

# PEGASUS

THE LITERARY MAGAZINE

A DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH INITIATIVE

Prose • Poetry • Photography



ELYSIAN LITERARY SOCIETY • ISSUE 03 • APRIL '24

With Love,  
Elysian: The Literary Society



# Foreword

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Dear Students/Readers,

Listen closely to the tale of Pegasus, where imagination takes flight and absurdity reigns supreme...

Welcome to the latest edition of Pegasus, our department's, our university's literary magazine- a testament to flourishing ingenuity and appetite for words and letters within the students and teachers. Pegasus is the one magazine on campus where we promise more drama than a Shakespearean tragedy, more twists than a mystery novel, and more laughs than a stand-up comedy show.

In these pages, you'll find the kaleidoscope of say-sos, accents, voices, and nuanced inflections each offering unique perspectives, each weaving tales that enrapture us to worlds familiar and fantastical to explore the scribbles, musings, and occasional masterpieces of our fellow students. From poetry that dances across the page to prose that grips the soul, from insightful writing to photography to make it a celebration of boundless imagination and talent that surrounds us. From the profound to the downright peculiar, our contributors have left no stone unturned in their quest to entertain, provoke, and maybe even make you snort your coffee out your nose.

As we rummage into the profundities of Pegasus, let yourself be bowled over by the authority of conviction created by the world of words and the mysticism of storytelling. Pegasus will prepare you to be whisked away on a literary rollercoaster ride that's more unpredictable than the plot of a soap opera. Just remember, if you find yourself questioning reality after reading some of these pieces, kindly and willing suspend your disbelief. It's perfectly normal. I hope these pages inspire you, challenge you and ignite within you a renewed appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the human experience.

I applaud the contributors for their verses, their words, their expressions, their articulations that embellish these pages, and for sharing their inner talent with us. The department is full of writers, after all — thriving on making you question everything.

Here's to the wild and wonderful world of words. Enjoy the madness!

Yours in literary pandemonium,

Dr. Chetana Pokhriyal  
Head, Department of English  
Dean, School of Languages  
Chairperson, ICC and Women's Cell  
Coordinator, Cultural Committee  
Patron of Elysian Literary Society and Pegasus



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# *Special Notes*



# President's Note

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*To see a world in a grain of sand  
And a heaven in a wild flower,  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
And eternity in an hour.*  
- William Blake

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Dear Readers,

The first time that we had an event called the Saturday Rendezvous, I was in my second year. I remember that day very clearly – a room in the newly built Nityanand Building, all the students and faculty members of the English department standing in a circle, students from different years dressed in their assigned colours, participating as one in a theatre workshop. That was the first time, since I had joined college, that I felt like I was a part of the department, that the people around me weren't random strangers, but a community of my own. This first rendezvous, this first collective experience, is what comes to mind when I think of Elysian, for it was the start of a series of events that led to the foundation of our present literary society.

I recount this experience not just because it is a fond memory of mine, but because it forms the basis of my idea of our literary society. Elysian is like a small but close community that makes you feel like you are a part of something. It is a safe space for that enthusiasm and zeal with which we start our college lives, for that head full of plans and ideas that just need a chance to be shaped and executed. It is an opportunity to have new experiences, to test out skills, to interact with fellow people and to create your own place in this community. Elysian is a promise that you will be accepted, that you will be seen and heard and appreciated, as long as you are willing to open your heart and work towards what it wants.

Regards,  
Niyati Kotiyal  
President  
Elysian Literary Society



# Vice-President's Note

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*"The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper."*

- W. B. Yeats

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Dear Readers,

Pegasus has been a very instrumental and important part of the legacy that we firmly believe in Elysian Literary Society.

As being a club that represents the field of literature in Doon University it gives me great pleasure that I address you all for of our esteemed magazine. As we soar into the realms of knowledge, inspiration, and innovation, I am thrilled to witness the boundless potential of our publication.

At Pegasus, we strive to be more than just a magazine; we are a beacon of enlightenment, a platform for diverse voices, and a catalyst for positive change. Through our pages, we aim to captivate, educate, and empower our readers, fostering a community of lifelong learners and forward thinkers.

As we embark on this journey together, I invite you to join us in our quest for excellence, creativity, and impact. Let us harness the power of words and ideas to elevate discourse, challenge assumptions, and shape the future.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with Pegasus. Together, let us reach new heights and inspire the world.

Regards,  
Sanyam Bisht  
Vice President  
Elysian Literary Society





# General Secretary's Note

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*He asked, "What makes a man a writer?" "Well," I said, "it's simple. You either get it down on paper, or jump off a bridge."*  
- Charles Bukowski

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Dear readers,

I am very happy to introduce the latest edition of 'Pegasus' - the yearly literary magazine created by the Elysian Literary Society at Doon University. This magazine is the result of many months of hard work by our talented student editors, writers, poets, and artists.

Inside these pages, you will go on an amazing journey through imagination and creativity. The written works in this magazine show the incredible potential of the human mind to craft stories that inspire, poems that touch emotions, and ideas that challenge how we think. From heartfelt poetry that expresses deep feelings to thought-provoking essays that tackle important issues with care and insight, this 'Pegasus' promises to delight literary fans.

Additionally, the photography alongside the writing adds vivid visuals to this collection, creating a harmonious blend of words and images. The Literary Society worked very hard to make this a true celebration of all the arts.

As you read through these pages, I encourage you to approach each piece with an open mind and a desire to learn. Let the rhythms of poetry flow over you, the stories transport you to new worlds, and the visual beauty awaken your senses. It is through art and literature that we connect across barriers and forge lasting bonds.

Welcome, dear readers, to the wonderful world of Pegasus. May this edition inspire self-reflection, discussion, and above all, a deeper appreciation for the transformative power of creative expression.

Warm regards,  
Agranshu Grover  
General Secretary  
Elysian Literary Society



# Editorial Head's Note

*Life battles don't always go  
To the stronger or faster man  
But sooner or later, the man who wins  
Is the fellow who thinks he can  
– Walter D. Wintle*



Dear readers,

Welcome to the 3rd Edition of Pegasus and it is a moment of extreme pride and contentment for me, as the Head of the Editorial Board to present this significant piece of memories and creativity with each one of you.

This magazine is not just a simple compilation. It's an emotion for us. It's a product of the team's labour. It's the result of countless days of planning, plotting, designing and working for the same ambition with a synonymous sense of enthusiasm and passion – to breathe Pegasus to life.

I would like to congratulate the Editorial team and Elysian for we have touched a milestone together. The expanse of this magazine leaves me with a swelling heart, for the voices of souls across the campus of Doon University are under the wings of these very pages now. I am immensely elated and humbled with gratitude for your coordination and team spirit.

I couldn't have asked for a better team and support.

Thank you to each person who has contributed to the success of this magazine. Thank you to the hon'ble Head of English Department, Dr. Chetana and the respectful faculty for planting this seedling for the students, which today is bearing fruits of creativity and most importantly harbouring the genuine ardour and zeal for literature.

Wishing the Department of English, Elysian and Pegasus countless years of success, luck and light.

Regards,  
Anaa Ayesha Khan  
Head Of Editorial Board  
Elysian Literary Society





# *Event Reports*





# Movie Screening: *HAIDER*

*On the 22nd of September, the Elysian Society of the English Department organised a movie screening session for the students. Haider is an adaptation of an English Drama called 'Hamlet' written by William Shakespeare between 1599 and 1601. The movie is set in Kashmir around the time of the Kashmir conflict (1947) and the plot falls in line with the plot of Hamlet. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr Surekha Dangwal and the Head of Department Dr Chetna Pokhriyal graced the event with their presence.*

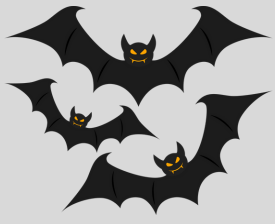
## *Special Exerpts from 'Haider'*

There are similarities between Haider's character and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. A state renowned for its natural beauty and purity is now entangled in a struggle for dominance and power. It finds itself in a situation where it has an opportunity to speak up but is unable to do so because of all the politics and manipulation. The stories are dull, the wounds many, and the screams hushed.

Haider leaves us with more questions than answers in a lot of ways. Had Roohdaar only employed Haider as a trump card to win over Kashmir, or was he genuinely attempting to assist him? Was Khurram genuinely in love with Ghazala, or was he just a ruthless lawyer who would stop at nothing to subjugate anybody, even if it meant destroying his own family? Above all, was what they did worth everything they lost?

*The students enjoyed the movie, as evident in the heated discussion session that followed right after the screening. The discussion was based on various aspects such as a comparative analysis of the plot of the drama and the movie, the setting, the cinematography and much more. The event was followed by a short prize distribution ceremony of the event 'Varta' a cultural fest in the university during mid-August.*

*The program concluded with a speech by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. Surekha Dangwal. She appreciated the efforts put in by the students and encouraged them to engage more in co-curricular activities.*



# ALL HALLOWS EVE

The Halloween fest organized by the English Department on October 29, 2023, was my first-ever Halloween experience, and it was awesome! The atmosphere was really spooky yet cool, which made my time there even more exciting. When I walked in, I saw lots of cool costumes, like witches and devils, and everyone put a lot of effort into them. One of the best parts was getting to hang out with all these characters and take some creepy photos. It made the party more fun and let us really get into the Halloween mood. But the party wasn't just about dressing up and photo ops—there was something for everyone, like there were food stalls with treats and game stalls with fun challenges. It was great to snack on spooky snacks while playing games.

The student performances were also really impressive. They showed off a lot of talent and creativity. There were dances and music that kept everyone entertained.

The craziest part was when they had placed a fake dead body that was the life of the party. I'm being dead serious! It was a bit creepy but also kind of fun and made the party more exciting. People couldn't stop taking pictures with it as it laid in some corner.

It was clear to everyone that the students put a lot of effort into making the Halloween party awesome. They did a great job with everything, from the spooky vibe to the fun performances. It was a day full of thrills and a lot of fun for everyone who was there.

**- Vinayak Mangain (MA German)  
[School of Languages]**



# सुरम्योत्सव 2023

*“TALENT WINS GAMES BUT TEAMWORK AND INTELLIGENCE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS”  
- MICHAEL JORDAN*



The annual Diwali fest at Doon University was organised by the Student Council from the 28th to the 29th of November 2023. The two-day event was for the students to celebrate the remarkable spirit and joy of Diwali, tying the students with a bond of fervour and enthusiasm while the chilly days of winter were ready to set.

Day 1 was sparkling with the colours of ethnic wear. The university ground was lined with stalls for food and handmade articles put up by the various departments. The activities comprised Inter School competitions for Singing, Folk Dance and Treasure Hunt and ultimately the day ended with the groovy beats of the DJ.

Day 2 was set to ablaze the event with the Ramp Walk with its filmy Bollywood theme, Western Dance competition, prize distribution and DJ night. Students dressed up to the best of their favourite characters like Mastani from Bajirao Mastani, Gangubai, Shanti Priya, Shahrukh Khan from Mohabbatein and whatnot.

SOL bagged the maximum trophies for various competitions held, setting a benchmark with its achievements. The two-day fest was full of memories for all, letting them lose themselves in the spirit of togetherness, dance and cheer, warming their hearts with a time to cherish and hold close for a long time.

# Jaipur Literary Festival: A Feast for the Mind and Spirit



A 12 hour long ride, a whirlwind adventure, and a long weekend in Jaipur spent in the celebration of literature. The bucketlist was ticked off, the plans came to life and Elysian attended the Jaipur Literature Festival, 2024. As the students describe it, the festival was truly unlike anything they have ever seen. Bursting at every corner with readers, books, and authors with brilliant talks at every turn; the space felt like a safe haven of knowledge, wisdom, and inspiration for five days.

A total of 15 students accompanied by Mr. Shabir Shah as the faculty, started with their journey towards the city of Jaipur on the morning of February 1st. After a long day of travel, the group reached the Mohandas Ashram, which was their residing place for the next 4 days. The next morning we reached Hotel Clarks Amer and spent the entire day attending various sessions, enjoying the art displays and the variety of food present there. Later that evening the group visited the Hawa Mehal and enjoyed the night life of the city before having dinner and heading back to the ashram. The two days that followed were spent in a similar manner – Attending our preferred sessions at the festival, exploring the city and then napping away the exhaustion.



Described as the ‘greatest literary show on Earth’, the Jaipur Literature Festival is a sumptuous feast of ideas. The past decade has seen it transform into a global literary phenomenon having hosted nearly 2000 speakers and welcoming over a million book lovers from across India and the globe.

Every year, the Festival brings together a diverse mix of the world’s greatest writers, thinkers, humanitarians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers on one stage to champion the freedom to express and engage in thoughtful debate and dialogue.



*This year, the 17th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival hosted as many as 550 writers, speakers, and artists across a vast array of nationalities, as well as some recipients of major awards. The five-day literary extravaganza was based on the theme of STORIES UNITE US with the aim to explore the transformative power of literature, how it reflects society, and brings people together.*

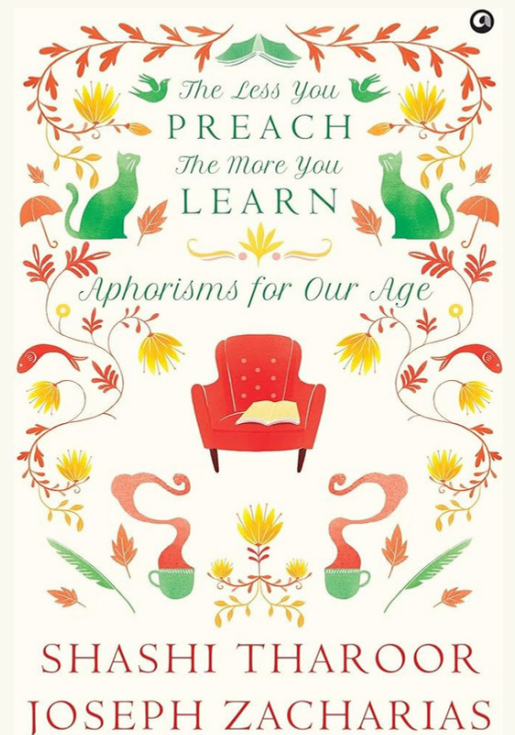
The festival witnessed the launch of several books, which included Nirupama Singh Dar's "FASHION, POPULAR CULTURE AND POLITICAL ECONOMY", presenting the idea of empowerment, cultural identity through the lense of fashion; Itirani Samantha's SHAKUNTALA'S DAUGHTER, story of a mother-daughter duo highlighting the struggles of women of the fringes of indian society, battling poverty, unpaid domestic work and sexual abuse ; Ashwani Lohani's HEART OVER MIND, about his four decades plus insightful experience in the public domain, experiences that bear testimony to the supremacy of the human resource over everything else. Several sessions also addressed the importance of gender equal language and the impact of negative language as an anti-feminist, non-inclusive element, the need for language to change and evolve with evolving narratives, and queer conversations which witnessed the writers and activists speaking of who they are, the journeys of becoming and the power to initiate change as the boundaries of gender and identity blend and dissolve.

The wise and witty Sudha Murthy's presence at the event was definitely an unmissable session as she talked about her recent book, 'Common Yet Uncommon'. The book is a heartwarming picture of everyday life, it presents the quirks and foibles of ordinary people. She talked about her extraordinarily successful life and what keeps her rooted with her feet firmly on the ground.

'Uncommon Love', a heartwarming biography written by Chitra Banerjee, recounts the early years of Sudha and Narayan Murthy's courtship, their marriage and parenthood, and the founding years of Infosys. The narrative gives us personal insights into the struggles and ideals of the Murthys before they became the icons of business success and philanthropy. The book explores the interwoven fabric of their business and family and the values that have held them together all these years.



Shashi Tharoor presented us with some time tested aphorisms through his latest book "The less you preach the more you learn: Aphorisms for our age" co authored with Joseph Zacharias gives short and pithy life lessons on coping, surviving and succeeding. He persuasively shared ways in which we can conquer frustration and insecurity, further improving relationships with our friends and family.





Actor Irfan Khan's transformative work stormed Indian cinema. From his days of National School of Drama to his nearly a decade long tenure in television and his work in road-long movies such as 'piku', 'Life of Pi', 'Maqbool,' and 'Hindi Medium' touched the special quality of Irfan's stardom. Film critic and writer Shubhra Gupta's 'Irfan: A Life in Movies', is a collection of conversations with his contemporary and memories of his time with the legend.

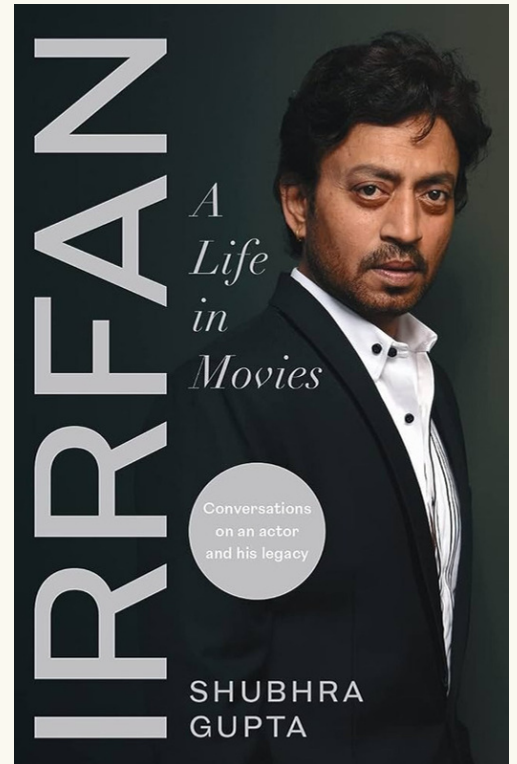
The conversation was held with Irfan Khan's lovely wife and theatre actor Sutapa Sikder and filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj. Together they dived into the art, performance and life of Irfan. They also let us in on some fun stories that showed how Irfan Khan really was as a person. This session paid tribute to the legendary actor and was also one of the last sessions we got to attend at JLF.



During the journey back we reminisced about our experience. The group returned on 5th of february, with an unforgettable experience and a lifelong memory of a wholesome trip.

For the students this was an experience like no other where they got tk breath in the essence of literature, it's spirit and the most remarkable souls that are it's harbingers. This journey has only left the students with an more sincere ardour not just for literature but all forms of art and expressions.

- **Khushi Singh (BA English)**  
**Gargi Sati (MA English)**  
**[School of Languages]**



# THE ALL INDIA UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL

*A MELANGE OF IDEAS AND TALENT*

The All India University Festival, held at Punjab University, Patiala from February 27 to March 04, 2024, was a unique convergence of academia, culture, and entertainment. The festival boasted a diverse range of events that showcased the talents and ideas of students from universities across north India.

On the 27th of January, 50 enthusiastic people from Doon University started on their journey to Patiala at 10 a.m. The 5-hour journey was full of dance and entertainment as the students sang together looking forward to the following week.

Over the 5-day festival, participants got a glimpse into the world of literature, music, fine arts, photography, dance, drama and film through the various events and activities that were held. Day one of the event had the cultural processions in which all the students from various universities represented their cultures in a wonderful blend of dance, drama and music. Doon University bagged the third position in the cultural procession competition.



"PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND CULTURES LIVE SIDE BY SIDE IN ALMOST EVERY PART OF THE WORLD, AND MOST OF US HAVE OVERLAPPING IDENTITIES WHICH UNITE US WITH VERY DIFFERENT GROUPS. WE CAN LOVE WHAT WE ARE, WITHOUT HATING WHAT - AND WHO - WE ARE NOT. WE CAN THRIVE IN OUR OWN TRADITION, EVEN AS WE LEARN FROM OTHERS, AND COME TO RESPECT THEIR TEACHINGS."

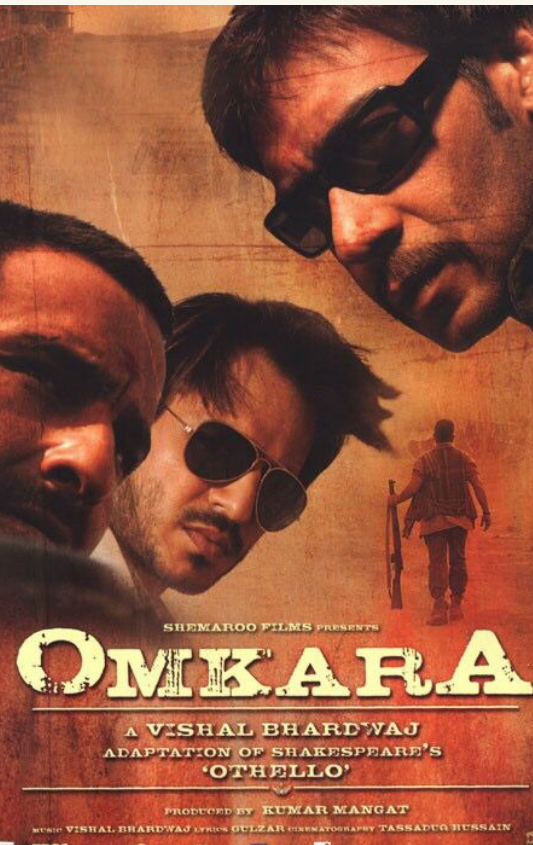
—KOFI ANNAN, FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS



On day two, the music competition was held where there was a solo category and a group category, day two also saw the One-Act play in which the students presented a mind-blowing performance which received a standing ovation. There were also discussions and panel discussions by eminent personalities, which provided an opportunity for students to exchange ideas and explore various perspectives. The mime competition was held on the third day. The solo Kathak performance was also held on day three. The fourth day saw glorious Indian solo and group music performances along with the skit performances. Besides the academic events, the festival also offered cultural and entertainment activities like dance and music performances, fashion shows, and sports events.

These events provided students with a platform to showcase their skills and creativity. There were also stalls featuring handmade crafts, food, and other items. The Valedictory ceremony was held on the 4th of February with all the North Zone universities collecting their prizes and leaving the university full of worldly experiences and zeal. The festival provided a unique experience to students and faculty members, allowing them to come together and share their ideas, learn from each other, and enjoy the cultural and artistic riches of the country. The festival's success can be attributed to the tireless efforts of the organising committee, which worked tirelessly to bring together various stakeholders and create a memorable experience for all those who attended.

- Nandini Singh(BA English)  
[School of Languages]



## Special Exerpts from 'Omkaara'

The film perfectly captured the themes of manipulation, guilt and power-play through the vile schemes of the antagonist Ishwar 'Landga' Tyagi played by Saif Ali Khan.

Langda's deft manipulation of Omkara's mind results in a catastrophe that is every bit as gory and horrible as the first. A few of the speeches have also been kept, such as the father's admonition to Othello/Omkara that she can fool her father too if she can fool him.

# Movie Screening: OMKARA

On 24th of February Elysian Literary Society held a movie screening for Vishal Bharawaj's 'Omkaara', an adaptation of William Shakespeare's 'Othello'.

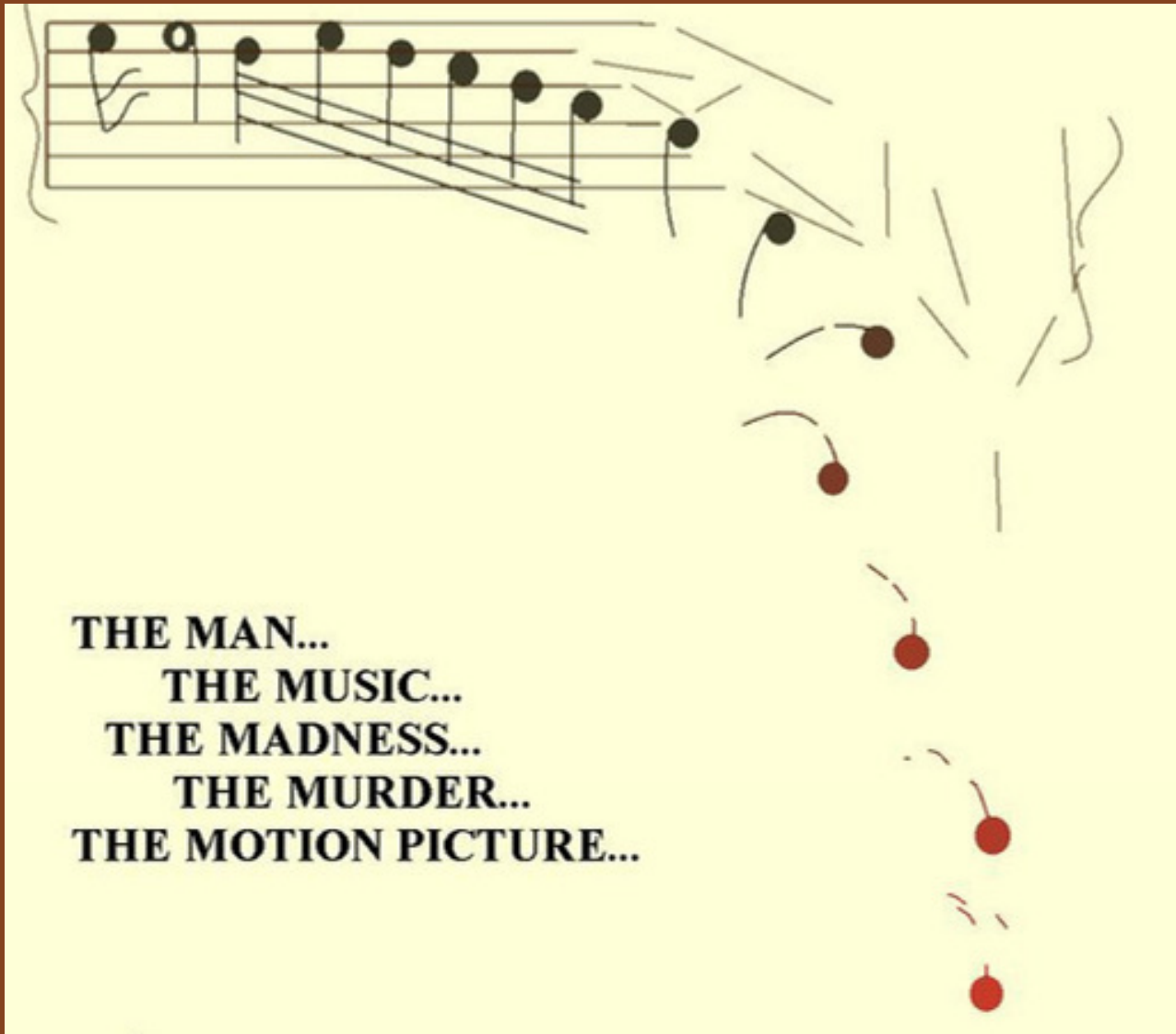
Shakespeare is a work that raises more questions about how to make it understandable to a broad audience, and Bhardwaj excels at doing just that. He took the aristocratic Venice and Cyprus and turned it into a city run by politicians and gangsters, a motif that appears frequently in Indian Cinema. Physical appearances of the characters played a major role in 'Othello', hence the casting in the movie was spot on with Ajay Devgan as Omkara(Othello) and Kareena Kapoor as Dolly(Desdemona). Since the Brahmins are often thought to have fair complexion, Dolly stood in stark contrast to Omkara. Omkara's dark skin was a sign of his half-caste status; this also played a major role in alienating Omkara in the same manner in which Othello was differentiated. The handkerchief turns into a glitzy waistband, and it is the finding of this waistband that establishes Dolly's innocence.

Omkaara, like Bhardwaj's previous adaption, was masterfully done and had a strong foundation in Indian realism without ever coming across as phoney. It is humorous and accessible, but it has the air of mystery that Shakespeare's tragedies are renowned for. Watching this wonderful adaptation was an educational and mind-blowing experience for the students as they critically analysed the film and through it were able to understand the English drama better.



*Film  
Recommendations*

# FILM RECOMMENDATION



## Amadeus

AMBITION AND JEALOUSY, ALL SET TO MUSIC.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Tom Hulce) is a remarkably talented young Viennese composer who unwittingly finds a fierce rival in the disciplined and determined Antonio Salieri (F. Murray Abraham). Resenting Mozart for both his hedonistic lifestyle and his undeniable talent, the highly religious Salieri is gradually consumed by his jealousy and becomes obsessed with Mozart's downfall, leading to a devious scheme that has dire consequences for both men.

**Recommended by : Dr. Gazala Khan  
[Faculty of Doon University]**

# FILM RECOMMENDATION



## Better Days

With tough Gaokao just around the corner--a two-day, make-or-break national college entrance exam held annually in China--and an ongoing police investigation in school, brilliant student Chen Nian, already has enough on her plate. She comes from an impecunious single-parent family, and she and her mother barely manage to eke out an existence. As if that weren't enough, privileged, spoiled, ruthless classmate Wei Lai and her close-knit team of bullies have picked her out, taking pleasure in making her life miserable. As problems keep piling up, Xiao Bei, a young teenage thug, enters Chen Nian's complicated life, offering friendship and a sense of protection. However, can Chen Nian handle the pressure before it is too late?

**Recommend by : Gargi Sati (MA English)  
[School of Languages]**

# FILM RECOMMENDATION



## Close-knit

A 2017 JAPANESE DRAMA FILM DIRECTED BY NAOKO OGIGAMI.

Tomo, an 11-year old girl, discovers her mother has abandoned her. Tomo's uncle and his transgender girlfriend, Rinko, take her in. Together they tackle the task of knitting 108 of Rinko's special hopes and dreams, one stitch at a time.

Recommend by : Gargi Sati (MA English)  
[School of Languages]



# FILM RECOMMENDATION



## Dear Zindagi

DON'T LET YOUR PAST BLACKMAIL YOUR PRESENT, TO RUIN YOUR FUTURE.

Kaira, a young girl, faces problems in her relationships. She meets Dr Jehangir, who helps her resolve her issues with her parents and get a new perspective on life, which leads to her following her passion and an improvement in her love life. The story unfolds in the most heart-warming, tear-jerking, and delightful manners with so many messages to remember and cherish.

Recommended by : Anaa Ayesha (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

# FILM RECOMMENDATION



## Memento

*SOME MEMORIES ARE BEST FORGOTTEN*

Leonard (Guy Pearce) is tracking down the man who raped and murdered his wife. The difficulty, however, of locating his wife's killer is compounded by the fact that he suffers from a rare, untreatable form of memory loss. Although he can recall details of life before his accident, Leonard cannot remember what happened fifteen minutes ago, where he's going, or why.

**Recommended by : Vatsal Naithani (BA English)  
[School of Languages]**

# FILM RECOMMENDATION



## Mona Lisa Smile

NOT ALL WHO WANDER ARE AIMLESS. ESPECIALLY NOT THOSE WHO SEEK TRUTH BEYOND TRADITION, BEYOND DEFINITION, BEYOND THE IMAGE.

Katherine Watson (Julia Roberts) is a recent UCLA graduate hired to teach art history at the prestigious all-female Wellesley College, in 1953. Determined to confront the outdated mores of society and the institution that embraces them, Katherine inspires her traditional students including Betty (Kirsten Dunst) and Joan (Julia Stiles) to challenge the lives they are expected to lead.

**Recommend by : Nandini Singh (BA English)  
[School of Languages]**

# FILM RECOMMENDATION



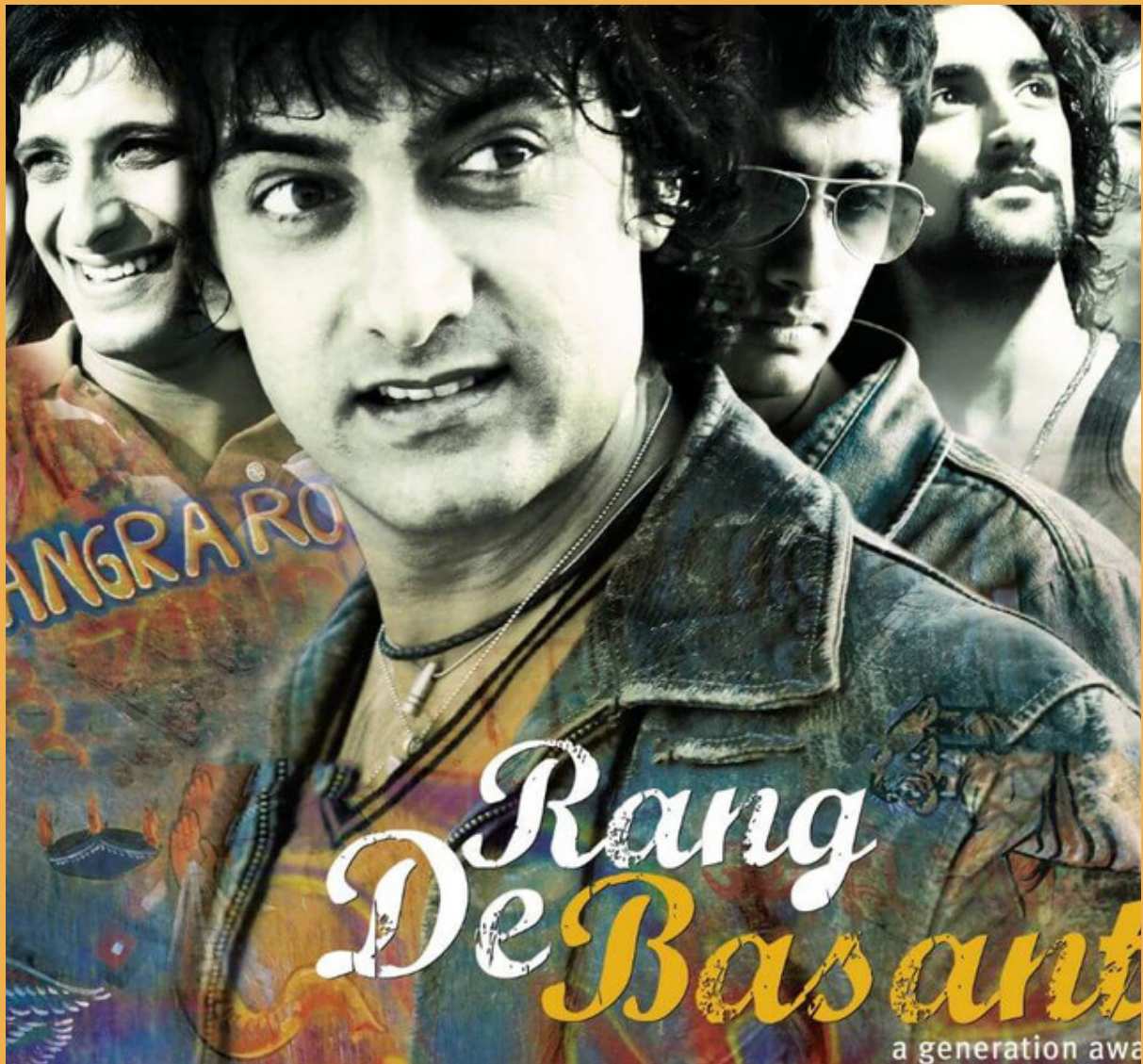
## Monster

A TRAGEDY ABOUT A TROUBLED, MAYBE DANGEROUS, PRE-TEEN

Little things about Minato Mugino (Soya Kurokawa) stand out to his single mom, Saori (Sakura Ando), like a new haircut and a cut over Minato's right ear. Some of these might be read as signs of a problem, like when Minato asks his mom if she thinks a person would still be human if they received a pig brain transplant. Minato also sings to himself a phrase that hangs over the rest of the movie like a slow-breaking raincloud: "Who's the monster?"

**Recommend by : Gargi Sati (MA English)**  
**[School of Languages]**

# FILM RECOMMENDATION



I recommend Rang De Basanti, directed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, to students for its powerful portrayal of youth activism and patriotism. This 2006 Indian film explores themes of friendship, social responsibility, and the legacy of India's freedom fighters, inspiring viewers to question societal norms and take action for change. The film's soundtrack, composed by A.R. Rahman, features a blend of contemporary and traditional Indian melodies that enhance the emotional depth of the narrative, making it a truly immersive cinematic experience.

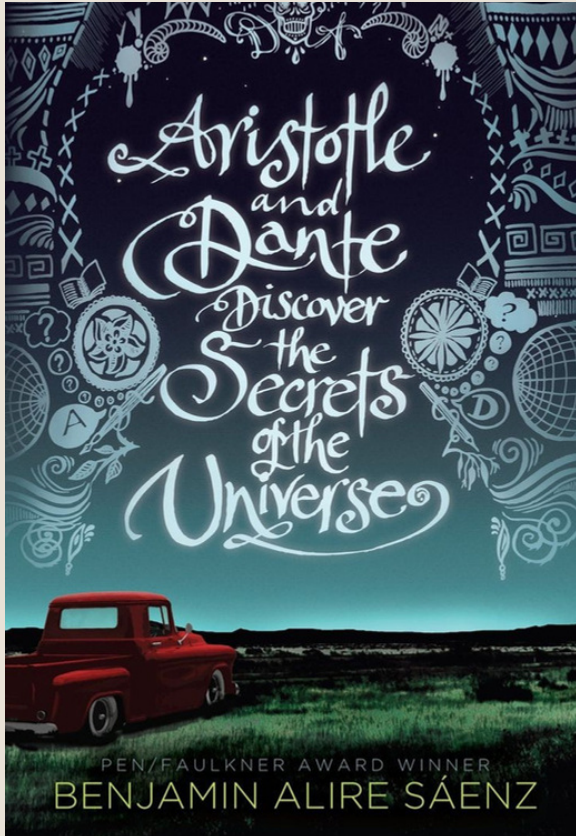
**Recommended by : Dr. Chetana Pokhriyal**  
Head, Department of English  
Dean, School of Languages  
Chairperson, ICC and Women's Cell  
Coordinator, Cultural Committee



# *Literary Reviews*

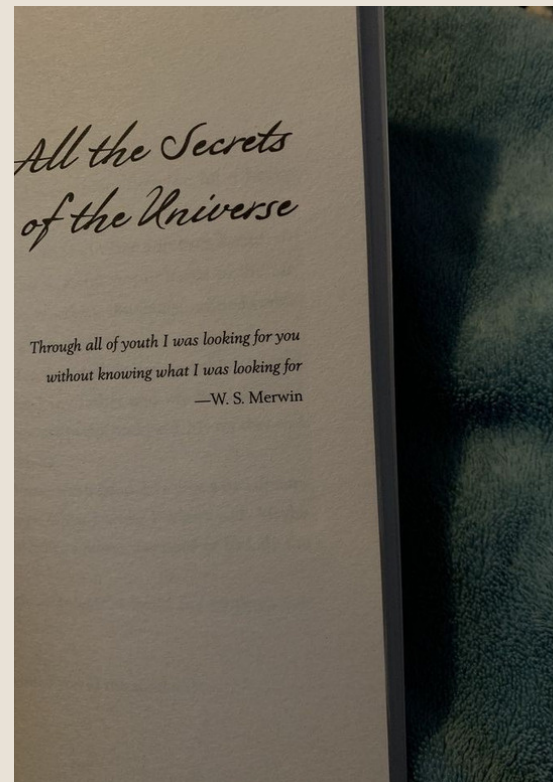


# Book Review



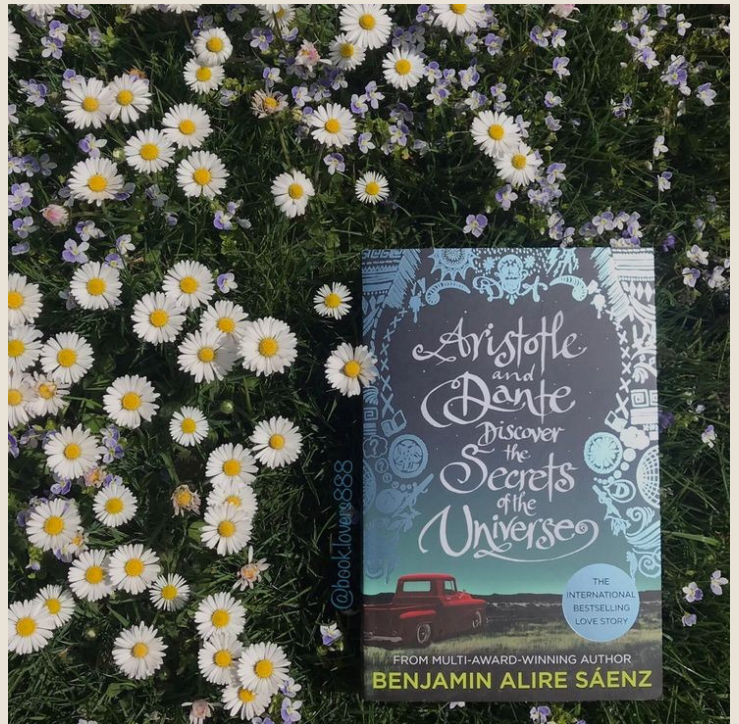
"Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe" by Benjamin Alire Sáenz is a masterpiece of young adult literature that transcends the genre's boundaries. Its exquisite storytelling and exploration of identity, friendship, and the complexity of the human experience makes it a must-read for readers of all ages. First published in 2012, this novel has received numerous accolades and has been celebrated for its poignant narrative and well-crafted characters. Set in the backdrop of El Paso, Texas, during the 1980s, "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe" introduces us to two remarkable teenagers, Aristotle "Ari" Mendoza and Dante Quintana. Ari is an introspective and brooding young man, while Dante is more outgoing and open-hearted. Their paths cross one summer day at a local swimming pool, and what ensues is the beginning of an extraordinary friendship. As the story unfolds, readers are invited to embark on a journey through the challenges of adolescence, exploration of Mexican-American identity, and a profound quest for self-discovery. At the heart of this novel is a powerful portrayal of characters who feel remarkably real.

Ari and Dante are two individuals who couldn't be more different, yet their friendship is beautifully layered with complexity and authenticity. Benjamin Alire Sáenz masterfully peels back the layers of these young men, revealing their thoughts, fears, and dreams. The characters undergo significant growth as they navigate the winding paths of their lives. Ari, with his guarded and introspective nature, contrasts with Dante, who is open and free-spirited. As their relationship deepens, we witness the profound impact they have on each other's lives, allowing them to blossom into their true selves. This novel explores a multitude of themes, making it a rich and thought-provoking read. At its core, it delves into the intricacies of identity. Ari and Dante confront essential questions about who they are and how their cultural backgrounds influence their self-identities. This journey of self-discovery is universal, making their struggles relatable to a broad spectrum of readers. The book also tackles the themes of love and friendship, painting a vivid picture of the complexities of human relationships. The examination of the boys' Mexican-American identities and their place within society adds depth to the story, shedding light on the significance of cultural heritage and the sometimes uneasy navigation of two worlds. Benjamin Alire Sáenz's writing is a work of art. It's poetic and lyrical, offering a level of emotional depth that is both moving and evocative.



*"One of the Secrets of the universe was that our instincts were sometimes stronger than our minds. Another secret of the universe: sometimes pain was like a storm that came out of nowhere"*

**ARISTOTLE AND DANTE  
DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE  
UNIVERSE**



The prose is beautifully descriptive, allowing the reader to become fully immersed in the characters' experiences and the world they inhabit. Sáenz's writing is a testament to the idea that the way a story is told can be just as important as the story itself. His writing elevates the emotional resonance of the narrative, inviting readers to connect deeply with Ari and Dante's experiences. What sets this novel apart is its emotional depth. It doesn't shy away from tackling complex and sensitive issues. As Ari and Dante grapple with their emerging sexuality and personal identities, the narrative remains sensitive, authentic, and poignant. Readers are taken on an emotional rollercoaster as they bear witness to the characters' internal struggles. The emotional journey is both heartwarming and heart-wrenching, creating a deep and lasting connection between the reader and the story. The book beautifully captures the essence of adolescence and the profound moments of self-realisation. It invites readers to consider the universal struggles of growing up, forging one's identity, and embracing the complexities of human emotion. In "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe," Benjamin Alire Sáenz has created a literary gem that stands as a testament to the power of young adult literature. Its exploration of profound and universal themes in an accessible and relatable way is a triumph. This is a book that will remain in your heart long after you've read the final page. The novel is a poignant and thought-provoking masterpiece that transcends the boundaries of the young adult genre. Its themes of identity, friendship, and self-discovery are timeless and resonate with readers of all ages. Benjamin Alire Sáenz's storytelling is a treasure in the world of contemporary literature. He encourages readers to explore empathy, acceptance, and the power of self-discovery. "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe" is a tale of love, friendship, and the quest for self-acceptance. Its narrative lingers in your heart, inspiring self-reflection and empathy long after you've turned the last page. This is a book that has the power to change lives, and its enduring impact makes it an essential addition to any reader's bookshelf. It's a testament to the enduring power of literature to touch the human soul and illuminate the human experience.



**- Ritika Devrani (MBA)  
[School of Management]**



# Movie Review



*"If you want a happy ending, that depends, of course, on where you stop your story."*

**-Orson Welles**

I recently watched a film that introduced me to the world of Studio Ghibli, a renowned name in the world of animation. The film falls under the genre of fantasy/adventure and portrays the journey of the protagonist in a world of spirits. I was in awe of the precision and richness of each frame of this movie. The film's visuals are a sight for sore eyes. The protagonist, Chihiro, is initially portrayed as an impatient and sullen 10-year-old girl. However, her character development throughout the film impressed me the most. She learns to lead her way into this unfamiliar world, and her passion to return to her world is evident throughout the movie. Her kind nature is also shown in many instances. It is impressive to see how she slowly and steadily overcomes her dilemma. In the end, her efforts pay off as she can return to her world with nothing but the memories and thrill of the adventure she experienced and how she almost was spirited away. Overall, this film was a captivating and impressive watch.

**- Khushi Singh (BA English)  
[School of Languages]**



(A still from the movie, 'Spirited Away')

*"Nothing that happens is ever forgotten, even if you can't remember it"*

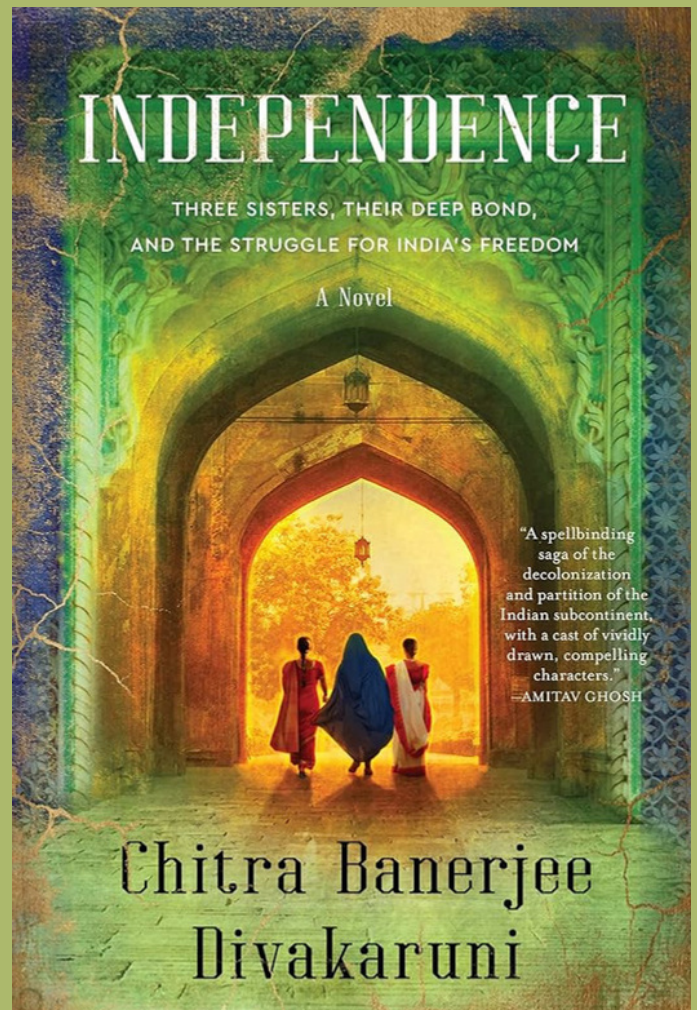
(Zaniba, Spirited Away).

# Independence

**-Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**

I highly recommend *Independence* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni for its thought-provoking exploration of history, identity, and social justice. *Independence* invites readers to reflect on the multiplicity of voices within the independence movement and the enduring resilience of women in the face of adversity. With its engaging characters and insightful commentary, "Independence" is sure to spark meaningful discussions and deepen our understanding of India's journey to independence. Published in 2023, this book offers valuable insights into the intersections of gender, class, and nationalism during a pivotal moment in history.

- Dr. Chetana Pokhriyal  
Head, Department of English  
Dean, School of Languages  
Chairperson, ICC and Women's Cell  
Coordinator, Cultural Committee



Set during the partition of India in 1947, a time when neighbor was pitted against neighbor and families were torn apart, award-winning author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's novel brings to life the sweeping story of three sisters caught up in events beyond their control, their unbreakable bond, and their struggle against powerful odds.

# Poem Review

## "Bequest" by Eunice de Souza

*"For most of history, anonymous was a woman"*

**-Virginia Woolf**



Eunice de Souza's poem "Bequest", appeared in a notable poetry collection, *Ways of Belonging: Selected Poems*, published in 1990. In the poem, poet artfully employs vivid imagery of Christ holding his bleeding heart, to suggest that the attributes like sacrifice, compassion and humility associated with Christ, can be seen as similar to the women who embody same characteristics and scarify themselves in this patriarchal society. The poet reflects on how society imposes various dominations on women to follow certain standards and norms set by the society. The poet criticizes society for taking away the individuality of women by adhering them to constructed moral standards and making them puppets in the hands of the authority. Who misguides the women, by suggesting them to flow with the society and accept whatever comes their way. As these men are themselves afraid and miserable, what if these women will once find the right way and one day, they might take away their powers? So, they want them to be lost. The poet awakens the women to rise from all these forms of suppression. And through her poem, she also tries to give a new meaning to the term "wise women", according to her this is a form of disillusionment as it submits the women to the idealized expectations. The poet suggests that to become wise one must question society which will make them empowered. The poet advises all women to for bequeathing their hearts which they have been long embracing and they must give their hearts to the enemy rather than a friend. Through this, the poet implies that the one who looks like a friend is always disguised as an enemy. Therefore, this poem invites all women to reflect on the complexities of society and withdraw themselves from these burdens. Also embrace self-love and self-acceptance to become an individual identity.



**- Ms Aporwa Siwali  
Research Scholar  
Dept. Of English**



*Photography*



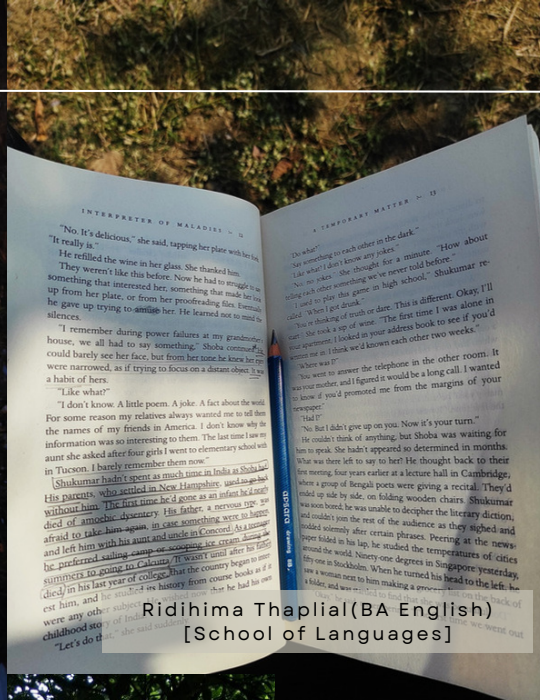
Anish Rawat(M.A German)  
[School of Languages]



PEGASUS



Ridhima Thapliyal(BA English)  
[School of Languages]



Ridhima Thapliyal(BA English)  
[School of Languages]



Rasha Siddiqui(BAEnglish)  
[School of Languages]



Rasha Siddiqui(BAEnglish)  
[School of Languages]



Rasha Siddiqui(BAEnglish)  
[School of Languages]



Ridhima Thapliyal(BA English)  
[School of Languages]



Rasha Siddiqui(BAEnglish)  
[School of Languages]



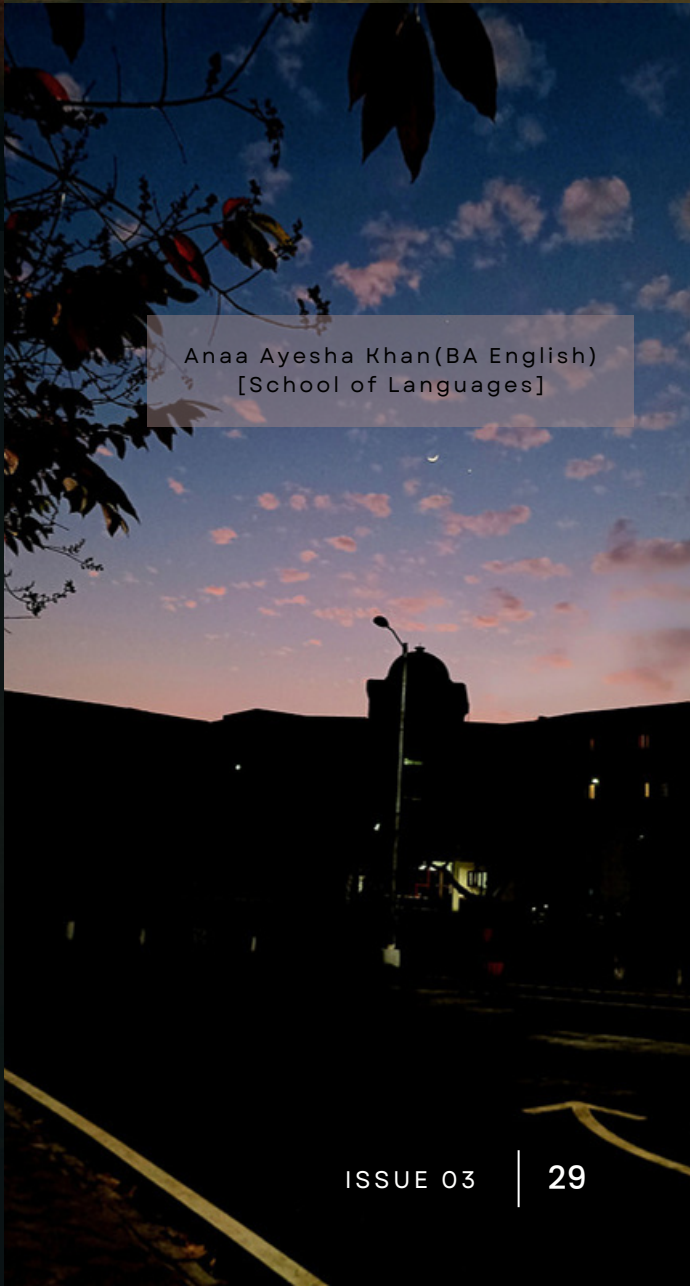
Anaa Ayesha Khan(BA English)  
[School of Languages]



Ridhima Thapliyal(BA English)  
[School of Languages]



Ridhima Thapliyal (BA English)  
[School of Languages]



Anaa Ayesha Khan(BA English)  
[School of Languages]



*Interviews*



# अलंकार



— “ —

*“He took his pain and turned it into something beautiful. Into something that people connect to. And that’s what good music does. It speaks to you. It changes you”*

*- Hannah Harrington, Saving June*

— ” —



In a world where music takes centre stage, it's no surprise that there's a thriving community of musicians and music lovers at Doon University, and at the heart of it all is the Music Club, अलंकार.

अलंकार translates to ‘ornament’, which is certainly a suitable name for the club which is no less than a jewel to the University and its students. From open mics to listening sessions and discussions about music theory, the club offers something for everyone who loves music. The Music Club Convener, Mansha Dhyani, sat down for an interview to share more about the club and what it means to be a member. She told us about how after participating in the college events she got to know about the club and became a member of it “There already were a lot of good people in the club, the students as well as the faculty members involved, so overall it was a lovely experience being a member of this club” she explained. Ms Dhyani also talked about how she wanted the students to get rid of the stage fear and discussed how they wanted to organise more workshops and events to provide a platform for those who want to perform. We had a word with the Co-covener, Yash Kashyap, and he shared his views on the same.

“My experience of being a member of Alankaar has been amazing, in future I hope that we can organize as many workshops as we can for we want students to have the freedom of expressing their talent and skill”, Yash shared. We had a chance to talk to the student representatives Priyanshi Pokhriyal, Shubham Singh Bisht and Siddarth Bangari, they shared their thoughts about their passion for music. “I was passionate about music so I joined Alankaar so in future I hope that I see more people like me, people who can fulfil here” Priyanshi explained.

Alankar, the music club of Doon University, hosted an open mic event on 6 March 2024. The event consisted of 8 performances by those who were interested, the entries were taken from an online portal that the club itself organised. This event was a stress reliever for the students and all the musical minds of the university, the students performed with a lot of zeal and passion.

All those who participated gave a mindblowing performance. Songs of love, devotion and passion, were sung. The atmosphere was full of joy and energy as the students danced and sang together in oneness.

She also talked about how her mother is her inspiration for pursuing music. Shubham Singh Bisht told us about his musical journey with Alankaar, “My favourite thing about music is the way it has allowed me to connect with others, express emotions, and create lasting memories with the talented members of Alankaar ” he said.

Siddarth Bangari also shared his views on the future that he sees for the club, “The future looks strong and I’m waiting for the new bees to enter the 2024 session which opens up a huge space with new potential and talent coming across Alankaar.”

The members of Alankaar also shared their sentiments with us while sharing about their AIU journeys with us. “The college and the club provided us with a lot of exposure and opportunities to perform along with the chance to participate in the All India University events,” Devashish Bhatt shared.



Nandini Pandey also shared her views on being a member of Alankaar, “A senior had introduced me to this club, and other members such as Arushi Thapa, Nandini Pundir, Vignesh Thapa, Kartikey and Yash had also put in a lot of effort into making Alankaar what it is today and despite having limited resources, Alankaar never fails to put up a fantastic show, so that is ”.my favourite thing about this club

We would like to thank all the members for sharing their views and sentiments with us. Alankaar is as precious to its members as it is to the entire university. We wish them all the luck for their future prospects and goals!

– Alankaar, Doon University

# DRAMEBAAZ



*"Dramebaaz is not a theatre club; it is a dynamic force for creativity, dialogue, and social change. We are proud of our contributions to both the university and society, and we look forward to continuing our journey of artistic exploration and community engagement."*

**-Srijan Dangwal, Convener**

Being one of the most elite forms of art, theatre has stuck with humans for centuries. It provides and showcases a display of history and human nature. This is what leads to the emotional connection between the audience and theatre as an art form making it easier for people to relate. The theatre helps in self-discovery, expression, and education and enhances creativity. Dramebaaz is the theatre club of Doon University. They never fail to amaze the people with their remarkable acting and wit. Over the years they have tried out various forms of theatre and performed them in front of an audience that is ever so supportive and always looking forward to their shows. We got into conversation with some of the members about their experience as a member of the club. They described their initial experience as thrilling and exciting. The club helped them channel their inner and outer emotions which further helped them grow as human beings. The club is also a headstart, especially for artists who wish to pursue theatre in the future. When asked about their reason for joining the club, we received a medley of great answers. Anshuman mentioned being inspired by Joaquin Phoenix's performance in his film 'Joker'. Being able to connect with the character and the acting was what led him to pursue acting himself. The power an actor holds in moving someone is truly phenomenal. Some members were influenced by their family members who always kept them near theatre art.

*"I love being on stage and the thought of the audience's eyes being on me makes my adrenaline rush."*

— Ayush Singh Chauhan

*"I was chasing fun and thrill, and theater offered it all."*

— Kanishka Uniyal

## -HIGHLIGHT-

### - What is the most difficult part of being an artist?

I would say that the most difficult thing is to retain your identity and to not get influenced by the identity of the character. Also, coming to your natural self after being a character is a tough job. (Srijan Joshi)

### - What kind of roles do you like to play ?

I don't put any restrictions to my opportunities so there is nothing like a favourite play. Also, different roles provide different opportunities and different challenges which I love to overcome. So every role is a new experience. (Kanishka Uniyal)

### - How do you lead a group of artists?

I try to recognize the artist on the basis of what talent and skills they have, whatever form of art it may be. Then I try to refine their skills. And, about the leading part I think that our artists themselves know the way to lead themselves and thus it does not require an external effort. (Srijan Joshi)

Every person in this world has a story, a story that can change the world, a story that can bring a tsunami on a shore many kilometres ahead of us, and a story that is so internal yet so powerful that it can change the world entirely. At Dramebaaz, we want every individual to acknowledge the power of their story and help themselves in fighting within their own selves.

Our motive for this year has been focused on mental health issues that all of us go through alone. In our workshops, we tried to work on personality development as well as fighting the demons of anxiety and depression that haunts us. As the convener of Dramebaaz, I would feel immense happiness if, during my leadership I was able to bring a positive change in anyone's life. I feel more than blessed when students, after our workshops, came to me and spoke about how great and relieved they felt after the workshops.

Within the university, Dramebaaz has been a vibrant hub of creativity, providing students with opportunities to explore their talents in acting, directing, stage design, and more. Our productions have not only entertained but also sparked important conversations on pressing social issues, fostering a culture of critical thinking and empathy among our peers.

Honestly, I feel very blessed that this was my second session as the convener of the club (Previously, I've led the club in 2019-2020). Any person who joins the Dramebaaz family becomes a member of this close knit family instantly. I would want the Dramebaaz legacy to continue for years, and whoever gets the opportunity to lead the club after me should continue the great work we've done till now. In the next 10 years, I wish to see Dramebaaz thriving and helping many others who become a part of this family!

**-Srijan Dangwal,Convener**

*"My mother once told me that keen observation is the only thing that you need for good acting as it helps us to trace the style of another person."*  
 -Yash

*"I wanted to influence people and good acting has a huge impact on people what added onto the reason to be in Dramebaaz."*  
 - Srijan Joshi

Q) How do you feel about leading the Cultural Committee as the representative?

It's new for me and also challenging because it's a big responsibility but we have such brilliant and potential clubs in our committee, so honest about their job that working just gets really easy and fun.

Q) What made you join the club, Dramebaaz?

Well when i think about it, at first I joined it because it was fascinating for me. Coming to the University had suddenly given me the urge to become a part of a nurturing community full of talent and art. Dance,music and debates were still familiar but theatre seemed new and exciting.

Also my urge to be confident and be presentable in public also created a buzz about theatre and it actually helped a lot. Also I joined Vatsalya with the same intent to groom myself and gain the confidence to be comfortable on stage. After 2 years of being in this University, I feel these activities have shaped me a lot.

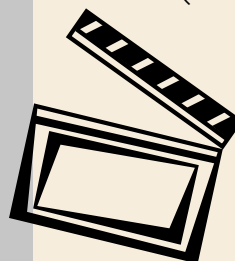
Q) What are your aims for the upcoming ventures?

The Cultural Committee has always worked for finding the hidden talent among the students and it will continue to work on building self confidence, and giving a sane space to the young minds. Also we are here to entertain the masses and motivate them to become a part of this family.

**- Sanyam Bisht  
 Student Representative, Cultural Committee**



"कहानियों को संगठित करता, नाटक का अंदाज़ हूँ।  
 हर किरदार को सुशोभित करता,  
 मैं "ड्रामेबाज़" हूँ।"



# NATRAJ

*"Dance is a language beyond words, expressing that for which we have words." - Jennifer De Leon*



Dance is a universal expression of creativity, passion, and emotion. It has the power to bring people together and create a lasting impression. At universities, dance clubs allow students to channel their creativity, learn new skills, and forge lifelong friendships. One such club is Natraj, a dance club at Doon University.

We sat down with some members of Natraj to learn more about the club and what it means to them. "Fostering a sense of community within Natraj is paramount. I envision creating a supporting environment where every member feels valued, heard and encouraged to explore their potential. Personal qualities such as empathy, communication skills, and a genuine love for dance contribute to effective leadership in our dance-focused organisation.



By organising regular events, workshops, and team-building activities, we can strengthen our bonds and create a vibrant dance community," Shubhi, the convener of Natraj shared. "My journey with dance has deeply influenced my leadership style and approach to managing Natraj Dance Club. Through years of dancing, I've learned the importance of dedication, perseverance, and collaboration. These experiences have shaped me into a leader who values inclusivity, creativity and continuous learning," Sakshi Rawat, the Co-convener of Natraj shared.

Another member of Natraj, Ishan Ramola, says, "For strengthening the bond and collaboration between the clubs and organizations, we can conduct workshops and joint events where all the clubs can come together like the Janmashtami event." The impact of dance on individuals and communities is undeniable. According to studies, dance can positively affect physical and mental health, creativity, and social connections.

"Balancing personal dance style and preferences with diverse interests of the club members requires sensitivity and flexibility. As the president of Natraj, I prioritize inclusivity and diversity in choreography, music selection, and dance styles.

"Shubhi adds, "I encourage members to share their ideas and talents, fostering a collaborative environment where everyone feels empowered to contribute. By embracing variety and celebrating individually, we cultivate an inclusive and dynamic dance environment where every member can thrive."

We hope for Natraj to have a successful future and wish them luck in all their prospects!

- Team Natraj



# Vatsalya



*"He who wants to persuade should put his trust, not in the right argument, but the right word. The power of sound has always been greater than the power of sense."*

*- Joseph Conard*

Oration, the art of public speaking, has been linked to success for centuries. From ancient Greece and Rome to modern-day politics and business, successful people have used oration to inspire, persuade, and lead others. Every person, at least once in their life, gets a chance to speak in front of a group of people. Public speaking doesn't always mean giving a speech, it is also related to other activities such as leading a meeting, pitching a proposal in a meeting, or narrating a story.



One develops leadership skills through public speaking. A leader's worth is enhanced by confident speech. A good speaker makes a better leader, and the two skills are interlinked. Starting a student at a young age to speak effectively will help them in connecting with the audience whilst motivating them.



Vatsalya, our debating society provides a forum through which students can polish their analytical and oration skills. The ability to understand, analyse and form opinions and express one's thoughts is an enriching experience and gives unmatched opportunities to fulfill your aspirations. The club proposes to hold workshops on debating and oration skills to prepare students for further competitions. The club has brought home many awards from numerous competitions and intends to continue their glory in the future.

*"No sentence can be effective if it contains facts alone. It must also contain emotion, image, logic and promise."*

*- Eugene M. Schwartz*

We got into conversation with the key members of the club to know about their journey and experience in the club and university.

## Sanjana (Convener of Vatsalya)

*Sanjana's journey in the realm of oratory is a testament to the transformative power of self-reflection and perseverance. She recounts a pivotal moment during her foray into Model United Nations (MUN) debates at Delhi University, where she found herself in a humbling position of silence amidst formidable debaters. Instead of succumbing to defeat, Sanjana embraced this setback as an opportunity for introspection and growth. And today she's taking a full flight with her wings. In her role as Co-Convener, Sanjana embodies the essence of leadership—a blend of vision, empathy, and unwavering commitment. She leads by example, infusing her interactions with compassion and understanding. A spirit fueled by passion, tempered by adversity, and illuminated by the transformative power of empathy and community, she continues to navigate the intricate tapestry of oratory.*



Jaya Sharma's journey as the Student Representative (SR) of Vatsalya epitomizes a profound commitment to personal growth and community. Her motivation to assume this role stems from a deep-seated desire to infuse her student life with purpose and connection. Recognizing Vatsalya not merely as a club but as a cherished family, Jaya saw the SR position as an opportunity to deepen her ties with this community and gain insights into the intricacies of leadership.

Under Jaya's stewardship, Vatsalya has become a crucible for personal and professional development. Among the myriad experiences within Vatsalya, one particular moment stands out as a beacon of inspiration for Jaya—the night following Vatsalya's inaugural national debate. Despite impending academic obligations, she found herself immersed in a vibrant tapestry of cultural exchange and intellectual discourse. Surrounded by esteemed participants from prestigious universities, Jaya's realization of the vast expanse of knowledge and experiences awaiting exploration reaffirmed her purpose within Vatsalya.



Nidhi's journey as a student representative for Vatsalya is fueled by a profound passion for the art of public speaking—a passion that transcends mere interest to become a driving force behind her commitment to the club. Embracing her role with fervor, she finds herself propelled towards personal growth and self-discovery.

As the SR of Vatsalya, Nidhi has embraced a myriad of responsibilities, each contributing to her holistic development as an individual. Through her interactions within the club, she has learned the value of active listening, kindness, and unwavering optimism—a testament to the transformative power of leadership and service.

Among the kaleidoscope of experiences within Vatsalya, one particular moment stands out with vivid clarity—the Janmashtmi event held last September. Here, amidst the vibrant tapestry of cultural festivities, Nidhi found herself tasked with a performance from 'RASHMIRATHI' by Ramdhari Singh Dinkar. This experience, while challenging, served as a catalyst for personal growth and self-discovery, allowing Nidhi to expand her comfort zone under the tutelage of esteemed mentors.

- Team Vatsalya





*Prose*

# A Memoir : Create the life you want - Make it Happen!

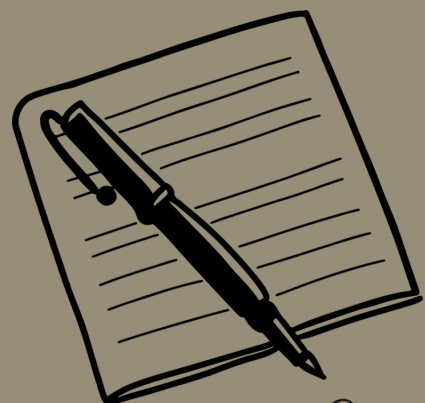


My heart is filled with joy as I write my thoughts and share my experience. Most often we find ourselves in situations where we either ignore or avoid what we really want or what makes us happy. Moreover, we tend to think about others, the society, then to decide what is actually important for us. We put off doing things telling ourselves that this might not be the right time or age, or continuing the same things just because we have invested so much time and energy or waiting for a miracle to happen. And sometimes it's the fear of failure or self doubt that stops us from doing the things that we need to do for OURSELVES. I was going through a similar situation when a friend of mine reminded me of the announcement that we generally hear in the aeroplane "put your oxygen mask on first, before helping others!" He asked me, "How can you help others or be there for others if you don't put on your mask first? It starts with you. Right?" The same night I penned down what I wanted to do at this point of time in my life, what would make me happy and most importantly the steps I have to follow to accomplish that. Trust me it was entirely opposite then what I have been doing since last 10 years of my life (or more then that). And that is how a new journey began and it included getting a Masters degree in French. I started applying to universities, I appeared for the DELF exams – prerequisite for the admission in the language courses. I passed 2 levels in the same year – both Elementary ( A2) and Intermediate level (B1) in 2023. It's been 3 months since I moved to Dehradun to pursue my Masters. Coming here meant leaving behind the world that I knew. It was totally uncomfortable in the beginning to adjust with new routines, attending lectures, examinations, climate, household chores and being surrounded by unknown people. But as they say life begins at the end of your comfort zone. Everything may not work out as we planned but that is how it works, and that is how being in a new place prepares you for life (even if you do not realise it), we learn to take charge of our life, we make some wonderful friends who might be there for the rest of our lives, and above all we gather some wonderful experiences that we cherish for a lifetime. As for Dehradun, it was not love at first sight but definitely at the second! What if I fall? But darling what if you fly. No matter where you are in your life, you can turn it around in an instant by making a new choice. It does not matter where you start or how hard you fall. What matters is getting back up and putting in the right efforts to be what you want to be – to create the life you want to live!

I am not saying that you take bold steps overnight but encouraging you to take the small steps in the right direction. To sit with yourself ; to ask yourself ; and to do things that make you happy even if it means learning a music instrument; prioritise yourself ; your health – both mental & physical. All you need is a person - just a person who speaks to you with honesty and love, a person who trusts you; who can elevate your mind, body and soul, a person who believes in you so much that all your dreams are evolving into reality. And that person needs to be YOU. Know that you are whole and complete entirely on your own. You are capable of creating the life you want to live and become the person you most desire. Nothing in this world is permanent. It doesn't matter who you used to be; what matters is who you decide to be today. You can decide today and at every moment of your life. You are offered with new opportunities with each breath to think, to choose, to decide and to act differently. It is never too late to be who you always wanted to be.

*I will leave you with one question that you need to answer for yourself – where do you come in your priority list?*

**- Preeti Malhotra (MA French)**  
[School of Languages]



# THE POWER OF SACRIFICE

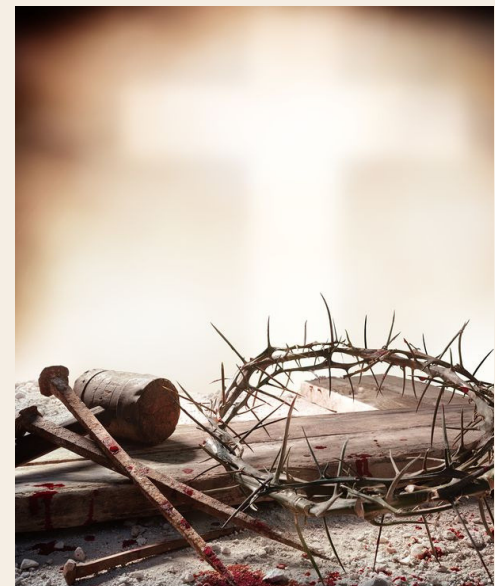
## A PATH TO PERSONAL GROWTH AND COLLECTIVE PROSPERITY

Sacrifice, a concept deeply rooted in human history and culture, has been a driving force behind many great achievements, both on an individual and societal level. While the idea of giving up something valuable for a higher purpose may seem daunting, it is through sacrifice that we often discover the true essence of humanity, resilience, and progress. In this article, we will explore the various dimensions of sacrifice, its significance in our lives, and how it can lead to personal growth and collective prosperity. Sacrifice can take many forms, from personal sacrifices like foregoing immediate pleasures for long-term goals to more significant societal sacrifices for the greater good. At its core, it involves making a conscious decision to give up something valuable, be it time, resources, comfort, or personal desires. This act of selflessness is not only admirable but can also have profound effects on both the giver and the recipient.

Sacrifice often requires individuals to push beyond their comfort zones. In doing so, they develop resilience and determination, which are crucial attributes for personal growth. Whether it's sacrificing leisure time to study for exams or investing time in a challenging project, the journey of sacrifice builds character. Sacrifice forces us to examine our values and priorities. It prompts us to question what truly matters in our lives. As we willingly give up one thing for another, we align our actions with our core beliefs, leading to a more purpose-driven life. Many great achievements are born from the sacrifice of time and effort to develop skills. Artists, athletes, scientists, and professionals alike must invest countless hours honing their craft, often at the expense of other activities. In many religious traditions, sacrifice plays a significant role. For example, in Christianity, the belief is that Jesus sacrificed himself for the salvation of humanity.

**IF YOU DON'T SACRIFICE FOR WHAT YOU WANT,  
WHAT YOU WANT BECOMES THE SACRIFICE**

In Hinduism, sacrifices, or "yagnas," are performed to seek divine blessings. These acts of sacrifice are often seen as acts of devotion and selflessness. Sacrifice can be a means of personal growth and development. By giving up immediate gratification or comfort for a greater purpose, individuals can learn discipline, resilience, and the value of delayed rewards.



Sacrifice is often required to maintain strong family bonds and relationships. Parents may sacrifice their personal desires for the well-being of their children, and couples may make sacrifices for the success of their relationships. Achieving long-term goals often requires sacrifices. This might include sacrificing leisure time to study for exams, giving up unhealthy habits for better health, or investing time and effort into a business to make it successful.

People who make sacrifices for their communities or society at large can bring about positive change. Activists, volunteers, and philanthropists often give up their time and resources for the greater good.

Saving money and making financial sacrifices, such as cutting unnecessary expenses, can lead to financial security and the ability to invest in future goals. Sacrifice is closely linked to resilience. It's the ability to endure hardships and setbacks, knowing that the sacrifices made will ultimately lead to better outcomes. The power of sacrifice lies in its ability to bring about personal growth, positive change, and the achievement of long-term goals. Whether in the realm of religion, relationships, leadership, or personal development, the willingness to make sacrifices is often a key to success and fulfilment. Sacrifice is not limited to the individual it plays a vital role in the betterment of society.

Individuals, organizations, and governments often make sacrifices for the common good. These sacrifices lead to societal progress, whether through funding public infrastructure, promoting equality, or addressing environmental issues. Sacrifice is a fundamental aspect of human nature that can lead to personal growth and collective prosperity. It challenges individuals to evolve, develop resilience, and align their lives with their values. At the same time, it fosters societal progress, encourages philanthropy, and promotes environmental stewardship. By understanding and embracing the power of sacrifice, we can create a better world for ourselves and future generations.

**-Arundhati Bisht (BA English)  
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# The Quest of being a Student of English Literature in India



*"If you're coming across words in books that you don't know of, read more books. You'll find out what they mean; don't mug up dictionaries." –*



Said Shashi Tharoor in one of his interviews to the digital video publisher Brut India, pioneering in the area of e-journalism. Listening to Mr. Tharoor has always been an experience; an experience of learning; an experience of knowing and growing. As an Indian speaker of English, always swinging between the American and British pronunciations, it is a troublesome task to establish ourselves on the spectrum of this lingua franca. Mr. Tharoor has been the epitome of being an Indian native as well as an English speaker for the naive generations of students, scholars and academicians. His jargonistic form of speech, filled with humongous words, vividly narrated anecdotes and beautifully crafted phrases, leaves everyone in awe; often creating a golden ceiling that everyone wishes to at least touch, if not break apart. This ceiling is not of meanings so to speak, but of ideas. The ideas that we as 'literatis' wish to convey. These ideas however aren't that simple that they seem to be. The words formed by syllables, craft themselves into phrases that eventually form the makeup of a sentence and then we get a paragraph. These sentences, to some are merely a mode of communication, but for some is so much more than just it. They carry feelings. The feelings can be communicated; yes, they can be. But do they even? This dilemma is what a far fetched interior conundrum of a literature lover, a literati sounds like.

"To be or not to be, that is the question", becomes the forever motto and questioning becomes the forever act of being. This is what literature does to you; it makes you question. It makes you turn and toil; think and rethink; burn and boil; all together, all at once. But what if this plethora of ideas and feelings is in a language that is not our own? What if it is the legacy of those who tormented our forefathers and brought an era of turmoil and atrocities? Feeling and expressing those feelings becomes a guilty job when your chosen language is owned by those who once owned you. This is what being an English speaker and a student of English literature is all about. Angrez chale gaye, inhe chhod ke chale gaye (The British left the country but left these people behind), often said for those who even choose to speak a word or two in this foreign tongue with vigour, interest and ownership. This ownership is often questioned. "Why English? Why not Hindi?", "Why a language of those who ruled us?", "It is a stunt to gain attention?", are just some of the pointless and striking questions that we are bombarded with whenever we wish to quote Shakespeare and not Premchand; Keats and not Kumar Vishwas. The decision of choosing literature studies in English has been a similar experience. The journey started from reading Frankenstein as a mere non-fiction and reached to understanding the profound evidence of queer theory between the creator and the creation. But what was always questioned has not been this vigour of understanding but the vigour of understanding it in 'English'. Options ranged from Mahadevi Verma to Ramdhari Singh Dinkar but what became the topic of debate and discussion was Samuel Johnson and Oscar Wilde. Superficially it all seems very normal and usual to being a student of English Literature.



But the responsibility of owning this language and surpassing its colonial connotation has been a tedious one indeed. To make this language our own has become the priority of everyone who wishes to be referred to as an Indian speaker of English language rather than a mere angrez. This brings the idea of ownership into consideration. The ownership of this foreign language is the first goal that needs to be fulfilled and everything else follows. How has this ownership evolved with a period of time is a story that we all learn and experience throughout our journey of being a student of English Literature.

This journey may start from the English writers but slowly and very steadily transcends towards the Indian authors. Everyone who once drooled over Jane Austen's women characters eventually fell in love with what Arundhati Roy pioneered into making through *The God of Small Things*; Dickens' descriptive illustrations progress towards reading Amitav Ghosh and Salman Rushdie. This journey encompasses all sorts of challenges and moments of muddles. Reading about one's own land in a foreign tongue; another's land in the foreign tongue; foreign land, foreign tongue but an Indian speaker, everything mixes and matches and what we all get is an amalgamation of what flowers as an experience. This experience is often surrounded by an enigma of judgement. This judgement forever and always scaffolds us; during writing; reading; understanding; analysing; and critiquing. Are we even qualified enough to question the foreign tongue? Or are we even qualified enough to understand it in the first place? Such questions remain omnipresent and need to be overlooked with confidence and enthusiasm. What Raja Rao presented through *Kanthapura* becomes a motto: "we cannot write like them, we should not. We have our own tempo and we rush with our thoughts as well as our speech". And this is what keeps every Indian student of English literature going; the quest of owning a language that is thought to be owned by those who once owned us.

- Khushi Yadav (BA English)  
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# To those that are leaving, in my heart you will always stay

*This little piece is a dedication to every student, who now stands on the brink of farewell. This is to every Didi, every Bhaiya and every person that I could earn. To every little hi or bye that I have shared with you while on the run. This is for you.*

*Special mentions – Harini Akka, Zaiba Appi, Kartikey and Yash.*



Dear you, who now stands on the brink of farewell, I bid you well. Through the course of this new life, I hope you fare well. This collision of our worlds had to happen, this collision of acquaintanceship, of camaraderie, of everything that comes in between from starting off as strangers to standing on the pedestal of comradeship, had to happen. And I'm glad it did happen. I now have a little more things to cherish, a little more reasons to laugh about and a little more tears to shed – tear of joy, I meant. This message is just a little pat on your shoulder, for you to feel proud of how far you have made in your life. This is a cwtch for you, because perhaps the only warmth that can transcend time, space and memory, is the warmth of right words. This message is for you to know, that somewhere this shall always exist like a little cheerleader, in the background, cheering with extreme pride for having known you. This will hope and pray that in every land of unfamiliarity you plant yourself in, you sprout and bloom. For now, what once bloomed has now reached it's autumn and the branches that once held onto you, now prepare to shed you, and sway with the wind to wave you a good bye. And you, with grace, faith and the zeal to start anew, must dance away, as far as the wind carries you. I hope gently, it carries you.

So take a lesson from this fall. Know that when the time is right, as hard it is, one must let go. And so here I stand, for the last word with you. Learn from this bark, to stand tall, to stay grounded and firm in your belief, even when this new coming phase shakes you and scares you with uncertainty. Hold firm onto your roots, with clarity and know that nothing will then be able to uproot you. No pouring world can then drench you. Hold firm onto the belief that spring will come again. Because for you another spring is certainly coming. A fresh start awaits you. And you, must go on.

*"This day has ended. It is closing upon us even as the water lily upon its own tomorrow . . . Farewell to you and the youth I have spent with you . . .*

*And if our hands should meet in another dream we shall build another tower in the sky . . ." – Khalil Gibran | The Prophet*

Thank you for all the beautiful memories.

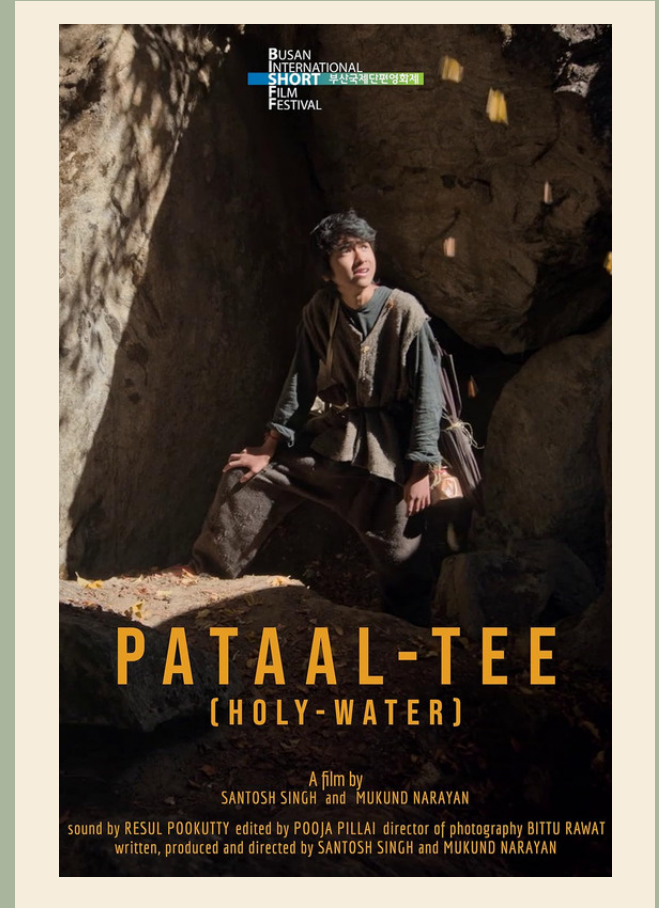
Thank you for making this phase of life a little more worthwhile. Sad it is, that this cannot continue for evermore but contented I am, for having known you.

**- Anaa Ayesha Khan (BA English)**  
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# पाताल टी : पहाड़ों की कहानियाँ बड़े पर्दे पर।

उत्तराखण्ड के लोक में बहुत से किस्से-कहानियाँ हैं जिसके माध्यम से यहाँ की कला और संस्कृति को राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर दिखाए जाने की सोच इस परि कल्पना का आधार रही। जब हम वर्ल्ड सिनेमा देखते हैं और उत्तराखण्ड के सिनेमा को म्यूजिक वीडियो में जिस तरह से दिखाया जा रहा था, अधिकांशतः उसे देख कर बेहद निराशा महसूस होने लगी थी तो विचार आया कि क्यों न हम एक प्रयोग कर उदाहरण के बतौर इस तरह की यहाँ के लोक से जुड़ी किसी कहानी पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की एक फ़िल्म बनाएं जो उत्तराखण्ड की फ़िल्मों और सिनेमा के प्रति सोच को बदल सके ताकि उत्तराखण्ड को राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर एक अलग पहचान मिल सके जिससे यहाँ की नैसर्गिक खूबसूरती के साथ-साथ यहाँ की संस्कृति भी एक नए फलक तक लेजा सके। इस कथानक का चुनाव इसलिए किया गया क्योंकि यह लगभग 60-70 वर्ष पुराने कालखंड को प्रतिबिंबित करता है और बजट व फ़िल्मांकन के लिहाज से इस में कम पात्र थे। यह कहानी हमारी आदिवासी भोटिया भाषा पर आधारित थी, जिसके माध्यम से हम कला के साथ-साथ स्थानीय बोली-भाषा में फ़िल्म बनाकर भाषाओं के बाधक होने के मिथक को तोड़ना चाह रहे थे। दुनियाँ में सिनेमा चाहें किसी भी भाषा में बने उसका फ़िल्मांकन और कथ्य महत्वपूर्ण होता है। क्योंकि फ़िल्म की पूरी पृष्ठभूमि उच्च हिमालयी क्षेत्र और भोटिया जनजातियों पर आधारित थी स्वाभाविक रूप से उसी क्षेत्र के पात्रों का चयन करना जरूरी था, ताकि हर तरह से पात्र कहानी में फिट हो सकें।



**मुख्य कलाकार - आयुष  
निर्देशक - संतोष रावत**

इसके लिए गोपेश्वर की अक्षत नाट्य संस्था से सम्पर्क कर पात्रों का चयन और प्रशिक्षण दिया गया। नीति घाटी के गाँव कोसा, गमसाली आदि के लोगों के साथ-साथ एक्सिक््यूटिव प्रोड्यूसर गजेन्द्र रौतेला और लाइन प्रोड्यूसर रजत बर्त्वाल को कोविड लॉकडाउन के कारण सामग्री जुटाने में बेहद परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ा। यहाँ तक कि विशेष अनुमति लेकर 24 घण्टे के भीतर दिल्ली से शूटिंग के लिए कैमरे, लेंस आदि जैसी महत्वपूर्ण सामग्री को एकत्र कर लाना रहा जिसे सिनेमेटोग्राफर दिव्यांशु रौतेला ने पूरा किया। फ़िल्मांकन के लिए क्षेत्र पहले से ही चिन्हित किया गया था, जिसके लिए नीति घाटी और रुद्रनाथ घाटी का निर्देशक संतोष रावत और लाइन प्रोड्यूसर रजत बर्त्वाल द्वारा पहले ही कई बार जाकर रेकी कर ली गई थी। मौसमानुकूल धूप, पानी, बादल, घास का रंग और कौओं की उपलब्धता आदि का बेहद बारीकी से अनुमान किया गया था ताकि फ़िल्म के हर फ्रेम को प्राकृतिक दृश्यों और रंगों के साथ बेहद खूबसूरती और जीवंतता के साथ फिल्माया जा सके।



फ़िल्म के अधिकांश दृश्यों की मांग के अनुसार उच्च हिमालयी क्षेत्र में लगभग 3000 मीटर से 4000 मीटर तक की ऊँचाई के आसपास की पहाड़ियों पर इसके दृश्य फिल्माए जाने थे, जहाँ पहुंचना किसी चुनौती से कम नहीं था। हर दिन बेहद मुश्किल से ढीले पथरों की खड़ी चढ़ाई पार करना पूरी टीम के लिए बेहद कठिन काम रहा। स्थानीय मौसम को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रत्येक दिन सुबह लगभग 4 बजे से चढ़ाई चढ़ना शुरू कर दिया जाता था ताकि दोपहर तक बादलों के आने से पहले शूटिंग पूरी हो सके क्योंकि पूरी फिल्म में प्राकृतिक प्रकाश महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। इसके अतिरिक्त उच्च हिमालयी क्षेत्र में कैमरे सहित और अन्य इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों की बैट्री ठंड के कारण बेहद कम वक्त के लिए ही चल पाती थी जिसके लिए इतनी ऊंचाई पर एक तकनीकी जुगाड़ बनाकर इसका समाधान किया गया, जिसमें पहाड़ी के निचले भाग में धूप वाले स्थान और सोलर की प्लेटें रखी गईं, और ऊंचाई वाले स्थान पर कंप्यूटर के यू0 पी0एस0 के साथ उन्हें जोड़कर इन उपकरणों को थोड़ी-थोड़ी देरके लिए चार्ज करा जाता था और फिर शूट करते समय लगातार इसी प्रक्रिया से काम पूरा किया गया। पूरी टीम का यह एक अलग तरह का अनुभव रहा। इसके अतिरिक्त सीमांत क्षेत्र होने के कुछ विभागों की लिखित अनुमति लेना भी जरूरी काम रहा। इसके अतिरिक्त बहुत सी आर्थिक चुनौतिया सामने आई जिसे फ़िल्म प्रेमियों और दोस्तों की छोटी छोटी आर्थिक मदद से पूरा किया गया। सबसे अधिक आर्थिक चुनौती उस वक़्त सामने आई जब इस फ़िल्म का चयन बुसान और मॉस्को अंतरराष्ट्रीय फ़िल्म फेस्टिवल में प्रदर्शन के लिए हुआ। यह जानकारी प्राप्त कर सभी को बहुत खुशी हुई लेकिन वहाँ तक आने-जाने की हवाई यात्रा के टिक के पैसे न थे। हर तरह से सरकारी मदद लेने की कोशिश की गई, हर संभव दरवाजे खटखटाए लेकिन मदद तो दूर कोई मिलने को भी राजी न हुआ।



(Stills from the movie, 'Pataal Tee')

यहाँ तक कि मुख्यमंत्री के दरवाजे तक कई बार मदद की गुहार लगाने गए जिसमें कई दिन व्यर्थ गंवाए। मिलने की इजाज़त तक न मिलने पर थक हार कर व्यक्तिगत सम्बन्धों के आधार पर कला प्रेमी गणेश खुगशाल 'गणी' के सहयोग से हंस फाउंडेशन के द्वारा बुसान दक्षिण कोरिया आने-जाने का खर्च वहन कर सहयोग किया गया।

पूरी शूटिंग के दौरान लगभग 18-20 लोगों की टीम ने लगातार 20 दिन की शूटिंग की, जिसमें पोते का मुख्य पात्र निभाने वाले आयुष रावत ने इन उच्च हिमालयी क्षेत्र की लगभग 400 मीटर तक पैदल यात्रा की जबकि अन्य सदस्यों ने लगभग 350 कि यात्रा करी। पूरी फिल्म के अंतिम रूप तक आने में लगभग बीस लाख रुपए की धनराशि का व्यय हुआ। फिल्म पूरी तरह बनने के बाद इसे मान्यता प्राप्त होने के लिए उसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर होने वाले लगभग सभी फ़िल्म फेस्टिवल्स में पूरे एक वर्ष तक भेजा जाता रहा जिसका सबसे पहला सुखद परिणाम फरवरी 2022 में दक्षिण कोरिया के प्रख्यात बुसान इंटरनेशनल शार्ट फ़िल्म फेस्टिवल से आया। उसके पश्चात रूस के मॉस्को सहित छः अन्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय फ़िल्म फेस्टिवल में इसे स्थान मिला और सम्मानित किया गया। अंत में वर्ष 2023 में भारत के प्रमुख फ़िल्म सम्मान 'नेशनल फ़िल्म अवार्ड' में नॉन फीचर फिल्म के सिनेमेटोग्राफी के लिए राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार देश की महामहिम राष्ट्रपति के हाथों 'बिट्टू रावत' को दिया जाएगा। यह उत्तराखण्ड के लिए एक बेहद गर्व और सम्मान का अवसर है।

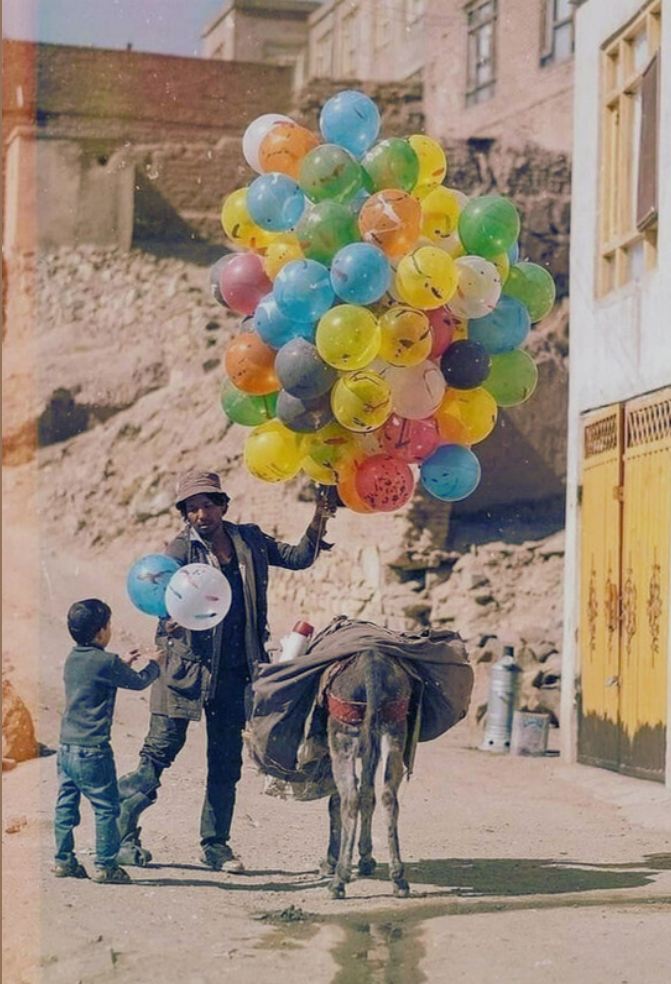
- Ayush Rawat (BA Spanish)  
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# प्रभा सकारात्मकता की

*सकारात्मक सोच वाले उद्धारण सकारात्मक सोच एक बहुत प्रबल शक्ति है  
जिससे असंभव को भी संभव किया जा सकता है*

एक दिन सायंकाल के समय घर लौटते हुए एक लाचार व्यक्त को चौराहे पर देखा। उसका एक पैर नहीं था। वह बैसाखी के सहारे चल रहा था और गुब्बारे बेच रहा था। उसे देखकर दिल कचोटने लगा। उसकी पीडा देखकर दिल में एक दर्द सा हुआ। उसकी यह कैसी मजबूर थी की उसे इस लाचारी में भी काम करना पड रहा था। वह साँवले रंग का था, और उसने एक कमीज़ व लुंगी पहनी हुई थी। शायद पायजामा था, या शायद लुंगी ही थी। मुझे ठीक-ठीक याद नहीं। याद भी भला कैसे हो! मेरी निगाहें तो मशक्कत के स्वेद से भींगी हुई उसकी कमीज़ पर और मेरा मन उसकी पीडा में कहीं खो सा गया था। उसकी बिरंग व फट कमीज़, श्रम से भींगी हुई, उसके बारे में काफ़ी कुछ बयाँकर रह थी। उसके पूरे दिन की मेहनत मानो उसकी कमीज़ में साफ़-साफ़ नज़र आ रही हो। क्षीण बदन लिए,

दुर्बल सा नज़र आता वह एक के बाद एक लाल सिग्नल पर रुकी गाड़ियों के पास जाकर अपने गुब्बारे बेच रहा था। उसे देख मेरी चेतना इसी सोच में खो गई कि जिंदगी में गुज़ारा करने हेतु उसे रोज़ कितना श्रम व संघर्ष करना पडता होगा! वह बेरंग कमीज़ तो बस उसके एक दिन की मशक्कत से आशुष्क थी। ऐसी और न जाने कितनी हों।



उसकी इस परिस्तिथि के बाओजूद, उसमें एक सकारात्मकता थी। लाचार होने के बावजू वह अपनी परिस्तिथि से लड रहा था और शायद उसे इस बात का अंदाज़ा नहीं था कि वह गुब्बारे बेचकर बच्चों में खुशी के अतिरिक्त अपने आस-पास कितनी सकारात्मकता और प्रेरणा फैला रहा था। उसको एक भरोसा था, किसी और पर नहीं बल्कि खुद पर। उसके अंदर एक हौसला था, एक उम्मीद थी, काफ़ी हद तक मजबूरी भी, मगर कुछ करने की, किसी पर निर्भर न रहने की, और यह सब मुझे उसकी उन मज़बूत बाजुओं में नज़र आ रहा था जो कि उस बैसाखी के अवलंब थे। उसका शरीर भले ही एक बैसाखी पर टिका हुआ था मगर उस शरीर की शक्ति तो उसके मज़बूत हौसलों में थी। उसकी वहीं शक्ति, उसका वहीं हौसला, उसकी वहीं उम्मीद, उसका वहीं भरोसा और कुछ हद तक मज़बूरी भी; मुझे उसे देखकर हुए दर्द, उसे देखकर दिल में हुई कचोट के अंधकार से ननकालकर उसकी सकारात्मकता की प्रभा तक ले गई।

- Ishan Shrivastav (BA English)  
[School of Languages]



*Poetry*

# Demise

The crying of your soul,  
And you trying to console.  
The demise of your loved one,  
And all you can do is mourn.

The heart shreds into pieces,  
The mind can't be at peace.  
You become so dreadful,  
You become so fretful.

The place becomes a shrine of tears,  
And all you can do is sit and stare.

- Ridhima Thapliyal (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

# February 6th, Tuesday

the  
clouds

floating

above a university campus  
hide the late morning sun, at twelve noon  
climbing heights from scattered corners

mounting every second  
closer to the centre  
forming

uninhabited  
continents

in the hiding light  
two clouds  
seem to reach out to each other, touching  
the heart of the sky with their unborn fingers

forming their own

beautiful continent

in between

I wonder  
how many times have I looked at the sky  
a hundred, a thousand maybe

it has never been the same  
the changing blues, the changing light

so I look  
as closely as I can  
and cherish the time  
before it ends

a page flipped open by the wind,  
reads:

*"You are a child of the universe,  
no less than the trees and the stars;  
you have a right to be here.  
And whether or not it is clear to you,  
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should."*

I think, deep  
into the lines

*Ehrmann* makes me believe  
in the power of the universe

this is reassurance  
maybe

for every star that is lost in the sky  
for every flower that blooms on earth

at once, I feel lighter in my heart

like  
the clouds  
above,  
passing  
their shadows  
upon me

**-Ishan Shrivastav ((BA English)  
[School of Languages]**

Picture credits: Khushi Singh (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

# February 13th, Tuesday

slow and silent the winds  
talk to the trees, whose trunks and boughs  
stand firm, listening  
also to the movements of the dancing leaves  
the dry ones break from the twigs  
to fall and touch the ground, where  
a family surrounds a spot at a corner  
their roots breathing deep into the soil  
their hands bending to touch one another  
forming a cluster of crossed fingers in between  
this is the other side of the university campus  
the silent one where even  
the voices dissolve in the winds  
and the sky seems to be penetrated by fingers  
of the leaves; where birds come to cuddle and kiss  
where an empty bench with a cement skin  
stained with a blotch of white paint  
turn inwards and folds into its emptiness

- Ishan Shrivastav (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

Picture credits: Anish Rawat (MA German)  
[School of Languages]

# Four Haiku

winter night –  
under the light of a lamp  
gazing at the moon

fresh morning  
scent of holidays  
holding back the air

restless rain...  
raindrops resting  
on velvet petals

winter afternoon  
clothesline shadow  
basking in the sun

- Ishan Shrivastav (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

Picture credits: Anish Rawat (MA German)  
[School of Languages]



# LAND

I stepped it, perch by perch,  
I breathed the petrichor and  
my heart danced with the movement of  
unbraided blades of the grass.  
The land transpires in the form of millions of  
cells that I call my body.  
I offered my salaam to my deceased  
grandparents,  
My childhood flashed in the form of sundry  
memories.  
Giggling is no longer heard on the archaic  
veranda,  
My mother's Arabic calligraphy is still ingrained  
on the walls of our ancestral home.  
My father's heart resides in the land and its  
people.  
I penned memories and love before I bid adieu  
to the old world that once was home.  
My footprints receded perch by perch.

- Dr. Gazala Khan  
[Faculty of English]

# My Dear, Love

I won't get love until I ask for it,  
The love that dogs and cats get even without asking,  
I have to ask for it.  
Stand in the line waiting for my turn,  
And people cut in between to demand it,  
But I wait, wait for my turn.  
Hoping it will come,  
I would get showered with rain of love.  
Like an echo that won't come until i speak,  
And I won't ever speak.  
Waiting till I draw the last breath,  
Standing in the line till the time is set,  
Always thinking it will come as soon as I'm fit,  
But i won't get love until I ask for it.

- Agranshu Grover (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

The hands that were born to write,  
Learned to put the guard up and fight.  
Mind that was supposed to be care,  
Tarded life and told people it's fair.  
Picked up pieces of broken glass from my hand,  
Sharpnels in my throat time that slipped away like sand.

Knife that I stabbed myself with a thousand time,  
Trying to be a Saint after committing all the crimes.  
Wrapped in a facade so you don't see the deaths that I  
have been to,  
Graves that i have dug funerals I lit fire to.

Still writing poems as if I'm any good.  
As if I could be understood,  
The chaos it took to be this kind,  
And you ask me, hey, what's on your mind?

Guess I have to beg in front of some deity,  
Cause I am a divine tragedy written in a form of an epic  
Comedy.

- Agranshu Grover ( BA English)  
[School of Languages]

# Small Flower

The small flower  
With the twirling leaves  
Excited to bloom  
With a lot of dreams

The gleaming petals  
And the glimmering sepals  
Breathing the fresh air  
And enjoying the  
atmosphere

A new born bud  
Ready to out love

- Ridhima Thapliyal (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

# Treasured Memories : A Journey Through Time in my Gallery

In my treasure chest ,  
My gallery, where memories stay,  
Recalling moments, day by day,  
Faces and tales that softly dance,  
Cherished stories, in pictures they lay.

Missing those I'll meet on my way back,  
And those no longer on life's track,  
Seeing my little one's newborn knack,  
A mirror of another, a similar pack.

One's smile,  
Longing for the buffalo's calf, away.  
Two monkeys' visits, side by side,  
Mornings, evenings, memories wide,  
Each photo's worth, nothing to hide.

Emotions bloom in these captured frames,  
Of laughter, love, life's vibrant claims,  
A collage of stories with different names,  
In chirping birds' sweet serenade,  
Mornings wrapped in memories made,  
Dancing in verandah's delight,  
Lost in old days' tender light.

Mother's voice in morning's hush,  
Incense's scent, a gentle rush,  
Nostalgia's embrace, a gentle maze,  
In fleeting moments, a timeless blaze.

In this album where time flames.  
The lake's gentle whispers, morning's call,  
A path to school, where stories sprawl,  
Gossiping with friends, a daily delight,  
In innocence, under the sun so bright.

Every picture whispers, softly told,  
A tear, a beam, emotions unfold,  
In this wealth of treasure , stories enfold,  
A gallery of moments, a beauty untold.

In the quiet echoes of what used to be,  
Yearning for moments, now memories free,  
Each cherished scene, a nostalgic call,  
Longing for the past, embracing it all.

- Himadri Joshi (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

Picture credits: Khushi Singh (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

## Essence of Love

I view love as a choice and less of an emotion,  
 I don't think love is a consistent feeling,  
 It comes and goes just like any other emotion,  
 Happiness and sadness,  
 they are just as temporary as love,  
 So being in love is not a state,  
 But a constant choice,  
 Making the same decision every day is  
 difficult, But that's what makes love so hard.  
 If it was an emotion it'll be easy,  
 But love is a choice,  
 And you choose to love someone as  
 much as they choose to love you.

## Perception

Honey, do you know why the clouds cry sometimes?  
 It's because they could no longer bear the weight of the sunshines.  
 Beaming upon them,  
 So they come down as rain.

Drizzling on us their unburdened pain and drops of elysian stain.  
 Her husband said how sometimes we try to bask in the sun rays and swoon,  
 The rain may be possessive of something it owns,  
 The lover said maybe it's jealous because the sun always goes after the moon,  
 Being a third wheel can make the rain clouds feel torn.  
 A poet said the rain is celebrating the union of those two,  
 That's why the air is scented with calming hue,  
 A book said it's just raining because that's its purpose,  
 To fill the blues.

And waves of perceptions struck me for just a single tune.  
 Like how the trees dance through the storm, and flower forgives.  
 Like how the rain leaves a rainbow and new dawn brings,  
 An understanding that hope,  
 happiness, sadness and love are all  
 different symphonies.  
 Just a difference in perspective will  
 bring forth a lot of diverse epiphanies.

- Naina Kapoor (BA English)  
 [School of Languages]

## My Dear Soulmate

My dear soulmate where are you,  
My soul is trying to fit itself in the  
wrong shoes.  
Blistering my soles when I take a step,  
the pain sows.  
Desperate my heart at times,  
Yearns for someone to defrost my  
crawling toes.  
My hands have been untenanted for  
many years,  
I've been trying to acquiesce myself  
among my peers,  
I've shed a lot of tears.  
Cause jealousy became my shadow,  
I prayed for my wallow I want  
permanence, to call someone mine  
and not borrow.  
The seat beside me has always been  
empty, even when I bled.  
No one listened to my cries and what I  
said.  
It didn't matter cause I'm a cherry  
blossom, A seasonal flutter.  
Just come into my life already and be  
there when I stutter.  
I'm strong but sometimes I miss the  
tenderness of warmth I can hear your  
voice far north,  
Even the whispers of your breath,  
Echoes in me rhyming the line, have  
we met?  
My dear soulmate when will the stars  
align, the pages fret.  
But I know you will be waiting on the  
bay, standing tall like a light house.  
And I'll be imagining our future as I  
walk towards you on the thundering  
clouds.  
Hand in hand, one day we will become  
best friends,  
To my longing, my dear soulmate you  
are the answer that makes sense.

## Fake Reality

As the waves crashed against the  
shore,  
I could feel myself floating away.  
And in that moment, I wanted nothing  
more,  
Than to be able to leave today.  
As I fell into a deep slumber,  
I dreamed of a place, where nothing  
was somber.  
In this Land i was not a disgrace,  
Here I could be me, I could do what I  
please.  
And I was nothing but free,  
But this place was only a tease.  
Soon I would awake to the same  
awkward mentality,  
Where life is like an earth-quake,  
But that's alright cause in less than 24

- Naina Kapoor (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

# इतना~प्रेम~नहीं

गरीबी इतनी की ब्लाउज़ के पिछले हिस्से में तो छेद  
 हो पर थाली में नहीं,  
 प्रेम इतना के उत्तर हो हर अपमान का सहना पर प्रेमी  
 से विदाई नहीं।  
 कमज़ोरी इतनी की चढ़ा तो पर्वत भी जाए पर उसके  
 बगल के द्वार पर जानें की हालत नहीं,  
 पीड़ा इतनी की अस्पतालों में इंजेक्शन तो लगाए  
 जाएं दर्द निवारक के पर उसके शब्दों की कोई दवा  
 मिलती नहीं।  
 मंदिर इतने की हज़ार लोगों का सिर झुके सामने पर  
 एक मेरी झोली शांति से भरी नहीं,  
 लगाव इतना प्रेमी को की दुपट्टे से ढके प्रेमिका की  
 छाती पर चुपके से देखे स्तन नहीं।  
 इतनी शिष्टता की यदि जोड़े में पूछा जाएं नाम तो  
 बताए सिर्फ अपना ही पर प्रेमिका का नहीं,  
 धैर्य इतना की गलत होने पर भी सुने प्रेमिका का रोना  
 जबकि सुना है उसे रोना पसंद नहीं।  
 इतनी दे सहानुभूति की भाए वो साथी दुख का पर  
 लगे उसकी बातों में दया नहीं,  
 चाह इतनी हो तन की की हाथ तो पकड़ा जाए बिना  
 रुके पर गले बिना पूछे लगे नहीं।  
 छाती हो इतनी चौड़ी की रखा तो जाए उसपर प्रेमिका  
 का सिर पर उसकी कविताओं का बोझ नहीं,  
 हम सब प्रेमिकाएं हैं... हम प्रेम की खाद डालते हैं  
 बंजर मैदानों में... बैर का ज़हर नहीं।

- Anushka Bhatt (BA English)  
 [School of Languages]



# कविता

तो कभी तुम मेरे थे?  
कभी न पूरा होने वाला ख्वाब थे तुम,  
जो थमा नहीं कभी वो वक्त थे तुम,  
हाथ मैं होकर भी जो फिसल जाए वो रेत थे तुम,  
वो खुली आंखों का सपना था,  
या एक पल का भ्रम था ।  
क्योंकि तुम तो कभी मेरे थे ही नहीं !  
बस मैं ही दिवानी थीं,  
जो तुम्हारी हंसी को अपना मानकर सब कुछ भूल जाती थी,  
तुम से दूर होने के ख्वाब सेही टूट जाती थी,  
देखो ! आज मैं कहा हूं,  
तुम्हारे ही वजह से मैं आज यहां हूं,  
तुम तो कभी मेरे न थे!  
पर, तुम ने जो दर्द दि या वो मेरा था,  
तुम्हारे लिए प्यार मेरा था ।  
तुम तो मुझे कुछ ना दे सके,  
पर ना चाहते हुए भी तुमने इंतजार देदिया,  
और इंतजार कहूं या दर्द,  
जिसे इस संसार ने कविता कह दिया ॥

- Khushi Thapa (BA English)  
[School of Languages]



# वाक कहूँ... तो?

"क्या सोच रही हो?"

"मैं?"

मैं . . . सोचती हूँ की,

क्या तुम कभी हाल-ए-दिल बताने की इजाज़त दोगे?  
ज़री में लिपटे तुम,  
क्या मेरे खदर के जज़्बात लोगे?

क्या करोगे अगर कह दिया कि,  
मुस्कुराने पर तुम्हारे, दिल मोतियों सा बिखर जाता है?  
तुम्हारा आना ऐसा है,  
जैसे छनती धूप, घटा से आफ़ताब लाता है।

नाराज़ होंगे क्या?

गर किया बयान की इस एहसास के साहिल,  
तुम्हारी निगाह में दीखते हैं?  
निकल गयी किसी रोज़ पागलपन में,  
आओगे सौदा करने, जहाँ दिल बिकते हैं?

सोचती हूँ की,  
यह सभ सोचने का क्या फायदा है?  
तुम बेखबर हो, और "हम दोस्त हैं"—  
केहता तुम्हारा कायदा है।

तो बहुत सोचने के बाद, मुस्कुराकर कहती हूँ —

"कुछ नहीं।  
कुछ भी नहीं।"

- Siyahi (Anaa Ayesha, BA English)  
[School of Languages]

# ज़मीन में आसमान

नहीं पसंद हर किसी को आसमान में उड़ना,  
कुछ ज़मीन पर रहना ही पसंद करते हैं!

छोड़ उन बादलों की सुंदरता,  
हरी हरी घास पर ही वें मरते हैं!

ना वो आसमान का सूरज उन्हें मोहित करता है,  
जो ज़मीन से भी देख सकते हैं !

ना वो उड़ते हुए पंछी उन्हें अपनी ओर खींचते हैं,  
जो आराम करने जमीन पर ही लौटते हैं!

ना वो रंगों में भरी ऊंची पतंग उन्हें प्रभावित कर पाती हैं,  
जिसकी डोर खुद ज़मीन से जुड़ी है !

ना वो खो जाते हैं बारिश की टपकती बूंदों में,  
जो आकर भी बस ज़मीन तक ही रुकती है!

तो नहीं है हर किसी का इश्क आसमान,  
कुछ लोग जमीन से ही इतनी मोहब्बत करते हैं!

- Kareena (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

Picture credits : Anish Rawat (MA German)  
[School of Languages]

# मुझे एक पुष्प नज़र आता है

जिधर तक नज़र पड़ती  
खुशक, धूसर परिदृश्य,  
कुम्हलाई हुई बौनी झाड़ियां,  
प्यास की खुरदुरी अग्नि से  
झुलसती, हांफती, घुटने टेकतीं  
भूरी विकृत आकृतियां।  
कुछ एक काले पेड़  
कोयले पर उगते जाते,  
तेल पीकर अंबर की तरफ  
एकटक देखते, उठाए  
अपनी लंबी गंठिली उंगलियां,  
फल देते, पर खुद खा जाते,  
वो पकने से पहले सड़ जाते।  
उनके उप्पर बढ़ती कंटीली  
कुछ लताएं,  
चढ़कर, कसकर  
पकड़ कर, उनका रक्त चूसकर  
फल देती सुर्ख, रसीले--  
पर सब के सब जहरीले।

इन सब के उप्पर खिलता  
स्याह आसमा में बूढ़ा चांद  
दुख में दुर्बल होता, कटता,  
फिर कुछ देखता, बढ़ता--  
आशा से सबल होता।

मैं, एक रेशम पेड़ का उड़ता बीज  
निराश, हताश, ठिकाना ढूंढता।  
कहीं जमने का बहाना ढूंढता।  
सोच में डूबा... कि चांद कैसे  
हिम्मत रखता है गिर कर

संभालता है, फिर चलता है।  
तभी कुछ हवा उठी और  
मैंने देखा जो उसने देखा।  
सबल चांदनी में,  
कांटो से जख्मी  
पर अप्रतिम, खूबसूरत  
शीतल, चंचल, चमकता  
पुष्प। चांदनी को लौटाता--  
नहीं, चांद को चांदनी देता,  
रिस्ते रक्त से भी भूमि  
कि प्यास बुझाता,  
पंखुड़ियों में ओस पकड़ता।  
उसकी गोद में प्रेम पलता,  
उसके तने से फिर फिसलता।  
उसकी जड़ पर  
नन्हे पेड़ धीरे धीरे कांटे खोते।  
भूरे रंग से फिर हरे होते।

मैंने एक हवा का घोड़ा पकड़ा  
और उस पुष्प के क़दमो पर  
पूर्ण समर्पण कर दिया।  
अब जब चांद देखता है  
उसे इस बंजर परिदृश्य  
के हृदय के बीचों बीच एक  
गुलिस्तां नजर आता है।  
उस गुलिस्तां के बीचों बीच  
उसे वह पुष्प नज़र आता है,  
जिसने हिम्मत की  
कांटो कि नोक पर खिलने की।।

- Mr. Mehul Rawat  
Research Scholar  
Dept. Of English

# रणभेरी

सुर्य का एक अंश तू,  
जयसंहिता का विध्वंस तू  
तू भीम का प्रहार है,  
तू मनुष्यता का आधार है  
तू कवि की कल्पना,  
तू है आस्तिक की भावना  
तुझमें ही संसार बसा,  
तुझसे ही संसार हंसा  
तू वीणा की रागिनी,  
तू अंबर से गिरी दामिनी  
है तू नारायण, तू ही नर  
तू है अविनाशी अजर-अमर  
तूने ही संघार किया  
है तूने ही संवार लिया

क्षण इधर गया  
क्षण उधर गया  
क्षण भीषण तांडव मचा  
आगे एक कटार बढ़ी  
रण की चंडी फिर हुई खड़ी  
सावधान!  
मेरी कटार में स्वयं परशुराम बसे  
यह सुन वैरी फिर खूब हसे  
त्राहि त्राहि जब हुई प्रचंड

गगन मगन फिर हुआ घमंड  
आंख मिचौनी हुई प्रबल  
बल अबल फिर चल अचल  
जब लहू लुहान घड़ी फूटेगी  
महामृत्यु उसी समय छूटेगी  
ममता-पय से प्रचुर नयनों को  
आज रुधिर धीर होना होगा  
समय समेटती बानो को फिर  
समय का बांध तोड़ना होगा  
हस्कर मरण लिए होठों पर  
करत प्रण विचरण करते हैं  
क्षण त्रिदिव शरण लेते हैं  
आज प्रज्वलित उस रणभेरी में,  
पाप पुण्य सब मिट जायेगा  
पितृभूमि इस मात्रभूमि में  
नया गान नवराग भरेगा  
लाल हठीलों की लपटों से  
एक प्रवीण बदलाव बनेगा  
यह प्रश्न उठा है धरती से  
अर्पण कर सर्वस्व मानुष को  
क्या अवदान सम्पूर्ण रहेगा?

- Tara (Arundhati Bisht, BA English)  
[School of Languages]

# लौट आती हैं

लौट आती हैं जाने वाली लहरे सागर में बही हुई,  
क्रोध में चीखी हुई धुन जुबान पर चाशनी बन अफ़सोस के साथ लौट आती है।

सुबह के भूले श्याम को घर लौट आते हैं,  
सुबह को तुम्हें भूलने की कोशिश श्याम को रोती याद बनकर लौट आती है।

इश्वर के लिए गंगा में बहाए फूल किसी तट को चूमने लौट आते हैं,  
होंठों से छूटी चिढ़न में गाली रात को प्रेम स्वीकारने होंठों को चूमने के लिए लौट आती है।

बीज से उगे पेड़ों से जन्मे फल नीचे गिर धरती पर बीज बन लौट आते हैं,  
तुम से उत्पन्न प्रेम कविताएं मिटाने पर भी तुम्हारी ही कल्पना कलम को लौट आती है।

घर को छोड़ें लोग काम खत्म होते ही वक्त पर घर को लौट आते हैं,  
घर से निकलते वक्त की जल्दी में तुमसे विचलित मन में तुम्हें सोचने की आदत समय मिलते ही लौट आती है।

निशा के आंचल में सागर की गोद में ढलता सूरज अगले दिन सवेरे को लौट आता है,  
पूरे दिन तुम्हें न याद करने के बाद रात स्वप्न में तुम्हारी आवाज़ लौट आती है।

बेसुरे राग पर रोज़ किए रियाज़ के रस से सुर शब्दों में लौट आता है,  
सूने मन से सुने गीतों पर तुम्हारी ध्वनि गीत के स्वर पर लौट आती है।

सूखते गले को पिलाए पानी से देह में मरती जान लौट आती है,  
अकेले बैठ पानी पीते वक्त खाने के मेज़ पर तुम्हारी अनुपस्थिति की प्यास लौट आती है।

बढ़ती उम्र में एक समय के बाद बचपना लौट आता है,  
एक कमरे में भय, क्रोध और कष्ट की दीवारों के बाद एक दीवार पर प्रेम की खिड़की लौट आती है।

बंजर मैदानों पर किसान खूब भर के खाद डाले तो फसलें जीवन को लौट आती हैं,  
तुम्हारा कुछ देर के जताया प्रेम से महीनों के अवसाद को ढकाने नयी अपेक्षाएं लौट आती हैं।

लौट आते हैं सब...मृत, भागे और छोड़े हुए एक ना एक दिन,  
तुम्हारे लौटने की आस तुम्हारे न लौटने के बाद भी लौट आती है।

-Anushka Bhatt (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

# महाभारत के अज्ञात चेहरों की स्वतंत्र शृंखला

कितना वक्त लगता है भावों को शब्दों में बदल  
जाने में?

शायद उतना ही जितना वक्त इस चीज को  
समझने में लगता होगा कि इंसान के लिए हर  
चीज कविता जैसी ही है।

जिसमें कुछ कहानी है कोई किरदार है, थोड़ा चंद है  
और सौंदर्यीकरण के लिए अलंकार भी है।  
पर विचार है कि अखिर क्यों यह शब्दों का फेर  
जरूरी है।

शायद इसलिए क्योंकि दिल को राहत पहुंचती है  
या क्योंकि कवि का काम ही यही है।

मेरी कविता का नाम है संजय।  
महाभारत के इतिहास का एक मुख्य परंतु  
गुमनाम सा चेहरा।

संजय वो जिन्हें बारदान था श्री कृष्ण का कि वो  
पूरा युद्ध अपनी पार दर्शाता से देख सकते थे और  
दुर्भाग्य यह कि उस विनाश का वो एक मात्र  
प्रमाण थे।

यही कारण है कि आज संजय आप सभी के बीच  
मैं प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूं।

इस कविता के माध्यम से मैंने बस अपने नजरिए  
से संजय का महाभारत पर नजरिया रखने का  
प्रयास रहेगा ...

# संजय

भगवान की इस सृष्टि में  
दो असमर्थतो की दृष्टि मैं  
विनाश के प्रकोप को निखरते देख मैं ही था  
हस्तिनापुर के राज्य को बिखरते देख मैं ही था

मैं संजय बना

महाराज का था सारथी  
विध्वंश का अंत मैं ही था  
धृतराष्ट्र की दृष्टि बन  
विनाश देखता मैं ही था

जानता था मैं सभी  
कृष्ण का जो ज्ञान था  
धर्म नामी युद्ध में  
षड्यंत्र का भी ज्ञात था

जहां नए राज के स्वप्न बुने, प्रजा का समूह भावी  
था

जहां कोई धर्म कोई कर्म, साम्राज्य पर ना हावी था  
जहां युद्ध के हाल बैठ 2 दृष्टिहीन सुन रहे थे  
जहां मृत्यु के जाल स्वयं भगवान बुन रहे थे

अगर सत्य पर ही युद्ध लड़ना कृष्ण का विचार था  
तो युधिष्ठिर का झूठ क्यूँ भगवान को स्वीकार था  
यदि भगवान का युद्ध लड़ना धर्म का मेल था  
तो सूर्य पुत्र को अंगहीन करना कैसा खेल था  
अगर गुरुओं का सम्मान ही पांडवों के संस्कार थे  
तो क्यूँ फिर उस युद्ध में वो उन्हें मारने को तैयार थे

अगर अपनों का संघार करना अर्जुन की ना हार थी  
तो फिर क्यूँ उन्हें मारने पर आयी अश्रुओं की धार थी

अगर अभिमन्यु का चक्रव्यूह धर्म के खिलाफ था  
तो पुत्र वियोग का छल नहीं गुरु द्रोण का विलाप था  
अगर दुर्योधन की हिंसा इन्हें पाप के समान थी  
तो क्या भीष्म की हत्या ना निर्दयता का प्रमाण थी

अगर युद्ध में छल का पूरा अधिकार था  
तो क्यूँ मामा शकुनी से घृणित यह संसार था  
अरे धर्म और अधर्म का कोई क्या देगा प्रमाण जब  
शस्त्रों के युद्ध में कृष्ण स्वयं एक हथियार था

युद्ध के उपरांत उनको उभरते देख मैं ही था  
और 2 बेसहारे अभागियों को बिखरते देख मैं ही था  
अरे हे कृष्ण पूछूँगा ना तुझसे की यह क्यूँ किया  
पर अगर विनाश ही लिखा था तो यह अस्त्र मुझको क्यूँ  
दिया

क्यूँ बनाया मुझे उपासक इस एक ऐसे विनाश का  
कौरवों के अंत का विध्वंश के सर्वनाश का

अभद्र से इतिहास का एक मात्र प्रणाम मैं बना  
दुष्टों की मानी टोली में एक मात्र इंसान मैं बना

जहां लाशों का ढेर था वहां मैं मृत्युंजय बना  
पारदर्शी दृष्टिव्योम ऐसे मैं संजय बना  
मैं संजय बना

- कैस (Sanyam Bisht, BA English)  
[School of Languages]



# Echoes of Love's Triumph

Call upon the heavens,  
I fear none to look into the eyes.  
For what is reflected through them  
Is only love under those dark lines.  
I shall only speak the truth,  
You gave me the wings of an eagle  
While I was a vulture unchained  
For the longer I'm unlooked,  
I crave your flesh and your veins.  
Through the dead soil of my soul  
Passed the first drop of your stroke,  
It seeped right through my bones  
And bloomed the flowers on my corpse.  
Your love coloured my days  
more than just mere greys  
Just like when the sun rises  
Over the cold morning haze.  
Victory is to be shouted out  
And treasure to be hidden about,  
The dilemma never ends  
If I should out boast you aloud  
Or admire you when nothing surrounds?

- Gargee Mehra (BA English)  
[School of Languages]

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“In union there is strength”  
-Aesop

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*“Part of the journey is the end”*  
*-Iron Man*



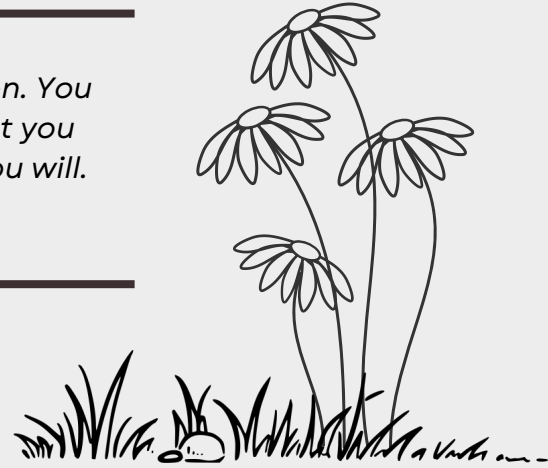
# Editors' Note



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*Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will.*  
- George Bernard Shaw

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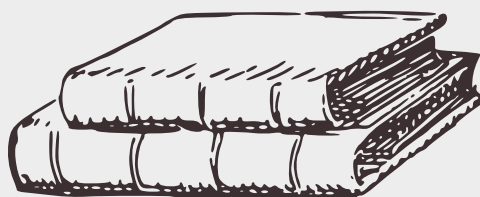


Dear readers,

We present the third edition of Pegasus with a lot of pride and with the hope that anyone who reads it feels as joyous as we did while creating it. We tried our level best to showcase the feelings and emotions behind every student's work that was submitted for this edition. This magazine is a culmination of our efforts over the past few months and we are grateful that you took out time to read it. We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the entire department of English, the Hon'ble Head Of Deptt., Dr. Chetana, the faculty and the Phd. Research Scholars for their thoughtful contributions. We would also like to thank the senior members of the Elysian, Literary Society for entrusting us with this wonderful project

Last but not least, we would like to thank God the almighty for the hopeful success of this magazine Thank you!

Warm Regards,  
The Editonal Board  
Elysian Literary Society





*Thank You*

