

BOOK REVIEW

VASAVADATTA, PUBLISHED BY INDIA NET BOOKS, NOIDA,

PAGES : 47, PRICE : RS 100/-

Reviewed By Jai Santosh

Vasavadatta is a long poem written by Poet Sanjeev Kumar in Hindi and translated into English by Santosh Alex. The book is published by Indian Net Books, Noida.

Sanjeev kumar uses the story of Vasavadatta and narrates the poem, beginning from the visit of Sidhartha to the end where Vasavadatta accepts Budhishm. The poem begins with Vasavadatta in deep sorrow waiting for the arrival of Sidharatha. The poet mentions about Indias rich and cultural heritage. Indias great culture was looked upon by other countries with awe. There was peace and prosperity in India. It was known for Daya, Karma and Ahimsa.

The narration moves on to Sidhartha who denounced the kingdom and was in penance under the Bodhi tree and attained moksha. Sidharth was very handsome. The youths were attracted to him.

When Siddhartha visits Agra a huge crowd awaits him. Vasavatta too was present in the crowd. Sidhartha watches vasavadatta in the crowd. She is beautiful , has a small waiste, large breast, fine shoulders and long hairs. She is attracted by Sidharatha and wants him in her life. She says

I want to offer everything
My body
Mind
Riches
To you

Hey dear bless me
So that my life
Becomes successful

The conversation between vasavadatta and Sidhartha is wonderfully narrated in the poem. Sidharth doesn't heed to her request and promises to come back, when she was in real need of an help.

Most of the men have fallen for Vasavadatta , but Sidhartha doesn't. She can't accept this fact. She becomes sorrowful and leads an indisciplined life. Vasavadatta becomes slim, she doesn't dress up properly. She becomes sad and weary. In the end Sidhartha comes back to her. He explains that thrishna is the reason for her problems. He educates and her and in the endshe accepts budhism and finally dies.

Santosh Alex has done a good translation. He has tried to retain the bhava of the original Hindi poem. He has retained the Sanskrit words and has given their meaning in the glossary, which makes the translation more attractive. The translation is lucid and he has done justice to the original.

Vasavadatta is a good read and I wish the English readers welcome the translation.

Bio:

Jai Santosh is an house wife. She occasional writes articles and reviews. Her diary was published recently in the book titled Lockdown, published by Authors press.