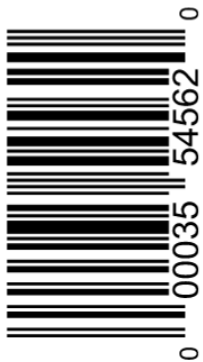


ROOM 101



SEPTEMBER 2023
ISSUE NO 1

POETRY

ART

INTERVIEW

COVER ART BY SHLOKA

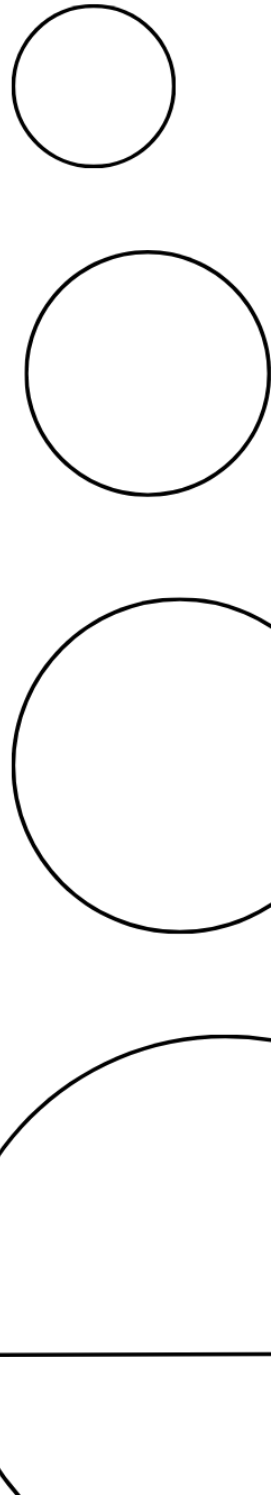


CONTENT

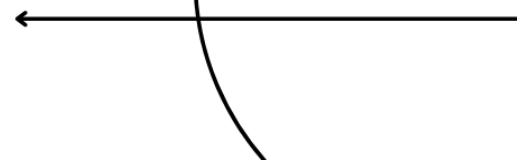
ROOM 101 | ISSUE 1

- PREFACE
- BEGINNING (POETRY)
- COLLEGE LIFE (ESSAY)
- NURTURING MENTAL HEALTH
(ARTICLE)
- WORLD FULL OF HOPE (POETRY)
- THE LOTTERY (BOOK REVIEW)
- राही युं ही बढ़ता चल (POETRY)
- FUTURE OF AI IN EDUCATION
(ESSAY)
- ICHIGO ICHIE (ARTICLE)
- MY BEST FRIEND (POETRY)
- WITH MR. ANIL RATURI (INTERVIEW)
- LIKE 60 SHOTS IN A GLOOMY NIGHT
(POETRY)
- THE RAY OF HOPE (POETRY)
- DEVBHOOMI UTTARA (ARTICLE)

SEPTEMBER 2023



- HUMANITY (POETRY)
- बन आते हो सैलानी तुम (POETRY)
- FATE IS BLIND (SHORT STORY)
- CLEAN INDIA, GREEN INDIA (ARTICLE)
- बचपन (POETRY)
- UTTARAKHAND (POETRY)
- 3AM THOUGHTS (POETRY)
- FORCE FEMME FIERCE (ARTICLE)
- मेरी बोर्ड परीक्षा (POETRY)
- CLOUDS & RAIN (POETRY)
- RECOGNIZE, REALISE & RESPECT WATER
(ARTICLE)
- TIME (SHORT STORY)
- LOVE THE WAY YOU ARE (POETRY)
- जवाब (POETRY)
- LOVE DOES NOT KNOCK (POETRY)
- DEATH (POETRY)
- CREDITS



PREFACE

*"It is in literature that the concrete outlook
of humanity receives its expression"*

-Alfred North Whitehead

WELCOME TO "ROOM 101," THE CREATIVE HUB FOR FIRST-YEAR BA ENGLISH STUDENTS. IN THESE PAGES, WE CELEBRATE THE ART OF WORDS, LITERATURE, AND IMAGINATION. JOIN US ON THIS LITERARY ADVENTURE WHERE YOUR VOICES AND IDEAS ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR JOURNEY. WELCOME TO THE ROOM WHERE WORDS COME ALIVE.

| created by Room 101

dedicated to Room 101 |

Beginning

“ Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin.
Beginning makes the conditions perfect. ”

What a well said quote! Each day is a new beginning of something for us. We all fight our inner demons and the demons present in the outer world so as to begin a new journey. Beginning can be tough, can be emotional, it can be challenging but I assure you my friend, it will be worth it. Life is meant for living and not surviving. Embarking on a new journey with an optimistic approach to life ensures growth at a personal level.

This year I and my fellow classmates began our college journey which I hope for all of us will be inspiring, adventurous, remarkable, at some point challenging and mostly like a roller coaster ride. We shall stick together through thick and thin with a feeling of unity in our hearts. A beginning of anything in our life tests us at many levels ;be it personal, emotional or mental, however all we need to remind ourselves is the reason Why we began all of this. Your answer to the question Why will provide you the solutions to any sort of problem. And yes, to begin a new chapter we have to let go of the previous one.

Simply putting it all together, one should live in the present, building his/her future after getting over their past. Put your heart and soul into everything you do and life will appear to be more meaningful and beautiful.

-Ipshita

photographed by Vatsal Naithani

College Life

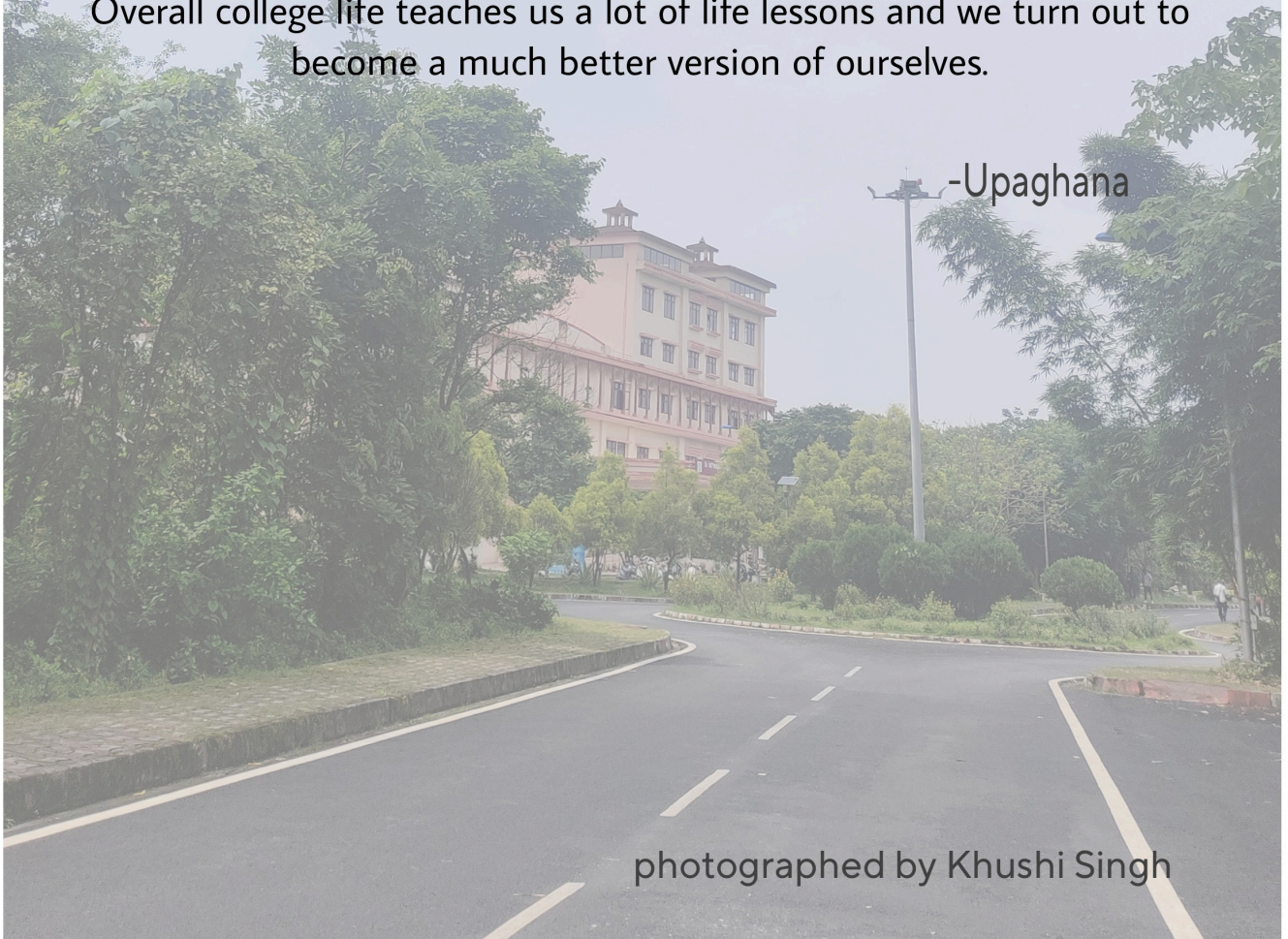
Entering college is one of the most exciting stages of a student's life. It makes a lot of memorable experiences for an individual and these beautiful memories remain forever pictured in our hearts. With new experiences also comes a sense of responsibility toward our career, making us more future-oriented. Starting college life means embarking on a journey of self-growth and discovering a new side of oneself. It also includes learning new skills and engaging more of our brains in creating thinking. College provides us with a perfect environment to develop our personality and enhance our communication skills while offering various opportunities related to our careers. It motivates us to speak for ourselves and take charge of our own lives.

Lastly, friends which play one of the key roles throughout the college years. They are the people who stay through thick and thin and always support and stand by our sides.

Overall college life teaches us a lot of life lessons and we turn out to become a much better version of ourselves.

-Upaghana

photographed by Khushi Singh



Nurturing Mental Health: Breaking Stigma, Managing Stress and Raising Awareness

Mental health is an essential aspect of the overall well-being of a person, still it is often an overlooked topic in society. Addressing stigma, promoting awareness, and managing stress are important steps in promoting a more mentally healthy world. When mental health is ignored, it can lead to a range of issues, including anxiety, depression, stress-related disorders, and more severe conditions.

Addressing Stigma

Stigma surrounding mental health can prevent individuals from seeking help and sharing their problems and struggles openly. This stigma arises from misconceptions, lack of education and knowledge regarding mental health, and societal pressures. To tackle the issue of this stigma, initiatives like mental health campaigns and educational programs play an essential role in reducing stigmatizing attitudes.

1. **Education and Awareness:** Launching campaigns that provide accurate information about mental health conditions can help reduce misconceptions. Schools, workplaces, and communities can organize workshops and seminars to promote understanding.
2. **Personal Stories:** Sharing personal experiences can enlighten mental health struggles and encourage empathy. When individuals in influential positions come forward to discuss their mental health journeys, it inspires others to do the same.
3. **Avoiding derogatory terms and derogatory language** helps create a more inclusive environment.

Managing Stress

If stress is not managed, it can negatively affect mental health. Effective stress management strategies include:

1. **Meditation:** This technique develops present-moment awareness and relaxation, and reduces the impact of stress on mental well-being.
2. **Physical Activity:** Regular exercise releases endorphins, which are natural mood enhancers. Engaging in physical activity can alleviate stress and boost overall mental health.
3. **Time Management:** Learning to prioritize tasks and taking breaks can prevent overwhelming stress levels.
4. **Healthy Boundaries:** Setting boundaries in personal and professional life helps prevent burnout and stress.

Raising Awareness

Awareness plays an essential and significant role in dealing with mental health challenges.

Raising awareness involves:

1. **Public Campaigns:** Governments, NGOs, and mental health organizations can create impactful campaigns that reach a wide audience through various media.
2. **Online Platforms:** Utilizing social media, websites, and podcasts to share accurate information, personal stories, and resources can increase awareness and reach different audiences.
3. **Workplace Initiatives:** Businesses can offer employee workshops, access to mental health resources, and flexible work arrangements to support their employee's mental well-being.

-Shraddha

World Full of Hope

Should i drown or should i fly?
all i know is that consequences would be high,
wondering what i owe?
is that the water or the shore,
is that a mine or an ore,
but all i do is to adore,
the world that has secrets that i am yet to explore...
but i am lost, lost in a world that has nothing,
lost in the darkness of loneliness,
lost in the place that has all the pain and yeah just pain,
what is deep inside my soul no one knows,
and all it screams is that "leave me alone",
crowd crowns all around,
none a listener to listen to part of mine that want to come out,
I'm in love with the deafening silence of taciturn,
hereby discovering where peace is?
illusion illusion this world is fake,
wearing a mask that hides their emotion... never ready to take a break,
to ponder dreams that had been clear, now all opaque...
i live in this world, my world of hope:
where rain is still a messenger of relief,
where wind is still a messenger of remembrance,
and the sun is still shining for the beginning,
yeah, i live in this 'world of hope',
until I die failing finding scope...

-Suhani Khanduri

photographed by Arundhati Bisht

The Lottery

(Book Review)

"The Lottery" is a captivating short story that delves into the dark part of society of a seemingly innocent tradition.

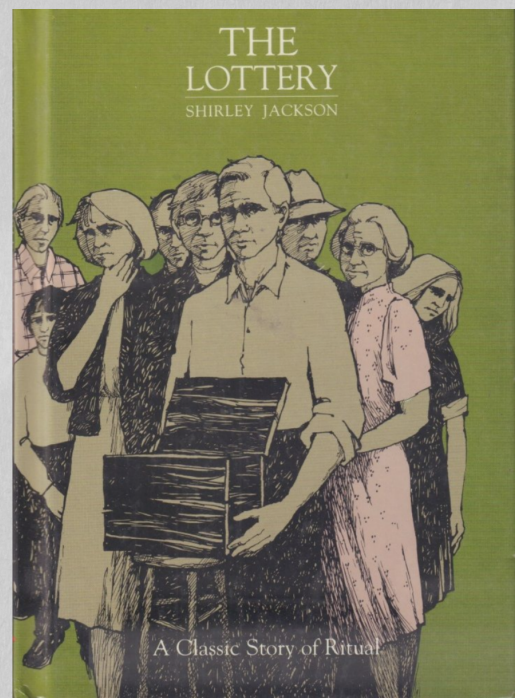
Written by Shirley Jackson "The Lottery" portrays a small town's annual gathering for a lottery event. However as the narrative unfolds, it becomes clear that this lottery is not what it seems. The lottery involves drawing slips of paper from a box with the "winner" meeting a grim fate.

Jackson masterfully builds tension and suspense throughout the story, leading readers to question the purpose of the lottery and the town's tradition. This story explores the theme of the dark side of tradition and conformity. The annual ritual of selecting a person to be stoned to death as a form of sacrifice to ensure a good harvest. So, we get the sense of superstition how the town's people blindly follow this horrifying tradition without questioning it. It challenges us to question our own beliefs, values, and the traditions we care for.

In conclusion, Shirley Jackson's skillful story telling and subtle build up of tension make the story an unforgettable read. It serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of blindly following customs and the potential of cruelty within society. "The Lottery" is a literary gem that continues to provoke discussion and reflection on human behaviour and the role of tradition in our lives.

However, it's worth noting that "The Lottery" contains disturbing content so readers should be prepared for its unsettling nature.

In my opinion, I want everyone to read this as it's a warning about the dangers of not thinking for yourself and just going along with what everyone else does.



-Anamika Gangari

राही यूं ही बढ़ता चल

जीवन पथ के कर्म डगर पर चलता चल बस चलता चल,
मंजिल आएगी कदमों पर, राही यूं ही बढ़ता चल ।।
कब क्या जाने क्या हो जाए पास क्या आए क्या खो जाए
कौन समय को जान सका, तू संग समय के चलता चल । राहों में काटे भी होंगे उनसे ना
तू घबराना,
टूटेंगे तेरे सपने भी खुद ना मगर तू टूट जाना उन टूटे सपनों के जख्मों पर, उम्मीद का
मरहम मलता चल
सुख दुख दोनों ही साथी हैं,

एक आता है एक जाता है।

सुख में न मन चंचल कर, दुख में धीरज धरता चल।।

रख नेक इरादे सदा ही अपने

और मन में रख करूणा का भाव,

बाँट जहा में खुशियाँ हर दम गम सभी के हरता चल।

जैसे नदियाँ नीर चले हैं.

जैसे तरुवर छाँव पले है

खुद संग जग को रोशन कर तू दीपक सा बस जलता चल ।।

एक दिन ऐसा आएगा जब मंजिल को तू पाएगा, धरती पर हैं पैर भले ही पर आसमान
छू जाएगा, बस कदमों को ना रोक जरा भी, मेहनत यूं ही करता चल। राही यूं ही बढ़ता
चल ।

चलता चल बस चलता चल ।

-Yashika

photographed by Dipti Bisht

Future Of AI In Education

In the coming time, the expansion of AI will have a profound impact on us. Whether it is daily life household chores or the field of Education, Healthcare, or other sectors. AI expenditure in India alone is expected to reach \$11.78 billion by 2025, and also to add \$1 trillion to India's economy by 2035. So What Will be Its Impact on Education? Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Virtual Reality(VR) technology potential to transform education by providing students with personalized learning experiences and helping teachers with new tools to enhance the effectiveness of teaching, methods. One of the benefits of AI is its Increased Efficiency :

- AI can analyze student data, like grades, and learning patterns, and adapt context and deliver according to individuals' needs.

- AI can also help teachers with time-consuming tasks like grading exam preparation and assignments.

- In VR, students can interactively explore complex concepts.

For example – VR can stimulate real-world scenarios, like historical events and scientific experiments for better understanding of students.

- However, it is important to note that AI and VR technology should not be the only means of education in the future.

- These technologies must be used along with traditional teaching methods, human teachers, and interactions.

-Priya Ranjan



Ichigo Ichie

Ichigo Ichie is a Japanese proverb, that has its origin from the Sadō/Chadō (tea ceremony) of Japan. It was first used at one of such ceremonies by Sen no Rikyu, a tea ceremony master, back in time. Where Ichigo Ichie can simply be translated as "One time, one encounter". It holds profound meaning deep within. It refers to the meetings or the opportunities that one may encounter once in a lifetime, that is since one's birth to one's demise and that, these won't be repeating ever again. And the time Sen no Rikyu was active in the ceremonies was that of wars, so it had even more significant meaning to people back then as the meetings then were not promised, and hence the proverb was frequently used in the Sadō to show sincere hospitality to the guests and to make 'em realise the importance of their being.

Aside from that Ichigo Ichie signifies that one should live each passing moment to the fullest and always value the meetings one is part of, for it may be the last, even if it isn't, the next meeting won't ever be the same, for the moments that have passed can never come back and the moments that are to come are not in one's control so what one needs, is to focus on present, to live the memories rather than crying over 'em or planning 'em.

-Teena Rawat

My Best Friend

I wanted nothing more,
But a smart, cheerful friend
Who appreciates my qualities
And makes my loneliness end.

New in a strange surrounding,
Weird people wanting me to go with the flow ,
I wished for a face that could instantly
Make me glow.

After years of finding,
As difficult as searching ocean for pearls,
I finally found,

My bestie, the sweet simple girl.

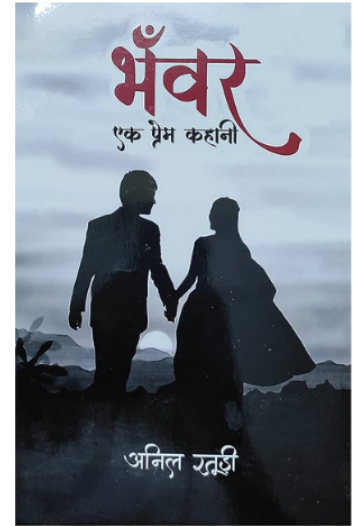
-Priya Ranjan

artwork by Priya Ranjan

INTERVIEW WITH DR ANIL RATURI

For this interview, we had the former DGP of Uttarakhand, Dr. Anil Raturi with us. He is an avid reader and literature enthusiast. In this interview, he talks about his book, "Bhanwar: Ek Prem Kahani" and also about his experience with the Elysian Literary Society of Doon University.

- You have shown great talent in writing, evident from your work on "Bhanwar: Ek Prem Kahani". As this magazine is aimed towards literature students, do you have any advice for the young and aspiring writers who will be reading this publication?



I want to share that my book, Bhawar: Ek Prem Kahani, has been published by Winsar Publishing Co. Dehradun and is available on Amazon. It is written in Hindi. While I wouldn't call myself a great writer, I have managed to write a book. As this magazine is focused on literature, my advice to aspiring writers would be to read as much as possible. Reading exposes you to a wealth of knowledge that has been accumulated over thousands of years, and with the advent of social media, this knowledge is more accessible than ever. The more you read, the more you can understand and appreciate the works of great authors, thinkers, and philosophers from all genres, be it sociology, economics, psychology, science, or physics. This knowledge forms a melting pot in your mind, stimulating your creativity and helping you to come up with original ideas and emotions. Observing the world around you, including nature, people, and everyday life, is also crucial to becoming a successful writer. This keen observation and acquired knowledge can then be articulated through writing, whether it be a diary, journal, articles, or essays. Once you have honed your thoughts and ideas into a cohesive message, you are ready to write a book.

- How did you begin writing?

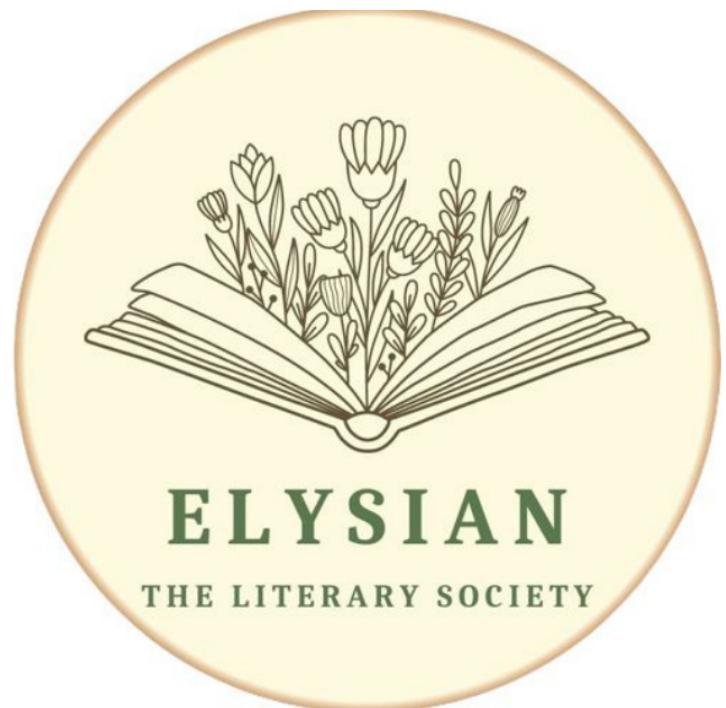
I wrote a book in 2021, but the idea had been brewing since 2012 when I attended a training in London. With a few days to spare before my flight back to India, I settled into my five-star hotel and started writing. However, once I returned to work, it was difficult to find time to continue. Despite this, the book stayed with me, and when I retired in 2020, I finally had the chance to finish it. With the second wave of COVID-19 hitting in 2021, I completed the book in three months and got it published. Though the process began in 2012, writing is a lifelong journey that starts at birth, shaped by our observations and experiences. It helps us articulate our thoughts in the language we've learned, be it English or Hindi. Overall, the journey of writing this book was beautiful, and the process of writing was wonderful.

- Regarding your book "Bhanvar: Ek Prem Kahani", you were a guest speaker at our university. You were invited by Prof. Surekha Dangwal, the Honorable Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Chetana Pokhriyal, the Head of Department, to participate in a book discussion event organized by the Elysian Literary Society of Doon University. Would you like to share any feedback or comments for our Literary Society?

I think Elysian is a wonderful initiative of the Department of English of Doon University, Dehradun. I was there to be part of one of the literary discussions on my book and I had a very scintillating session. In fact, the students wanted the session to continue longer as they were very excited and had a lot of questions. The session was meant to be just an hour long but it went on for around two and a half hours. Firstly, I found that the students were very enthusiastic and intelligent. Their articulate manner was indicative of their inclination to their subject of literature. As far as Elysian is concerned, the word itself is quite appropriate as the ultimate aspect of human existence that makes you experience bliss is literature. The word Elysian stems from Greek mythology or rather from the Greek concept of Elysium, a heavenly place where the greatest of warriors were rewarded with ultimate bliss. Here, I would say that it is very appropriate that literature creates bliss when you read, discuss or write it. So Elysian is a wonderful nomenclature picked up by the Literary Society and I have had a wonderful first-hand experience. I want to congratulate the entire university and everyone who is a part of it.

- Thank you for your kind words, sir. We look forward to seeing you here again. I would like to ask if you have any final words for our readers.

I presume that your magazine would be read by most of the students, the faculty, people visiting your university, and an online audience. I would say that you are very lucky to be getting this opportunity to read this wonderful magazine. I have had first-hand experience and some very bright, young, and thought-provoking students are behind this led by your great faculty including your Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Surekha Dangwal; the head of your department and the rest of your wonderful faculty. I would advise the students to keep contributing to the magazine so that it grows in strength. With that, I wish you all the very best.



Interviewer: Vatsal Baithane
Transcribed by Nayonika Chakravarty

- What inspired you to a career in criminal justice?

I told you that as a student of literature during my study in Delhi, I happened to see this movie called "Ardhasatya" in which Om Puri is a police officer. Who is very, very dedicated to justice. And so I was inspired by that character and even though when I passed the civil service examination I had the option of joining the Indian Foreign Service. But I wanted to serve people at the grassroots. Because in the police you have executive powers to help people immediately. So I think it is one of the most effective departments to help people.

- Sir how do we, as students, help and serve our nation with our limited resources?

That's a very good question. Students are the future leaders of our society. And people like you, who are studying in a good university. Are a very, very small minority who have this privilege, to go to such a good place to study. And in the next few years, all of you will be in some positions of responsibility. And therefore it means you will be leading. India is a very rich land. Nature has endowed India to become a very rich country. But because we have not been able to organize ourselves, we are one of the poorest countries. Now, what is the problem? Leaders! Leaders like you! You should organize the country better. And take India to the destiny of becoming what it is capable of. You are very lucky that you were born at the time when in the next 15-20 years India will be one of the leading countries of the world. One of the best times for India is coming now. Now, it is going to come in 15-20 years and at that time you will all be at the head of leadership, somewhere in different places. So what can you do? You should become competent through good study, hard work, and discipline. You may be very intelligent, and very talented, but if you have no discipline you will be zero. So you should work hard, improve your competence, become disciplined, and most importantly make sure the energy is there. But that energy should not go in the wrong direction, it should go constructively. It should go into something constructive. And you should be honest. You should not fraud anybody. Character, honesty, hard work, good habits, exercise, physical fitness, mental alertness, mental hard work, physical hard work, and no drugs! This can only happen with discipline.

- Sir, when you see the current state of Uttarakhand, what changes do the people want from the police department and what changes does the police department want from the people?

It is a very important point and Uttarakhand police works very hard. But there is always a scope for improvement. There is a lot of scope for improvement in the services of the police. The people should also be law-abiding. The people should try to follow the law. If you ride a scooter or a motorcycle, you should wear a helmet. You must follow the speed limit. You should carry all the documents. And you should not drive when you are drunk. You should not drink and then drive. And you should always see that for your safety and others' safety as well. As far as crime, we should always help the police to detect the crime. To ensure that people who commit crimes are punished by law. Society can always contribute to that. Society should be peaceful. They should not create unnecessary strife in the society. Especially based on various small issues for all castes, communities, races, languages, and religions. We are one country. India has people from all parts of the world! And we are living so peacefully. So if you continue to maintain peace then we will be very famous, we are already a very famous tourist destination and we will develop. And when you will develop then the income of the people will increase, and when the income of the people increases, the quality of life of the people will increase. Everybody will progress.



Interviewer: Priyanshu Bhatiya
Transcribed by Vatsal Naithani

Like 60 Shots in a Gloomy Night

I get chills looking at you
Oh! What a beautiful sight,
Like 60 shots in a gloomy night .
Yellow,green,blue and hazel,
Oh! It makes my heart dazzle
Like 60 shots in a gloomy night.
Your presence is so calm and soothing
Oh! i could feel my happiness rooting ,
Like 60 shots in a gloomy night.
To see you smile ,Makes my heart shine
Oh! I Want you to be mine ,
Like 60 shots in a gloomy night.
Being with you gives me a sense of glee
But I'd still like to flee
Because iam afraid of the dark
After you loose your spark ,
Like 60 shots in a gloomy night.
It leaves smoke behind ;
Filling sorrow in my mind ,
Like 60 shots in a gloomy night.
Turning happiness into ash
And,my heart into a mess,
Like 60 shots in a gloomy night .

-Shubhi Nariyal

The Ray of Hope

No matter what I go through,
My solace is found at your door,
Providing me with hope evermore.

Your hidden mysterious ways,
Speak to me in a special phrase.

Your love is what I trust,
It's been there through all the dust.

You guide me to the light,
No matter how dark the night.
Your calming presence fills my mind,
When I'm lost and cannot find.

I feel you all around,
In every tree and every sound.
Your glory absorbs me whole,
For the love you hold in your soul.

-Harshita Kapoor

Devbhoomi Uttara

Devbhoomi Uttarakhand is a North Indian state situated in the foothills of the Himalayas. Uttarakhand is called the 'Land Of Gods' because of the significance this place holds in the Purana, numerous temples, and pilgrimage sites. One should visit this holy place to attain peace and mental stability. Uttarakhand came into existence on 9th November 2000 as Uttaranchal but later the name changed to Uttarakhand. This state is the birthplace of several warriors and famous dignities like Rani Karnavati, Sumitranandan Pant, Peelu Rautali, Jaswant Singh, and many more.

The Char Dham Yatra – Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri, Gangotri attracts millions of devotees and pilgrims every year. Tourists come here to witness the cultural beauty of Uttarakhand as our culture is celebrated through various festivals like Kumaoni Holi, Nanda Devi Raj Jat Yatra, Uttarayani Kauthik. The celebrations are made more auspicious by playing the two folk instruments Dhol damau.

Dhol damau plays an important role in every occasion whether it is about celebrating birth, a wedding, or if it is death rituals. Uttarakhand is the best place to escape from the hustle and bustle of a busy life and a chance to connect with serenity and spirituality.

-Perna Panwar

photographed by Aastha Kothari

Humanity

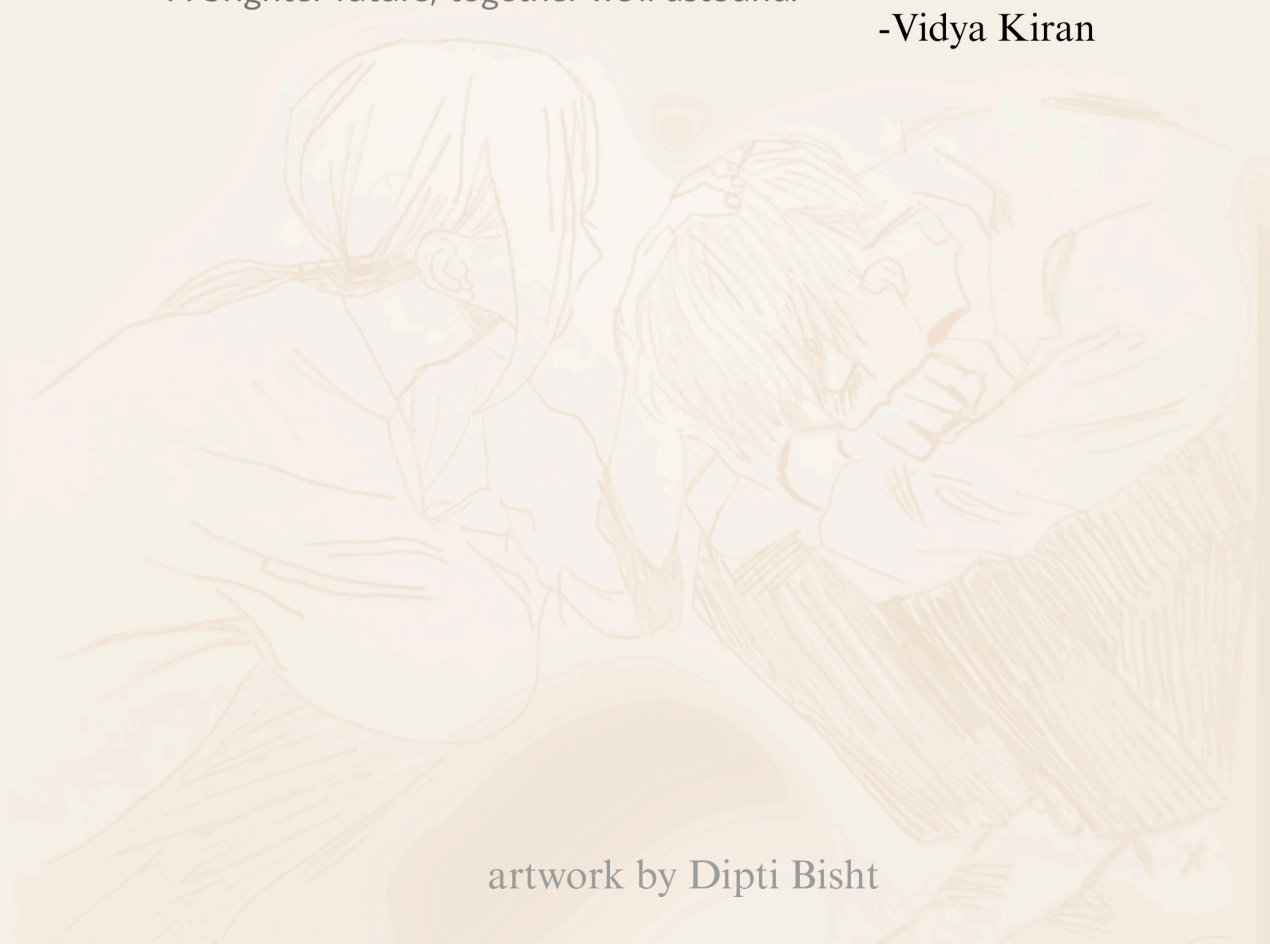
In the tapestry of humanity, we are all weaved,
A collective spirit, compassion conceived.
Different colors, cultures, and beliefs entwined,
A testament to the beauty of humankind.

In acts of kindness, our true essence shines,
A helping hand extended, hearts aligned.
Embracing diversity, breaking down walls,
We stand as one, humanity recalls.

For in each soul, a spark of light resides,
A common thread that unites and guides.
With empathy as our anthem, let us strive,
To uplift each other, and love will thrive.

Let compassion be our compass, leading the way,
Nurturing humanity, day by day.
For in unity, our strength is found,
A brighter future, together we'll astound.

-Vidya Kiran



artwork by Dipti Bisht

बन आते हो सैलानी तुम

जाते काम की तलाश में हो बन आते हो सैलानी तुम ,
जो गांव गधेरे लगते थे तुम्हे बुरे आज उन्ही में रहने को
तरसते हो तुम ,
चूल्हे की रोटी मे लगी राख लगती थी तुम्हे भद्दी ,
मगर आज उसी रोटी के लिए तरसते रहते हो तुम ,
जाते काम की तलाश में हो बन आते हो सैलानी तुम ।
क्या रखा है पहाड़ों में कहने वाले तुम कभी मुनस्यारी,
कौसानी के चक्कर लगाते रह जाते हो ,
इजा बाबू से कह गए थे आऊंगा दिवाली में मगर रोक
दिया तुम्हे घरवाली ने ,
बीता दी जर्जर हो चुके मां बाप ने कई दिवाली आस में
तुम्हारे आने के ,
जाते काम की तलाश में हो बन आते हो सैलानी तुम ।
न आए तुम दिवाली में न आए होली में ,
जर्जर और वीरान पड़े मकान राह तकते है तुम्हारी ,
मगर तुम्हे तो आराम देती है शहरों की वो गर्मी है ,
सैलानी बन न आना अब जो बदल सको तस्वीर मेरे
गांव की तभी लौट कर आना अब तुम ।

-Himadri Joshi

photographed by Arundhati Bisht

Fortuna caeca es

(Fate is blind)

"OK mom I'll be alright" I said for the hundredth time now. Moms are so fussy but that's what makes them mothers . "Honey, I repeat DON'T DRINK" My mom said while fixing my hairs. After she's done, she took a few steps backwards and glanced one last time at me with a smile. Jesus! this woman loves me so much and I'll do everything to keep that smile always on her face. With that I left the porch of the house wearing a black dress and heels which surprisingly makes me feel so confident. There is something about the darkness and dark that attracts all of us .With this I left for the party in my KIA. Like every girl I have dreams and goals and one of them is to give my parents the luxury they sacrificed for me. They deserve it, infact they deserve the best things in the world so here I am trying to be a good daughter.

I reached the party within an half hour ride. The place is crowded by drunk teenagers and riches everywhere. Its a graduation party but it seems more than that. It seems like a place for our age mates to drown in drugs. Anyway, who cares I'm here just for my friend Ryan. He was my one and only friend. We share an unbreakable bond of some happy and fascinating 15 years .

As I entered the club the strong smell of alcohol hits my nostrils. "Oh there she is ", I mumble as soon as I see my friend at the bar counter. I made my way toward her, tearing through the crowd. The first thing I did was squeeze her so hard. She is the only one that holds me together when I am in problems where I cannot involve my mom . She's probably my second mother and I love that. "Girl you look stunning! " she said adjusting on the tall bar chair. We both are not fond of drinking so we chose soda instead. I'm feeling proud from inside for the way my mom raised me.

After having a few random talks we went to the dance floor. The blasting music sure was making the place shake with its vibrations. Soon after, our not so close friends approached us and tried hard to get us drunk but Nah that won't work on me. Why do we need enemies when we have friends, right? All this generation knows is to first spoil themselves and then spoil others. We should stay away from those types. After shaking our body to the deafening music for sometime we realised it's time to leave. Me and Ryan shared goodbye hugs before returning to our respective cars to drive off for home. I started the engine and went off. My house was just a few miles. While rounding the corner an unstable truck drove staright into my car. My eyes brimmed with tears as the flash of light fell on my face. My fingers froze at the staring wheel. It happened so fast that I couldn't figure out what's happening.

No no no...this can't be happening. I can't die! I don't want to die. In the blink of an eye my car is spinning mid air. Two rounds, and I am smashed on the ground. Glass is shattered all over the road, my blood spilled all over the seat and me, I am broken. I try to move but my body denies to move at my wish. I think I broke a leg, my arm too and maybe my head too because it's all dizzy. I hear my shallow and short breaths. I feel cold and numb. I feel my life spilling away from my body. I hear sirens and screeching of tires, maybe the police are here. People are here to rescue me, maybe this can help me live. I hear the police say that the other guy is drunk. The medics say I'll die in a short time... I know I'll die but I deny death and hope because hope is a mighty seed that grows in the dark goodbye. Mom, I know I won't last long. All my cherished memories flash before my eyes. My insides churn at the fact that I lost the chance to even say goodbye.

Mom, I love you...even though some days we fight, we don't agree on the same thing or don't even talk, I'll always love you. Mom, though I don't say it often but The love I have for our family is the type of love where you live for each other. Mom, I swear it was not me it was that man's fault. Why do people drink mom? It affects not only them but also the life of people around them. The guy who hit me is walking and I'm lying here dying...it's not fair. I lost all my opportunities to make you and dad happy. I wanted to live but because of him this life of mine got snatched.

Tell brother to not cry, tell daddy to stay strong, and when I'm buried put 'Daddy's girl' on my grave. Only if his mom had told him not to drink I would be alive too I would be with you, with my family...

I feel my last breath as I drift away from life. I lay there lifeless and still. It was a lovely life until it was ruined by someone's mistake. Fate is cruel... as if it's blind.

-Priyanshi

" Fate is like the oculist, who, when about to open to a blind eye the world of light, first bandages and darkens the other eye that sees. We seal our fate with the choices we make. "

Clean India Green India

These words might seem awful but somehow it makes a huge difference. But how? "Just dighiting with a broom" just this much. Like the saying by Pope that "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" by these words we should appreciate it or avoid it. Everybody will appreciate it till the time each budding creature of India brings it into their routine. As said by Mahatma Gandhi "Be the change that you wish to see in the world". We should obey our ancestral hierarchy because when a man loves the scenario of cleanliness who did wonders for India can't we stand up and take an initiative to obey his principles and become his disciples after all they left a fossil for us from decades and such beautiful principle of cleanliness. Nature we call it our foster mother but if we take an initiative to clean it we will be safe from a big blunder called "The black hole" from where we inherit lot of harmful substances which erode the lives of human existence.

We should plant trees and take care of our surrounding which would play a major role in making a green India. During the period of pandemic our country suffered a loss of oxygen cylinders if we would have been following a process of planting trees it would have not been that much difficult for us which had created a scenario of do or die for the pandemic patients. Our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi was bestowed with an ancestral gene of great freedom fighter Mahatma Gandhi who provoked him to take a step to make India clean and green. Not only this much since India is a diverse country of unity celebrities also joined their hearts and soul to make India a natural country sprinkled with a mantra of cleanliness. Probably the Swachh Bharat campaign started on 2nd October 2014 on the 145 birthday of Mahatma Gandhi from where the nation twisted into a new era .

As the topic shows the head and tail of our nation.

Clean India Green India should become the dream of every Indian citizen.

The mission is a perfect development movement for India as it envisions sustainable development for the country.

We all know the beginning of anything needs a kickstart. The best way to begin this cleanliness drive is by cleaning our own homes first. Then we can collaborate with our neighbors and clean the surroundings of our society. The Clean India Green India slogan states that if we try to keep our India clean, it will become green by cleaning our environment and our surroundings. Green India mission is all about the environment. The focus of the mission is to stop deforestation and increase the number of trees in India to decrease pollution.

Deforestation can be reduced by promoting lesser use of raw material from the forest. We can bring a change to our forests by growing trees and small plants.



-Anubha Kaintura

बचपन

गई एक दिन अतीत में ,
देखा खुद को यू ,
इन गलियों में दौड़ते हुए ,
नंगे पाव ,
उस मुस्कान के साथ ,
जो शायद वहीं ठहर गई थी कहीं !
देखा वो हाथ लिपटा था जो ,
पापा के पास ,
ढेर सारी बातें जिनमे ,
वहीं बातें जो अब ढूँढती है ,
मौका ए तलाश !
सुना रही थी दादी ,
किसी नन्ही को परियों की कहानियां ,
जिसके पर लिए दादी खुद ,
चली गई उन्हीं कहानियों में आज !
देखा मैंने अतीत वालीं "मैं" को ,
और हंस रही थी मैं खुद पे ,
कि कैसे उसे विश्वास है उन सपनों पर ,
जिसकी हकीकत से वो है अनजान !
अगर सुन रहा है कोई कहीं ,
तो मार डालो मुझे ,
इस अतीत में यहीं ,
नहीं जाना उस "आज" के पास ,
जो धीरे धीरे ज़ख्म दे रहा हैं कई ,
और "भविष्य" भी जिसे भर ,
पा रहा हैं नहीं !

-Kareena



artwork by Nandini Singh

Uttarakhand

In uttarakhand , a
land so divine
Mountains majestic,
their peaks align .
Rivers meander , their
melodies flow ,
Forests enchanting , a
vibrant show .

Valleys adorned with
flowers so fair ,
Birds serenade the
crisp mountain air .
Uttarakhand's beauty ,
a treasure untold ,
A paradise of nature ,
a sight to behold.

-Priya Bartwal

photographed by Aastha Kothari

Force Femme Fierce

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2. It demonstrated end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. Its main objective was to do "Soft landing on the moon's surface". It consisted of Lander and Rover configuration. It was launched by LVM3 from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota. The propulsion module carried the lander and rover configuration till 100 km lunar orbit. On August 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with several female scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to highlight the role women played in Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission. The women scientists of this mission played a crucial role in ensuring its success. Without their contribution, this achievement was just not possible. PM Modi also decided to name Chandrayaan-3's landing spot on the moon "Shiv Shakti", a name derived from the concept of feminine energy in Hindu mythology, and a tribute to the women scientists who worked on the mission.

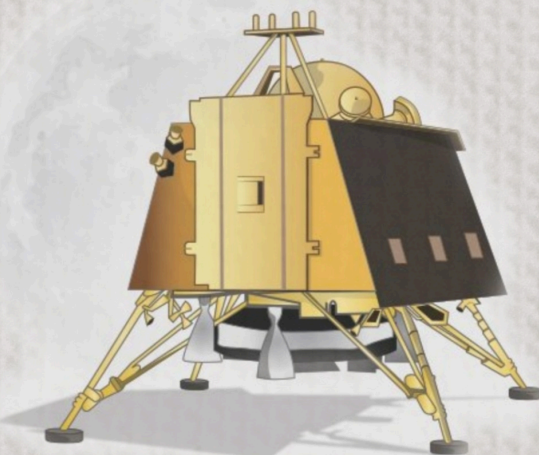
ISRO chief S. Somanath talked about how women were involved in conceptualizing, designing and executing the Chandrayaan-3 mission. Some of them played a significant role in navigation during the lander's critical descent.

Reema Ghosh is a robotics specialist who worked on the development of the "Pragyan" rover that is currently operating on the lunar surface. "For me, Pragyan is like the baby and he is taking baby steps on the moon. It is a wonderful experience to see the rover roll out on the moon for the first time," Ghosh told the press following Modi's visit. Ritu Karidhal, popularly known as the "rocket woman" of India is a senior scientist and aerospace engineer who joined ISRO in 1997 and has been part of many important space missions, including Chandrayaan-2, for which Karidhal also received the "ISRO Young Scientist Award."

Another ISRO senior scientist, Nidhi Porwal, who also worked diligently for four years to ensure the success of Chandrayaan-3, described the lander reaching the lunar surface as "magic". She said that the contribution of women at ISRO sets a strong example for other fields. Despite ISRO's record of including women scientists, experts believe that more needs to be done to increase the participation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs. "It is worth mentioning that every drop counts because it has some value, some additive effect. However, it should certainly be the goal for every scientific and technological endeavor in the country to see that women's participation is not increasing dropwise but by leaps and bounds."

"We are way behind that goal," Vineeta Bal, a biologist, told DW. Bal, a former member of the Prime Minister's task force for women in science under the Ministry of Science and Technology, said India needs a higher representation of women in these disciplines.

-Naina Kapoor



मेरी बोर्ड परीक्षा

यह सब मार्च के महीने की बात है, पक्षी चहचहा रहे थे और सूरज हमेशा की तरह चमक रहा था, लेकिन वहाँ कोई हलचल नहीं थी, क्योंकि मैं और मेरे दोस्त अपनी बोर्ड परीक्षाओं की तैयारी कर रहे थे चूँकि यह मार्च का महीना था होली नजदीक आ रही थी लेकिन हमें उस पर ध्यान केंद्रित न करने के लिए कहा गया था यहां तक कि उस समय घड़ी की आवाज भी मुझे परेशान कर रही थी, वह टिक-टिक आवाज मुझे बताती थी कि अब तुम कुछ नहीं कर सकते वो रातें वो तनाव और बोर्ड परीक्षा और फिर आखिरकार वह दिन आ ही गया जिसका हम इतने समय से इंतज़ार कर रहे थे हाँ बोर्ड परीक्षा का आखिरी दिन मैंने खुशी के साथ अपनी स्कूल यूनिफॉर्म को अलविदा कहा।

-Abishtha Baluni



photographed by Suhani Khanduri

Clouds

Soul that doesn't show its suffering
side to anyone else,
Seems like clouds holding back the
tears to themselves.
Soul that is sweet and calm can
become dark of their nature,
Like a pure white colour can be
changed in a stormy dark shade later.
Soul that can't hold back the
emotions,
Like a cloud bursting out in the ocean.
Soul that is broken apart,
Like clouds with a heavy heart.
The way a soul holds a grudge,
Like the thunderstorm before the
lightning touch.

-Payal Sharma

Rain

I wonder who has hidden the
sun ,
Just after when it has come .
Looking at the greyish sky ,
No one gives finding a try .
In absence clouds begin to sigh,
And drop their tears as they cry.
There is nothing which can
make them stop ,
As their numerous tears
continue to drop.
I wonder who brought it up
here,
Maybe someone living up there.

-Ishi Yadav



photographed by Khushi Singh



Recognize, Realise and Respect Water

Adam and eve came back on the earth, to see if living here was still worth, they were left shocked and astound, god's precious gifts were scarcely to be found, they looked for the blue liquid the life giver, but alas! Man has recklessly Wasted the life saver, they felt pity for the coming generations, on seeing scarcity of water they left in frustations"

The vast expanse of blue oceans, the gurgling water, the clear running brooks down the valley low-how pleasing and how mesmerizing. but the irony is that man has played havoc with this precious asset. leonardo said "water is the driver of nature, it proceeds life forward in the right direction and the worst part is that we never understand its importance". Water crisis is a major issue the world is facing today rather a bone of contention, The selfish man is not even scared by the condition of the dying planets such as mars which have now turned into balls of sand and rocks,

"rise in population and water's over extraction this callousness will lead to devastation"

If there is no water there is no life possible .so save water and save life.

-Kanak Rawat

photographed by Vatsal Naithani

Time

After the independence of India from British rule, the partition of India from Pakistan, and the successful adoption of the Constitution. This story is about a 10-year-old girl in 1950 who is a native Indian but has been considered a refugee of partition. This girl has lost her parents and is sent to an orphanage. "What is your name?" asked one of the ladies. She replied in a numb tone "Inha" They immediately threw her out of the orphanage and asked her not to come there again. In the streets of Punjab, a girl is roaming and begging for food. Nobody helped her because she was Muslim. Arun noticed her and asked about her name and family. She answered politely "My name is not my identity it is something that makes me socially invisible. My parents are up above the stars and they only see me at night. Please give me some food I didn't have food for the last 2 days." Arun helped her and decided to adopt her. He takes her with him.

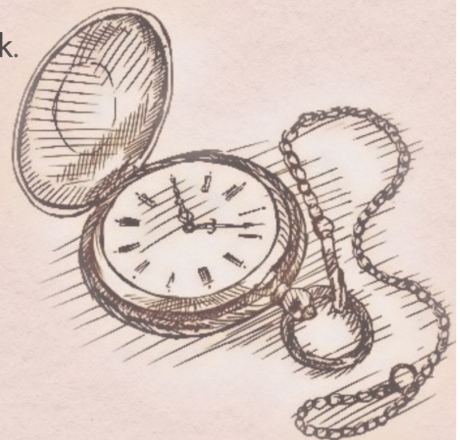
It has been 7 years since his marriage but he doesn't have a baby which made her wife agree with him but his orthodox parents were not ready to accept her. He tried to convince them but they didn't agree. Then, Arun decided that he would live in a nuclear family with Inha and his wife. Inha was silently sitting and listening to all this, she stood up and left the house. Arun ran after her and asked her to live with them. Inha replied "I don't want anyone to leave their parents as I know how it feels to live without them and about me I think god has decided this path for me and I should follow this. Please don't leave your parents for any outsider like me. They are the most precious gifts of god. Thank you for the food and for accepting me as your child. Bye, take care of your family as you did for me." After speaking Inha leaves Arun not trying to stop her. Later in the evening, Arun's parents decided to accept Inha as their grandchild.

The next day early in the morning they went in search of her and found her shivering on the footpath near the park. As soon as they took her to the hospital the little child became the star without shine in the morning.

-Khushi Thapa

"Don't waste your time in anger, regrets, worries and grudges. Life is too short to be unhappy."

-Roy.T.Bennet



Love the Way You are

Those insecurities
pierce me everyday
With every acne that
pops up on my face
With it comes insecurities,
and agitation
of not looking beautiful
Those stretch marks
that are on my bosom and thighs
I try to cover them,
with mere clothings
But I know I cannot hide them
Atleast not from myself
I see them growing
whenever I see myself
in the mirror and wish
I could just flaunt them
Every time I take a picture
Pictures of my full face
Not hiding the sides
where there are acne and fat
Not using filters,
I want to feel pretty even
with my body hair and acne
Without worrying about things like-
Do I look better with the specs?
Or without the specs?
I just want to feel comfortable and
Alluring in my own skin

- I wish it was as easy as they say~
"Love the way you are."

-Anubhuti



artwork by Khushi Singh

जवाब

मैं जवाब ढूँढ रही थी उस सवाल का जो मैं खुद से पूछ
रही थी,

कैसी हु मैं आजकल!?

किस सोच मे डूबी हु मैं!?

ये जो चल रहा है मेरे दिमाग मे क्या मतलब है
इसका??

ये जो उसे भुलाने की कोशिश मे उसे बार बार याद कर
रही हु;

क्यु कर रही हु मैं ये!?

सवालो का किस्सा तो जैसे रोज़ बढ़ता ही जा रहा है,
पर जवाब!??

जवाब एक का भी नहीं मिल रहा,

एक सवाल अचानक नया आ गया,

ये जो मैं कर रही हु क्या इसमे खुश हु मैं!??

दूसरों की खुशी सबसे पहले देखना,

खुद से पहले उसको रखना,

इसमे कहा खो गयी हु मैं!??

जो मैं थी क्या आज भी वही हु मैं??

बस इन्ही सवालो का जवाब ढूँढ रही हु मैं..॥

- Gungun

Love does not Knock

Love does not knock on your door.

Love beckons like sirens from the mysterious blue. It foams like the spray at a golden beach. It sails to far off lands like the explorer thirsting for adventure.

It runs around like fawns in the green woods. It dances like peacocks in the cooling showers. It roars like the mightiest lioness asserting her power.

It grows how cities sprawl over time. It swells like the traffic that rushes through these roads. It develops as a house is slowly built, piece by piece, brick by brick.

It sings like swallows in your garden. It flits around in between your plants like little white butterflies. It blooms in backyards like tulips in Netherlands.

It sizzles in the sauce of the perfect pasta someone cooked for you , even though they usually burn bread. It steeps like the chamomile tea someone brings you when you can't sleep. It hides in the poems someone writes, thinking of how your eyes shine in the sun.

It seeps through like the rain that tarnishes these yellow walls. It giggles as little feet patter away to hide behind the sofa. It dances in your living room as Elvis hums in the background.

Love does not knock. Its arms are too busy embracing you to do so.

-Nayonika Chakravarty

Komal Negi

artwork by Komal Negi

Death

Death she says doesn't scare her anymore,
Death did scare her at some points.
Death that once would have made her cry,
Death that makes me cry for her.
Death that she thinks restricts her from living a normal life,
Death that she freely talks about.
Death that gives hope ,
Death that she might have accepted.
As if death is the only destiny,
bound to happen to her .
Death is not bound to be the ending destiny,
Death is bound to be the leading force to a much happier life for her.
Death, a thought.
Death that should remain a thought and never become truly death.

-Vishaka



photographed by Akshat Bhatt

Thank
you!

CREDITS:
EDITING AND COMPILATION

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*"There is no real ending. It's just the place
where you stop the story."
- Frank Herbert*

