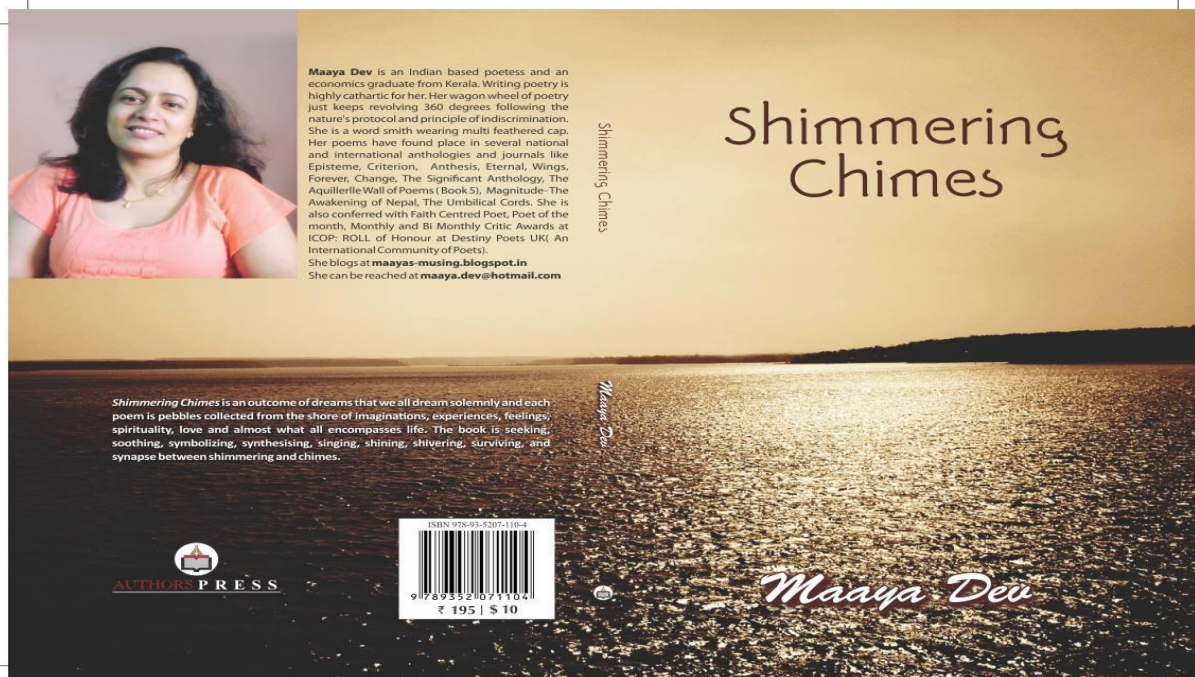


BOOK REVIEW

By Shamsheer Singh

Shimmering Chimes /poetry collection/Maaya dev/Authorspress, New Delhi, Sep 015/ISBN 978-93-5207-110-4/Pages 93/RS 195/\$10



Maaya dev is one of the major contemplative voices of modern India. She is an eminent, erudite poetess who has the international recognitions when it comes to poetry and the book under review is her very debut Anthology.

“The holy dawn dreams

Somewhere with the yawns of the universe

Let me unfold to a new day

Let the sunflower kiss the sun

To welcome the *shimmer* of the “*Shimmering chimes*”

~SHAMSHER~

These were the verses that got scribbled as soon as i grabbed the book “shimmering chimes” and looked at its cover page. The contemplative, soothing, magnificent cover page in itself is asking sheer poetic brilliance to manifest. It can be a vital source of perennial flow of springs in the garden of poems, planted by soulful poets-The most sensitive of human being. The title shimmering chimes goes as deep in the labyrinth of heart as the sun’s rays falling on the sea. The hallmark to leave an imprint in the reader’s heart was obvious even without unfurling the glossy pages ahead. But then the wheel had to move on

Again, the very next page was boldly emblazoned shimmering chimes as though if signing over with one’s own poetic fervor and zeal to keep up the continuum.

Chivalry and humility can well be seen with the dedication that the poetess have made

I dedicate this book to’

Entire Uni-verse’

...because of which this book is seeing light”.

She have reflected the modesty of Indian culture, of her soil, of her being and it’s then that Sanskrit verse of hitopadesa see’s the light- in act, in discipline ,in one’s culture through her verses

विद्या ददाति विनयं विनयाद्याति पात्रताम् ।

पात्रत्वाद्धनमाप्नोति धनाद्धर्मं ततः सुखम् ॥ ५ ॥

After the dedication, the impressive foreword that can leave readers at awestruck is written by two notable prolific dignitaries (Ravi Subramanian & Dr. Santosh Bakaya) of our time.

(P.no 7-15)

Author too spoke from her desk speaking about the book vehemently, of different aspects and connectivity with readers. She has deeply expressed her gratitude to one and all.

This volume of sixty poems is circumscribed uniquely in its own way not to be labeled and goes simply beyond few words of reviewing. It's something which needs a meditative approach to get into its soul. There can't be any taxonomy wherein the poetess work can be defined as it swirled, danced and prophesized vehemently with an unperturbed flow like one's own breath. The sheer poetic brilliance and aura that leaves no space other than wondering, pondering, praising, enjoying, feeling is commendable.

As an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna her very first poem "*Hare Krishna*" (p.no 25) reflects and leaves an imprint of her undying love and faith towards Krishna or in a broader domain her spirituality that fills the void of space and time that maps anything and everything. I can't stop myself from citing something that concretizes my aforesaid and her poetic prowess along with her undying love towards Krishna.

"There I see you! I see me!"

Ah! I see me in you!

Hare Krishna!!"

There is no element of separation between the divine Krishna and an immaculate soul. *Krishna my lord* (p.no 60), *Sat Chit Ananda – Bliss* (p.no 62) further reinforce her own love towards Krishna and in a broader domain a cosmic whisper. All these poems weren't merely spiritual poems solely but somewhere they have the power to take the readers on to a cosmic journey through revelation of meta-physical concepts, co-relation and ramification of self through these verses. *Divine transformation* (p.no 65) implicitly intrigues us of acquiescence as of Shrimad Bhagwad Gita Saar.

She says *"Sometimes how much I love to let myself,*

Plunge into the abyss of your bluish oceanic love,

Where I swim in the ecstatic bliss of unknown joy. “

Moving further is the enlightenment of one's own journey as a seeker wherein in-depth revelation of seeker and self is unveiled. The metamorphoses of self as a seeker seeking SELF can well be seen in the “*Beacon of Enlightenment (P.NO 26)*”. The flow and picturesque of the verses itself is soothing and enlightening.

The theory of Feminism and of its different contextual perspectives have always been the core and soul of many a poets, researchers and scholars. Author Maaya dev have captivated the essence of mysticism of a woman and no wonder she have embossed it with the title “A Living Enigma” (P.no 27). She have articulated woman as a mystery, as a beauty, as supremacy, and so on and forth in a stupendous way.

The spirit and esteem of being a woman and for a woman is well running into the nerve and verve of poetess and in her verses. The vibe in this poem is in itself meticulously exhibiting her poetic prowess and her spirit.

A peep into her own verse from “*A living Enigma*”

“Her veil is mystic, demure,

Concealing rhythm of all seasons.

Woman's love is perennial

Her emotions volatile, ajar. “

A Poet's heart is his/ her poems as its not only craftsmanship but living of (in) or for those moments again and again or as some longings. *What a conceiving “Birth of a poem ”* (p.no 28) which speaks of piousness and integrity of poetic aura wherein poetess considers her work as alive as she herself .

Romanticism or precisely and purely spiritual romanticism coupled with and integrated with the depth of contemplation, introspection are the base wherein some beautiful poems are weaved majestically. “*Beloved soul*” (P.no 93), “*what if?*” (91), “*A beautiful journey*” (p.no 69) are some of them. She is well aware of the the power of ‘shunya’ and there she says:

“Beloved soul....

We revel in the nothingness to merge as whole

We coalesce in perfect unison

To stay beyond as lovely twin souls.”

A deeper perspective of what it takes to be a poet can well be seen with an unfathomable depth and poetic divertissement. Though the poems are crafted on different echelon, some soft, silky and light, other richly textured, intense and adroitly composed but all are in corroboration of the author’s integrated thoughts of being a poet. Yes, it’s not easy to be a poet, as it’s far beyond just weaving of words. In fact, its self-actualization and self-realization and all these have been well put forth by the author. “*Poetic Glance*” (p.no 90), “*Unwritten poetry*” (P.no 81), “*Twinkle Twinkle my little poems*” (P.no 79), “*World of words*” (P.no 77) are some such poems which speaks immeasurably the quest, trajectory, feelings and sentiments attached with being a poet, with one’s own words and of course, the deeper revelation of its beauty and power to unfold the secrecy of life and existential. Her love towards word can be witnessed from the poem world of words (p.no 78) where she coalesce with the world of words and penned down

“World with words- A world of Illuminations!

World without words – An eerie of grave silence!

Oh Words! I bow in front of thee! “ .

At some point while going through all her poems on a communal basis, somewhere I felt it as to be another discipline, another poetic allied dimension to the discipline of ‘ontology’. She was

unveiling of herself, of her being, of her flow and somewhere was reaching to the dominion beyond, where she and her verses were in perfect coalesce . Throughout the book her whisper of emotions, sentiments and feelings were seeking, signifying, soothing and were taking different leaps and bounds of different height. There is scaling, de-scaling, rhythm, beats, nodes and somewhere all these are resonating to form rainbows riveted in words. She was into some kind of introspection, meditation, contemplation and with some sense of immortal flow to merge up self with divine flow. Dripping with divinity, wrapped with emotions, punched with her prowess she was baffling into her own world.

“Beyond my reach

Lay a world of dreams

My arms fall short {*“Beyond, P.no 88*}

Yet they try to reach

To grab those glitters”

What good is of poetry, if it's not felt and if it's without any soulful purposes? And arguably, with convictions she has tried to fill all the bases upon which poetry stands in a reflective and broader way, if it intends to serve any serious purposes at all, objectives other than enjoyment or entertainment. Her clarion call as a poetess can well be dissected with the poem “Ability beyond Disability (P.no 33), few more Rejections (P.no 35), Symbol of Transition (P.no 71), Humdrum of that green valley (p.no 73) and Womb's doomsday (P.no 75). As an illustration of her heartfelt and compassionate writing, let me recap her own verses,

“In its volatile firth,

‘Able is labeled as disabled’.

Though the destined journey can't be impeded {*Ability beyond Disability*}

When ability beyond disability reigns “

And again she says

“As a phoenix risen from hopeless life

They sail through invisible wings with a will “.

Her verses are refreshing, soothing breezes that have somewhere a healing power too. The above poem is a great tribute to all those special kids of Almighty.

On the façade of living as a writer and facing rejections she has wonderfully weaved a magical poem.

She says:

“On the eternity of time

A writer lives enliven moments.

He lives alone listening

to the chimes of his own ode. {Few more rejections}

Daily he carves for pet statuette

Out of his poetic strokes.

So, one day he swirls like Rumi

In euphoric ecstasy.”

Impermanence is the only permanence in this world. The different streams and flow in our journey takes different transitions and strides. Her vivid capture on transitions is well marked in her heartfelt poem “Symbol of transition “

“This heart wrenching glimpse

Sought my attention in a weird way

When I saw him clutching something unusual

It devours my curiosity to dig the unknown,

What he is so possessive and scared of losing? (Symbol of transition, P.no 71)

Yes I saw! It is a medallion he held so closely

That unveils his glorious past even in shabby state.”

Nature remains the most prominent, protruding and fascinating theme of almost all the poet since time immemorial. There is no degree of doubt that nature beguiles her. Poetess Maaya Dev seems to be euphorically in dalliance with nature and with the same spirit and zeal as of the nature's poet William words worth. 'Rendezvous with nature', 'Oasis', 'Autumn Moon' are some few picks from the spectral domain of nature which captivates and somewhere have the power to carry the readers to feel the bliss of nature.

Apart from all the fancy amalgam of a poet's imagination, she also has the sublimity towards society, nation and mankind. 'A Plight of mother India' speaks in volumes of the vastness that she feels for Mother India.

With a lucid, compelling and powerful vocabulary this book has enough of food for thoughts. There is a deeper analytical meditative touch to all the poems and I will be leaving further for the reader's to have their own opinion on the ground.

I will love to wrap the review of this wonderful book with book's own blurb that precisely and aptly describes the book in totality.

“Shimmering Chimes is an outcome of dreams that we all dream solemnly and each poem is pebbles collected from the shore of imaginations, experiences, feelings, spirituality, love and almost what all encompasses life. The book is seeking, soothing, symbolizing, synthesizing, singing, shining, shivering, surviving, and synapse between shimmering and chimes.”

Shimmering chimes by Maaya Dev

“Maaya Dev’s debut Anthology –‘Shimmering Chimes’ is a potpourri of priceless poems of different shades and colors. Sprawling with ontology, spirituality, philosophy, meta-physics, patriotism this book traverses and smells the petrichor of soil, the extravaganza of nature and is in dalliance with Author’s dream of acquiescence. As a debut anthology it won’t be any hyperbole, if I dare say with conviction that ‘This book is a tour de force’ “.

Rating: 5/5

Recommendations: “This book shouldn't be missed at any cost.”

Bio

Shamsher Singh is a technocrat turned teacher whose passion for teaching drives him. Having experience in core domain's as well as in software, now he has switched over to teaching and is vigorously active in mentoring and nurturing students for IIT - JEE as well as guiding them of different career prospects. Also, he has interest in writing poetry, reviewing, interviewing, story writing etc. He is presently associated with The Mahabodhi Tree (Bodhgaya) as a Maths Faculty. Many of his writings have found place in esteemed national as well as international journals both online as well as in print .