

RELIGION

By C.L.Khatri

Religion—

dawn of a new sun

morning shining face of a baby.

Religion—

warm breath of a beloved

song of a rich harvest.

Religion—

ecstasy of cricket

journey to Mount Everest

Religion—

the Fire of Ahura Mazada

the holy water of the Ganga, Abe Jamjam...

Religion—

sweats of peasants

blood of soldiers

Religion—

empathy with suffering

sacrifice of possessions

Religion—

knowledge of Buddha

cross of Christ, thirst of Mohammad

Religion—

samadhi of a Yogi

dance of a dancer

Religion—

a trekking in an unknown terrain

a sea voyage to discover the voyage

Religion—

an act of peeling off onion skins of ignorance

a journey from being to Being

through love, action, knowledge or Raja yoga

or whatever leads you to You in you.

Bio

C.L.Khatri, a reputed, perceptive critic and editor of *Cyber Literature* and several anthologies of criticism, is an emerging voice in Indian English poetry. He is a bilingual poet writing in English and Hindi. His three poetry collections in English are *Kargil* (2000), *Ripples in the Lake* (2006) and *Two- Minute Silence* (2014). He edited an anthology of poems on world peace *Millennium Mood* in 2001. 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.

As a prolific writer he has produced more than three dozen papers and twenty books of criticism. Currently he is Associate Professor, Dept. of English, T.P.S. College, Patna. Email. drclkhatri@rediffmail.com. www.clkhatri.com