

BOOK REVIEW

A Door- Somewhere? (Poems) by Jaydeep Sarangi, Cyberwit.net, Allahabad, India 2014, Pp 68, Rs INR 200/=/\$15, ISBN 978-81-8253-490-2

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A collection of poems ‘A Door Somewhere?’ by Jaydeep Sarangi comprises forty-seven thematically different, unique and very impressive pieces of poetry. The underlying symbol interwoven in most of the poems is ‘the door’ element or ‘the door’ metaphor. What does it stand for? The answer that comes to one’s mind is that the door taken metaphorically represents openness of the heart, the new beginning or seeking for some ways and means to be truthful to oneself. ‘The door’ metaphor is different in different poems, in different situations or in different contexts. It might also carry different meanings to all and every one of us.

‘The door’ leads somewhere, to a place that promises a new beginning, a new and a better life filled with truthfulness in particular, with being truthful to oneself, which means something different for every person all around the world. ‘The door’ metaphor is, beyond doubt, a unique and unifying element; the element that unifies all the poems and all the people as a human kind.

The poems, though unifying in character, also have some native Indian cast-ridden traits and some of them make more than an obvious reference to the Indian landscape, to the banks of Ganges and to the wildlife. The poem that is particularly striking as having a very autobiographical tone is titled ‘A Door’. It seems that the author Jaydeep Sarangi is talking about his life as a writer, a poet and a translator, he writes:

A Door is always a door

A fine line

Between loving hearts

Who speak

In rhythmic words and idioms

Rain of images

Like a flock of birds

Migrating from one place to another.

Here ‘A Door’ stands for the door to his professional, artistic life of being a poet and a writer. If the author wants to follow his heart he has to speak in rhythmic words and idioms, he has to be a writer and a poet because this is his true calling or his destiny.

The language of the poems, their grammar, as well as their semantic layer are impressive and very luring to the readers. Surprisingly or not, the verses of the poems most often consist of complete sentences, though incomplete sentences in which ellipsis especially of verbs takes place also occur. Consider for instance a poem ‘Waiting’ in which one of the verses reads: *No change in the sky, All the same [...]*. On the semantic layer in turn the novel metaphors that appear in the poems are vivid, picturesque and live; often being oxymorons they surprise the readers with revealing some paradoxes, for example the metaphor, *Time is timelessness !* (taken from the poem ‘Waiting’) at first sight seems to be an oxymoron, but on a deeper level ‘time’, though passes, is constant in the sense of being infinite.

The author’s creativity and imagination are reflected in novel metaphors that evoke unforgettable images and pictures in the readers’ minds. Among other ones one can find the following new and creative metaphorical expressions: *Words are arms in a congress of minds, The wheel of Justice* and *Knowledge cuts short the mysteries* (which are taken from the poems ‘Words’, ‘Window on the world’ and ‘Mysteries of the door’).

I also want to highlight a poem that is more mystical in character entitled ‘Mysteries of the Door’. It touches the issues of life after death, personal security, the unknown, transcendental issues and the mysteries. The mystical problems raised are very universal and uniquely human dilemmas. The most interesting part of the poem reads:

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep,

To gain what he cannot lose,

A fool is always wise on a different plane.

To belief in life after death

*Is a personal security,
The greatest fears of life are often connected to the unknown
Knowledge cuts short the mysteries,
The stories of the unknown.*

In another poem 'New Year Gift !' 'the door' symbolizes the passage of time; the poet writes:

*By the glass doors somewhere
you kneel, wait for another new year. [...]
each passing moment where an untouchable dies*

Passing away, passage of time is also visible in the poem 'Red Roses':

*Each time red roses visit me
In dreams
I tell them to stay. [...]
To catch the next season
By the doorway.*

Still another poem 'A Door Somewhere' makes reference to history or more precisely to some turns in history that mark new beginnings. This poem also has a Polish trait since it quotes the words of a well known Polish poet Wiesława Szymborska – 'After every war/Someone has to clean up'. The poem starts with the words:

*Each time I read history
I find a door somewhere.
Past talking to present
Something else is yet to happen, only where and what ?*

Finally, this very interesting collection of poems, definitely recommended for every poetry lover, is full of new creative metaphors that are food for thought to the readers in all cultures. The language of the poems, their grammar, as well as their semantic layer are impressive and very luring to the readers.