

VOICE TO VOICELESS: MUSING FOR ALL WHO ARE DEPRIVED

Soumitra Chakraborty

Assistant Professor in English, Dept. of Humanities,
Mallabhum Institute of Technology, Bishnupur, Bankura

*Laal Palasher Renu by Dr. Jaydeep Sarangi, Shikshan, Kolkata: 2011, Pp. 48,
Rs. 50.00 (ISBN: 978-81-909924-5-9)*

The post modern bilingual poet-academic, Dr. Jaydeep Sarangi's Laal Palasher Renu, his maiden collection of Bengali poems, depicts the multiplicity of poetic images, ranging from the remote country side areas to the metropolitan Kolkata. The collection, consisting of 43 poems reflects the poet's deep passionate feelings, regarding varied subjects exposed from the backdrop of his poetic heart. The poems are of different nature and aspects, which show the poet's easy access to the diversified areas of contemporary concern.

Sarangi's poems cover a wide variety of themes and style. The poet has given equal concentration in dealing with the grave and serious social issues as well as the themes of common, simple and day to day interest. The colourful diversity in choosing themes has given Sarangi's poems a special flavour and taste. When love, fellow-feeling strike the central themes of some of his poems, his social concern and commitment, concern for the marginalised and despised section in the society have not remained neglected in the abode of the Laal Palasher Renu.

But what is most striking in the Collection is that the poet's dealing with the common and simple themes and giving them an extraordinary reflective touch. In the poem, Missed call, the poet has started with a very common observation of missing cell phone call in every day's busy life, but with the progress of the poem, the outlook of the poet has got changed both in letter and spirit. The incapability of human beings of keeping commitment in the broader perspectives in any form gives the poem a different hue. According to the poet,

Some calls are received

Some are missed

In auto rickshaw's sound or in the tunnel of metro

*Could not redial again later
Commitments veil themselves,
In the rush of everyday's work. (Translation mine)*

If concern for the marginalized and aspiration for the qualitative upgradation of their lives become politics, then surely political elements are there in Sarangi's one of the famous poems in the Collection, Lal Matir Taan (The Attraction of the Red Soil). The revolutionary attitude and mindset of the poet have been surfaced in his expression in the beginning of the poem:

*Have wishes, suddenly break
The years' long untouched can of mind. (Translation mine)*

At the same time his realistic detailing of the saga of the people of the land of 'Red Soil' has been very touchy and original. In the end, the poet's attempt to relate himself with those persons despised is prominent. He writes:

*Who on the bank of canal,
Dream, and vacate their hearts
To refill it again.*

*Loose cotton from mother's cloth
Reminds me that
I have my family
On that land of Red Soil. (Translation mine)*

Some of his poems attempt to provide a much deserved platform to this rich symphony of egalitarianism. Sarangi is a committed poet. Sarangi's poems are known for the lucidity of expression. His poems are written in such a language, in which common people speak. Ideas are expressed explicitly, which strike the thought process of the readers. He is an established name in the realm of English poetry and Indian English criticism. His first volume of Bengali poems, Laal Palasher Renu has marked a good beginning of his long potential journey as a bilingual poet.
