

CAVEAT FROM THE EARTH

By Aju Mukhopadhyay

Recent devastating earthquakes in Nepal we all did suffer
For it is contiguous to our border;
We invoked divine blessings for the neighbour.
Timely help by all sympathisers
Surpassed the need of the hour
Though human loss could not be made up
Once gone they wouldn't show up
Grief and sorrow like joy and happiness
Are always a passing phase
The living ones soon rose up the world to face.

But this has been repeated with greater or lesser tremor
Earthquake has been knocking at many a door
Striking Afghanistan, China, Myanmar,
India, Nepal, Japan and Ecuador
Rocking the cradles of human civilisation
Built over the years on hills, planes, dales and rivers.

It is a caveat clear to all failing humans
To behave properly with sky, earth and water;
Mother earth doesn't take revenge like man
But react naturally to all ill treatment meted out to her.
Let us in our conscience be clear
With all our scientific techno-mania
Not to transgress our capacity
In suppressing and diverting Nature

Which gives us all sustenance and vivacity.

Bio

Aju Mukhopadhyay, settled in Pondicherry, is a bilingual award winning poet, author and critic, writes fictions and essays too. He has authored 30 books and received several poetry awards from India and USA besides other honours. He has published two volumes of short stories some of which have been chosen for noted anthologies. He has contributed essays on literary and environmental subjects in more than 50 scholarly books. He is a member of the Research Board of Advisors of the American Biographical Institute and registered in the Who's Who of Sahitya Akademi, India. He is Vice President of the Guild of Indian English Writers, Editors and Critics. A member of many national literary and environmental institutions, he is also published as writer on animals, wildlife, Nature and Environment.

He has so far published seven books of poems in English besides two in Bangla. One more book of poems is ready for publication. Eight books contain critique on his poetry among others besides such critiques on his poetry and fiction scattered in several magazines. His poems may be broadly categorised in three groups: On Nature, poems with spiritual overtone and feelings and poems on social, political subjects, some of which may be categorised as rants. He is very subjective in his subtle feelings and expressions. He is known as one of the noted writers of Haiku and such genres of poetry from India. Such works by him has been published in many international magazines and ezines. His haiku has been specially chosen by some editors and awarded ranks on merits. Quite a few of his poems of the Japanese variety have been published in international anthologies and collections. He has his poems published in 16 anthologies which include two recent publications one of which is an Indo-Australian anthology of poems by three poets each from Indian and Australia, titled Poetic Conventions. He edited some literary magazines in Bangla and is placed in the Editorial Board and Advisory Board of some literary journals for Indian English writing. As Guest Editor he edited <http://twenty20journal.com>, an American Ezine for its Indian Edition; Summer Issue No. 3, 2011.

Besides the awards many of his poetic works have been acclaimed and honoured like one of his poems remaining at the top of the list of poems in www.asianamericanpoetry.com from

December 2007 for about three months and inclusion of his poem in the list of top ten recent poems by www.Poetsindia.com. Lucidity Poetry Journal from Sugar Land, USA has awarded him Certificate of Merit for his poem, “Structural Violence” in June 2011. The American Biographical Institute offered him the American Order of Merit.

Following are the books of poems published by him in English. The Witness Tree, In Celebration of Nature, The Paper Boat, Insect’s Nest and Other Poems, Aju Mukhopadhyay’s Poems on Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, Short Verse Vast Universe and Short Verse Delight. The last two are books of Haiku and Tanka with some essays on the subject of Japanese short verses.