

RAIN GOD IS IN DILEMMA AND OTHER POEMS

By C L Khatri

You are not a hospitable host.

You have made your home too narrow

for rain to stay there for a while

like a welcome guest.

You have filled its belly with suicidal glitter.

In cities there used to be ponds.

You are lost in pounds,

hypocrisy of dollar democracy.

A little rain in July,

boats float on roads

and you are ready with fishing rods.

Rain-god is in dilemma.

Flood ravaged ones are also in dilemma

when helicopters hover in the sky.

Elsewhere a child on the roof of a floating hut
nibbles the bread and sneers at the food in your mind.

ONCE AGAIN

Once again weather is getting worked up
drunk with the drink of pre-monsoon shower,
the aroma of drenched earth's apron in summer,
cuckoos' song from the green bower
calling boys in the cuckoo's nest once again.

Once again baby leaves and rosy buds are sipping dew drops,
from green leaves dripping yellow of amaltash.
It's the rain-fest the dark sky celebrates,
cloud bursts its swollen womb to quench her thirst
lightning's lashes herald its dawn once again.

Yesterday the trees that shed their leaves,
their bony brown branches and faded flowers
are breathing life with sun-rise once again.

Face washed with white clouds, hills are looking fresh.

The cool wind is carrying your fragrance once again.

The thorn in my heart is taken out,

the simmering wound is healed

still a void is left aching!

Once again I saw a Majnun sobbing for years

on the sandy shore for his Laila.

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The bird that got withered away day before

is now chirping, fluttering once again.

Bio

Chhote Lal Khatri (b.1963) a reputed, perceptive critic and editor of *Cyber Literature*, *Indian Journal of English Studies* and several anthologies of criticism, is a well-known voice in Indian English poetry. He is a bilingual poet writing in English and Hindi. His four poetry collections in English are *Kargil* (2000), *Ripples in the Lake* (2006), *Two- Minute Silence* (2014) and *For You to Decide* (2016). He was awarded Michael Madhusudan Academy Award for his poetry collection *Kargil* in 2002. His poems are widely published, anthologized and translated in different languages in India and abroad.

Currently he is a Professor of English, D S W, Patliputra University, Patna-800001, Bihar.

Email. drelkhatri@rediffmail.com www.cyberliterature.in