \%$
Definitely Not - $21 \%$
Looks like we will have more bachelors and spinsters from the current student body, than 5 years ago (the last survey conducted). Yet in an interesting paradox, fewer people are ready to engage in casual sex!! In the same vein, the majority of the people are hesitant about living in with their partners, or consummating their relationships before marriage. They have the deepest sympathies of the editors of this survey. And so do their partners.

5. Well it seems 3 years is not enough for a Presidencian to find his/her dream girl/boy as $51 \%$ are hell-bent on not getting a partner from college (they would prefer bharatmatrimony.com) Come on now, there are still pretty ladies and handsome hunks left in the college, as $40 \%$ do believe, and still keep faith in getting a partner from Presi. The editors would like to declare that they are available.
6. Places in college you would prefer to be with your partner:

(this is not withstanding the fact that the quadrangle is one of the most inconspicuous places in the campus)
$7.60 \%$ agree that the husband of a working woman should also clean nappies, a greater number, $70 \%$, believe in husband and wife sharing equal responsibilities. (Did this $10 \%$ miss the last question, or they just plain hate nappies?)
As expected, the girls are more ready to give up their jobs to take care of household responsibilities and support their spouse earning more, than the boys do. Any feminists reading this?

## Now lets move on to what it seems is the most popular topic,

## Porashuno:

8. Where do you learn most in college?


There goes the haloed tradition of legendary professors and housefull tutorials, even though $48 \%$ are still inspired by it (see next question). $28 \%$ of the population are closet intellectuals, and choose to "critically engage" with the Presidency of yore. (En??!!)
9. How does the "haloed academic traditions of Presidency College" affect you?


## 10. Why have you chosen the subject you are studying?

In a reassuring turn, $72 \%$ are still motivated by love for their subjects, although $16 \%$ are bogged down by family pressure. And Presidency still provides refuge to the elite $2 \%$ who chose their subject at random.

11. This magazine has a special section on Derozio, and Woo Hoo!! Everyone does know who Derozio is. $87 \%$ of the demographic think his greatest impact was Radicalism. 51\% (these are the same comedians dancing around trees and singing lovey-dovey songs) argue for his romantic imagery being his biggest contribution. The remaining $8 \%$ are strict rationalists, and spend their lives being criticized by post modern scholars.
12. A healthy sign, as compared to 5 years ago, the number of students who wish to continue their studies abroad has come down considerably (only $9.6 \%$ ), though Presidencians still continue to chose other states over West Bengal when it comes to studying (52.4\%). The state government can take heart in the fact that the students wishing to remain in West Bengal has also come up to $31 \%$.

## 13. Favorite authors of the college

Well, well, where to begin! Presidency is the supposed inteilectual hot spot of Bengal, and -..

Dan Brown and his conspiracy theories aro evidently the most popular, as $86 \%$ seem to have read him! Its good to see that the Bard

| Dan Brown | $86 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Rabindranath Tagore | $69 \%$ |
| Salman Rushdie | $61 \%$ |
| Chetan Bhagat | $58 \%$ |
| JK Rowling | $47.7 \%$ |
| Parashuram | $39 \%$ |
| Taslima Nasreen | $22.7 \%$ |
| Amitabh Ghosh | $21 \%$ |
| Premchand | $12.5 \%$ |
| Edward Said | $8.9 \%$ |
| Dostoevsky | $7.5 \%$ |
| Ayn Rand | $4.7 \%$ |
| Tolkien | $3.7 \%$ |
| P G Wodehouse | $2.2 \%$ |

of Bengal holds his
sway over the sob-
staves of Chetan
Bhagat. Harry Potter is
working his magic. but
Frodorremains
marooned on Middle
Earth. Sexists are
keeping Tastima
Nasreen at bay, and
while name-dropping
may be a norm, less
than 9\% have read
Dostoevsky or Said. It
turns out that
Presidencians are a
humorless, morose lot:
just $2.2 \%$ read P G Wodehouse. (Can't you lot take a joke??)
14. Which is the most pointless subject in Presidency?

| Economics | $-0.08 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Philosophy | $-20 \%$ |
| History | $--7 \%$ |
| Physics | $--0.92 \%$ |
| None | $--67 \%$ |
| No Comments $-5 \%$ |  |

The editors would like the readers to note that they belong to the last category: NO COMMENTS!
(We are still trying to find out which of us came up with this question)

This section needs no introduction:

## Politics:

15. A much, much greater number of people ( $73 \%$ ) are interested in politics than 5 years before, and about half of them ( $51.66 \%$ ) believe that social commitment demands active political participation.

## Are you interested in politics?


16. However, mainstream political parties are still scoffed at by large numbers (only $11 \%$ of those who want to enter active politics want to join mainstream political parties), who prefer activism or analysis instead...
17. Do you think that the government can handle terror?


When faced with terror, the anarchist in most of us comes out, as $87 \%$ like to cry: "Down with the government!"
With the Lok Sabha elections coming up, political analysts should take note that only $1 \%$ of the Presidencians stand by the present government when it comes to handling terror.

Our final section is on the heart-throb of $4.75 \%$ of the students,

## Pramodda:

18. $65 \%$ of the student body smoke, but most $(52.5 \%)$ refuse to grant women the said dubious privilege. A streak of conservatism? An instance of patriarchal dominance? Readers decide...


## 19. Do you think the canteen needs to be shifted?



So much so for the administrations' plans...
20. Almost half ( $49 \%$ ) of those surveyed think that Pramodda's fare is a "little" overpriced... We don't mind gulping oily chicken
rolls and inviting coronary thrombosis, but we are damned if we have to turn bankrupt in the process.
21. Fundamentalists beware! $91 \%$ of Presidencians wouldn't allow religious shrines in the college if they had their say.
22. Which are the favorite "adda-spots" in the college?


Again we find Presidencians don't like cramped, closed quarters...

Well, we have tried to present a picture, which may be a little biased (because the editors mainly distributed the survey sheets to their friends), but which does bring out how a Presidencian thinks today. One thing which we would have very much liked to add here are the numerous colorful comments that some students added to their survey sheets. But we are helpless... the government is doing nothing to bring down the price of paper. And we fear the censorship board...

## Gditors and Publication Secretaries of The Presidency College Magazine

| YEAR | EDITORS |
| :--- | :--- |
| $1914-15$ | Pramatha Nath Banerjee |
| $1915-17$ | Mohit Kumar Sen Gupta |
| $1917-18$ | Saroj Kumar Das |
| $1918-19$ | Amiya Kumar Sen |
| $1919-20$ | Mahmood Hasan |
| $1920-21$ | Phiroze E. Dastoor |
| $1921-22$ | Shyama Prasad Mookherjee |
|  | Brajakanta Guha |
| 1922-23 | Uma Prasad Mookherjee |
| $1923-24$ | Subodh Chandra Sen Gupta |
| $1924-25$ | Subodh Chandra Sen Gupta |
| $1925-26$ | Asit K. Mukherjee |
| $1926-27$ | Humayun Kabir |
| $1927-28$ | Hirendranath Mukherjee |
| $1928-29$ | Sunit Kumar Indra |
| $1929-30$ | Taraknath Sen |
| $1930-31$ | Bhabatosh Dutta |
| $1931-32$ | Ajit Nath Roy |
| $1932-33$ | Sachindra Kumar Majumdar |
| $1933-34$ | Nikhilnath Chakravarty |
| $1934-35$ | Ardhendu Bakshi |
| $1935-36$ | Kalidas Lahiri |
| $1936-37$ | Asok Mitra |
| $1937-38$ | Bimal Chandra Sinha |
| $1938-39$ | Pratap Chandra Sen |
|  | Nirmal Chandra Sen Gupta |
| $1939-40$ | A. O. M. Mahiudin |
| $1941-42$ | Arun Panerjee |
|  |  |

## SECRETARIES

Jogesh Chandra Chakravarti
Prafulla Kumar Sircar
Ramaprasad Mukhopadhyay
Mahmood Hasan
Paran Chandra Gangooli
Shyama Prasad Mookherjee
Bimal Kumar Bhattacharya
Uma Prasad Mookherjee
Akshyay Kumar Sarkar
Bimal Prasad Mukherjee
Bijoy Lal Lahiri
Sunit Mahbub Murshed
Lokesh Chandra Guha Roy
Sunit Kumar Indra
Syed Mahbub Murshed
Ajit Nath Roy
Ajit Nath Roy
Nirmal Kumar Bhattacharjee
Nirmal Kumar Bhattacharjee
Girindra Nath Chakravarti
Sudhir Kumar Ghosh
Prabhat Kumar Sircar
Arun Kumar Chandra
Ram Chandra Mukherjee
Abu Sayeed Chowdhury
Bimal Chandra Dutta
Golam Karim

| YEAR | EDITORS |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1942-46 | (No Publication) |
| $1947-48$ | Sudhindranath Gupta |
| $1948-49$ | Subir Kumar Sen |
| $1949-50$ | Dilip Kumar Kar |
| $1950-51$ | Kamal Kumar Ghatak |
| $1951-52$ | Sipra Sarkar |
| $1952-53$ | Arun Kumar Das Gupta |
| $1953-54$ | Ashin Ranjan Das Gupta |
| $1954-55$ | Sukhamoy Chakravarty |
| $1955-56$ | Amiya Kumar Sen |
| $1956-57$ | Ashok Kumar Chatterjee |
| $1957-58$ | Asoke Sanjay Guha |
| $1958-59$ | Ketaki Kushari |
| $1959-60$ | Gayatri Chakrabarty |
| $1960-61$ | Tapan Kumar Chakravarty |
| $1961-62$ | Gautam Chakravarty |
| $1962-63$ | Badal Mukherjee |
|  | Mihir Bhattacharya |
| $1963-64$ | Pranab Kumar Chatterjee |
| $1964-65$ | Subhash Basu |
| $1965-66$ | (No Publication) |
| $1966-67$ | Sanjoy Kshetry |
| $1967-68$ | (No Publication) |
| $1968-69$ | Abhijit Sen |
| $1969-72$ | (No Publication) |
| $1972-73$ | Anup Kumar Sinha |
| $1973-74$ | Rudrangshu Mukherjee |
| $1974-75$ | Swapan Chakravarty |
| $1975-76$ | Sankar Nath Sen |
| $1977-78$ | Sugata Bose |
| $1978-81$ | (No Publication) |
| $1981-82$ | Debasish Banerjee |
|  | Somak Ray Chaudhury |
|  |  |

## SECRETARIES

Nirmal Kumar Sarkar
Bangendu Gangopadhyay
Sourindra Mohan Chakravorty
Mans Muktamani
Kalyan Kumar Das Gupta
Jyotirmoy Pal Choudhury
Pradip Das
Pradip Ranjan Sarbadhikari
Devendra Nath Banerjee
Subal Das Gupta
Debaki Nandan Mandal
Tapan Kumar Lahiri
Rupendra Majumdar
Ashim Chatterjee
Ajoy Kumar Banerjee
Alok Kumar Mukherjee
Pritis Nandy
Biswanath Maity
Gautam Bhadra
Rebanta Ghosh
Rudrangshu Mukherjee
Swapan Chakravarty
Suranjan Das
Paramita Banerjee
Gautam Basu
Banya Dutta

| YEAR | EDITORS |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1982-83 | (No Publication) |
| 1983-84 | Sudipta Sen, Bishnupriya Ghosh |
| 1985-86 | Brinda Bose, Anjan Guhathakurata |
| 1986-87 | Subha Mukherjee, Apurba Saha |
| 1988-89 | Anindya Dutta, Suddhasatwa Bandyopadhyay |
| 1989-90 | Abheek Barman, Amitendu Pali, Adrish Biswas |
| 1990-92 | Jayanta Ray, Shiladitya Sarkar |
|  | Debraj Bhattacharya, Pathikrit Sengupta |
| 1993-95 | Soumya Sundar Mukhopadhya |
|  | Arjun Deb Sen Sharma, Debanuj Dasgupta Santanu Das |
| 1995-96 | Sanjoy Chakraborty, Saibal Basu |
| 1996-98 | Bodhisattva Kar, Anirban Mukherjee |
|  | Anindyo Sengupta, Kumar Kislay |
| 1998-00 | Riddhi Sankar Ray, Lincoln Roy |
|  | Ashok Kasari, Phalguni Ghosh |
| 2000-01 | Paromita Chakraborty, Sapna Guha |
|  | Soumitro Ghoshm, Kunal Singh |
| 2001-02 | Arjun Chatterjee, Uditi Sen, Deblina Sengupta |
|  | Nabaruna Bhattacharya, Saubhik Ghosh |
| 2002-03 | Riya Bhattacharjee, Shatarupa Banerjee |
|  | Shibaprasad, Amritava Dey, Shubro Bhattacharya |
| 2004-05 | Devapriya Roy, Vivek Shaw |
| 2005-06 | Arka Chattopadhyay, Kaushik Baisya |
| 2006-07 | Sharmishtha Ghosh (Joint Publication) |
| 2007-08 | Avishek Ghoshal, Sharmishtha Ghosh |
| 2008-09 | Anitesh Chakraborty |
|  | Sreecheta Das |
|  | Dinanath Singh |

## SECRETARIES

Subrata Sen<br>Chandrayee Niyogi<br>Jayita Ghosh<br>Sanchita Bhowmik<br>Debasish Das<br>Pratik Mitra, Chandrani Majumdar<br>Sanjoy Chakroborty,<br>Ananda Sankar Roy<br>Soumya Sundar Mukherjee<br>Arijit Bhattacharya<br>Raja Bhattacharya<br>Asis Pathak<br>Roshni Mukherjee<br>Lincoln Roy<br>Atig Ghosh Roy<br>Abheek Banerjee<br>Abhirup Dam<br>Priyankar Dey<br>Debojyoti Mondol<br>Soumik Ghosh<br>Soumik Saha




[^0]:    I went outside my little world,
    And offered him a ten-rupee note,
    The boy gleamed in wonder and curled
    His radiating smile mixed with pain
    Was a reflection of the ethereal plane
    The dark of night nurtured desire
    I shall not rest in peace
    And do something great, of Honour
    Wherein I can show my valour
    Before Death tears all my dreams.

[^1]:    

[^2]:    

