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Editor

Neeraj Kumar

Professor

P. G. Dept. of English & Research Centre
Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya-824234 (Bihar) India

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EDITORIAL

Literature means 'to move together', keeping abreast of life. Literature is no invention of the superficiality of social life, nor is it the colourful spell of any fantasia. Rather it is the portrait of real life – an external expression of the internal recesses of the mind – a bold and powerful expression of the suppressed sighs of the human heart. In order to preserve the sanctity and prestige of its name, literature must maintain its rhythm in pace with the dynamic currents of society. Literature also imbibes the spirit of welfare. Where there is no inner spirit of welfare we cannot use the term literature (Sahitya). Indeed, that welfare which pertains to the mundane world is relative; its definition also may change according to the changes in time, place and person. But that aspect of the term 'sahitya' leads human beings to absolute truth is one and the same for all ages and countries. In order to communicate with people at different states of development, and of different ideas, the same concept of welfare has to be expressed through different branches of literature. The grand and benevolent flow of ideas, with the common people on one side and the state of Supreme Bliss on the other is called literature. Thus literature is that which moves together with society and which leads society towards true fulfilment and welfare by providing the inspiration for service. However, the aim of any artistic creation is to impart joy and bliss.

Literature also promotes values. Certain activities of an individual, a community, a village or even a country when commended universally become models of values for others to follow. Since literature, particularly the novel is a mirror of life, the problems and values get inevitably reflected in it even though no fixed meaning can be attached to the terms. In fact, many times what is moral for one generation is not quite so for the next one. Henry James considers a novel to be "a personal, direct impression of life," and the only reason for the existence of a novel is that it does attempt to represent life. Even poetry, drama, and other genres of literature are equally capable of expressing the emotions, sentiments and feelings of human beings on the one hand, while on the other acquainting us with the stark realities of life.

The fifth volume of *The Interiors* is in your hand now and the editor through the co-operation of the entire Advisory Board hopes that it is really an improvement upon the previous issues in all aspects. It comprises thirty six papers, which range from the spiritual world of Sri Aurobindo, Vivekachaitanya and Jatadhari to the poetic world of the Romantics and Kamala Das, Nissim Ezekiel; from the dramatic world of Shakespeare and Vijay Tendulkar to the world of Dalit writers like Mulk Raj Anand, Aravind Adiga, Arundhati Roy, Toni Morrison; from the world of partition writers - Bhisham Sahni, Khushwant Singh and Bapsi Sidhwa to the world of autobiographical writings of Ruskin Bond, Language and Journalism; and from the world of feminist writers - Anita Desai, Manju Kapur, Jane Austen, Shashi Deshpande

to the world of Diasporic writers like Bharati Mukherjee, Kiran Desai et al. Besides, the Journal also includes papers on Amitav Ghosh and Chetan Bhagat. In addition to the scholarly papers, the Journal also includes creative writing section - one short story - “Diversión” - and one poem entitled “Rain of Tears”; and two book reviews as well which would satiate the diverging tastes of the readers.

The challenging task of publishing the present issue of the Journal has been possible only because of the constant encouragement of my mother, Dr.V. R. Agrawal, former Professor of Sanskrit, Post-Graduate Centre, Gaya College, Gaya (Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya) who shaped my personality and raised me to the height where I am. I invoke her grace for any good that I may do in this life. I feel obliged to the members of the Advisory Board and also to the panel of reviewers but for whose continuous support and encouragement this Journal would not have seen the light of the day. I thank all the contributors, especially the research scholars for their papers. I also thank my departmental colleagues, friends, well wishers and all associates who rendered support to me in one way or the other.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not record my thanks to my wife, Shalini Agrawal (M.Sc., Botany) whose active and ungrudging help proved fruitful in completing the work requiring sustained and patient labour, undivided attention and pointed concentration. I also bless my sons Arush Agrawal (Std. XI, DAV Public School, Cant. Area, Gaya) and Ansal Agrawal (Std.VI, DAV Public School, Rotary Campus, Gaya) for helping me in one way or the other. Sri Ajay Kumar, Proprietor, Shivam Computer Press, too deserves thanks who designed and printed the fifth issue of the Journal.

Finally, I invite the active co-operation from readers in the endeavour to promote a proper understanding of literature as an aid to make living really worthwhile. Constructive criticism and suggestions from scholars are earnestly solicited for the improvement of the Journal in future issues.

5th September, 2016

Neeraj Kumar