

Book review

Great accidental poetry

THE FRAGRANCE OF NATURE AND LOVE BY MANOJ KRISHNAN

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Reviewed by Manzar Imam



Poets are not made, they happen, is the famous adage in the exotic Urdu language. Manoj Krishnan happens to be one such poet. A software engineer by profession, his poetic journey began with request of an eminent poet on a social media outlet. Manoj accepted the request and started reading her award-winning poems which created in him the interest for poetry and thus he started to participate in poetry contests. Soon his poems began to be acknowledged and appreciated. Then there was no looking back as he began to get his poems published which won him awards, honours and accolades.

This is the short story behind this anthology of seventy-five winning poems that the author of “The fragrance of nature and love” hopes to be liked by the readers. Being a reader first than a reviewer, I find great semblance between the name of the anthology and the poems it contains.

For instance, the world love finds place ten times in the title of the seventy-five poems, followed by beauty (four times) and life (thrice), with mother and peace, twice each. This in a way sums up the essence of Manoj’s dexterity over the beautiful themes of love, beauty, life, mother and peace: themes whose importance is actually increasingly missing from our lives in today’s rapid race for material gains.

The poet reminds that a significant part of our existence is formed by values like love, beauty, peace and, it can be made meaningful if we get them their due place in our lives as he writes:

In the sweet fragrance of our pure and divine love,

I can feel the symphony of our perfect rhythm.

Or

Love is the elixir of our life;

In journey marred by strife.

As food nourishes our body;

It cares souls of everybody.

About the role a mother plays, Manoj puts it beautifully:

Children change color; mother always remains the same.

Be happy; I will always embrace you if you face any pain.

The two smallest poems *Stigma* and *These Moments* besides the long 24 –line *Pleasure is a Treasure Beyond Measure* are my favourite ones from the collection which is thoroughly melodious and meaningful.

It is hard though to say which of the two poems is better. However, between the powerful humanitarian message “Stigma” conveys and the poetic vibrancy “These Moments” has, I chose the latter for its sheer rhyme, rhythm, allure, beauty and positivity:

In this scenic ambiance, amid Sun’s soft radiance,

Let's spend some time, far from sorrow and pain.

Like these swans, we will float of the serene lake;

Perhaps these moments would never come again.

The selection of themes reveals the author's confidence in the power of happiness, love, nature, peace, positivity, truth and other such values which makes this collection an interesting reading.

Bio:

The reviewer is a Ph.D. student at the Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia and is also doing an online program "Contending Modernities" of the University of Notre Dame, USA.

EPISTEME