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# **THE INTERIORS**

**A Peer-reviewed Annual Journal of English Studies**

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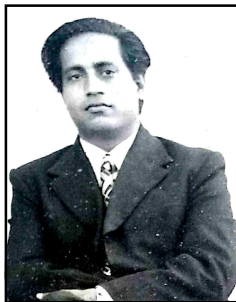
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## REVERENTIAL HOMAGE



**Professor Bhagwanjee Ojha**

**(1937 - 2017)**

Founder Head of the Postgraduate Department of English, Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya, Bihar, and author of *The Dancer in Chains*, composer of hundreds of poems, bhajans and ghazals, whose eminence as a brilliant student, polyglot scholar (English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Pali, Bhojpuri, Bangla and Urdu), legendary teacher, erudite anchor, reputed critic, astrologer, palmist, painter, poet and lyricist had been nurtured under the tutelage of Professors like J. Pande (BHU-Ara), Mahendra Pratap (Cantab), Damodar Thakur (Cantab), R. K. Sinha (Oxon), Amalendu Bose (Oxon) et al. Under the Chairmanship of Chhayavad poet Sumitranandan Pant he was one of the translators of *Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda* into Hindi. Ramkrishna Mission, Vipassana under the Bodhi Tree and Shree Yogendra Satsang metamorphosed him into a visionary artist and a spiritual pilgrim. May his soul rest in Absolute Peace and bless us !

*Courtesy*

**Dr. K. K. Narayan**

Head, Dept. of English  
Gaya College, Gaya

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## EDITORIAL

In recent years, there has been a vigorous development in assessing women and their role in society. For majority of women their gender has had some effect in their experiences and their perceptions of the world and this is very much reflected in the nature of the work they produce. We witness the rapid changes in the social, cultural and moral norms of the society. Feminism has become a highly important issue in contemporary thought and has resulted in a big challenge to the patriarchal assumptions. The writers of the post-independence fiction have focused on contemporary problems. They have explored the vital areas of individual consciousness and have projected the fascinating images of cultural change, rather transformation. Even women writers have enriched literature, specially fiction on the Indian subcontinent. They are not always preoccupied with their personal lives; many of them are interested in large-scale social or intellectual questions. They have started using a combination in varying proportions of what they have experienced, what they have discovered and what they have imagined. Their gender has not debarred them from writing about a range of experiences that they undergo. They have mainly concentrated upon the psyche of Indian women. They are in a conflicting state – they desire independence but at the same time they dread their traditional role. Thus they have to redefine their status. Women writers have caught the Indian women in this flux and have portrayed them realistically both psychologically as well as physically in their novels. Besides, the status and predicament of women in Indian society has been yet another motivating force for the Indian women novelists with a social purpose. Despite the fact that women can contribute to social regeneration as much as to the cause of family welfare, she became a victim of social prejudices and male chauvinism.

However, Gandhi's clarion call to the Indian women to participate actively in the freedom movement made them conscious of the much needed liberation and equality of opportunity in personal, social and political life. Recognizing the potential of women to join their counterparts in their struggle against ignorance, superstition and backwardness, Indian English novelists in general, and women novelists in particular, began to treat women as legitimate subjects for their purposeful social novels. Their endeavour was to be relevant to their culture by presenting characters and situations rooted in Indian ethos. This is made clear by what Nayantara Sahgal proclaims :

To be relevant to his culture, a writer's imagination has to be able to create the men and women and situations of the Indian environment and the Indian reality. If a writer can do this, make people feel with him, stimulate thinking, and inspire action because of what he writes, then he is fulfilling his function. (The Statesman, 9 May 1971)

The Post-Independence Indian English women novelists like Kamala Markandaya, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Arundhati Roy, Manju Kapur, Rama Mehta, Shobha De, Kiran Desai, Anita Nair et al present women in their heroic struggle to break through the pattern of sexuality and sensuality and to discover themselves as human beings capable of playing a positive role in the development of society.

The sixth volume of *The Interiors* is in your hand and the editor thanks all the scholars for the brilliant response. The Impact Factor of 4.95 awarded by South-East Asia Division, Cosmos Impact Factor is a proof of its astounding success. It has also launched its website. And the credit, of course goes to the readers, scholars and all the academicians who have promoted it in their own ways. The present issue of the Journal comprises twenty-nine papers which range from the dalit voices of Siddhartha Chowdhury and Mulk Raj Anand to the dramatic world of Shakespeare; from the world of Eco-criticism to the world of diaspora; from the world of children to the world of Communism and totalitarianism; from the world of feminism to the world of mythology; from the world of language to the world of poetry. Dr. B.K. Jha in his scholarly paper has dwelt upon the importance of Art and Literature in one's life. Shailesh Ranjan has discussed historiographic metafictional technique in Amit Chaudhuri's fiction. The budding scholars like Ms. Binita Kumari and Ms. Anam Jabeen have focused on the concept of parenthood in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* and gender discrimination and segregation in Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns* respectively in their papers. They really deserve kudos for their wonderful analysis. E.M. Forster's *The Longest Journey* has also been discussed in right perspective by Md. Riyazuddin. C. L. Khatri's recent collection of poems *For You to Decide* has been nicely explored by Mr. Bhaskaranand Jha Bhaskar. Apart from the research papers, book reviews and creative writing too, have been given space in order to bring to focus some promising scholars.

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, to the panel of reviewers and the Editorial Board 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 contributions. 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, Ms. 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. XII, DAV Public School, Cant. Area, Gaya) and Ansal Agrawal (Std. VII, DAV Public School, Rotary Campus, Gaya) for helping me variously. Sri Ajay Kumar, Proprietor, Shivam Computer Press, too deserves thanks who designed and printed the sixth 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.

1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017

Neeraj Kumar