

BOOK REVIEW

**Khatri, C.L. *two-minute silence*. New Delhi : Authorspress, 2014.
ISBN : 978-81-7273-920-1, Price- Rs.195.00, Pp -81.**

Dr. C.L. Khatri is a bilingual poet, writing both in English and Hindi. His poems have appeared in several national and international journals. The magic world of poetry, it appears, has always fascinated him. His poems broadly mirror psychic concerns that are exploration of different aspects of human consciousness. They profile a psychic quest for integrated meaning of flight of imagination and try to understand the fabric of response and the texture of questions. They also have an assumption that poetry is not for definite answers but a statement of definite probing.

Khatri's poems enlighten us about social, psychological, anthropological and metaphysical aspects of life. The present anthology of poems *two-minute silence* consists of 34 poems followed by 55 pieces of 'Haiku' in all. The poet begins with the poem "Peaceful Soul" and ends with "New Invention"; in between he has taken various themes like river, govt. schools, mother, poetic justice, New Year, Vijayadashami, tsunami, buffalo ride, sharks, Holi, election, sex, chastity, national consciousness and many others which reflect the wide and varied range of themes thought about by the poet. He has used almost all the stylistic devices in this small but fruitful reading.

In the present volume Dr. Khatri has displayed all the aspirations of a creative artist and the poems are a proof of his wish to realise them. His personal responses to reality form a marked theme. The poet's social awareness leads him through the society, nature and Indian mythology to enrich his presentation. The poem "Homage to Maa" can be marked for its emotional appeal :

She was standing like Mother Mary
Feeding me her breast
Alas ! I could not be her Christ
She bore the Cross all through her life
I slept in peace, bloomed in spring.

Indeed, the anthology is replete with lines that stick to the mind. The poem "Reversal Syndrome" highlights very graphically his past reminiscences. Moreover, the poet makes several references to pleasant as well as unpleasant events that occurred in the past. The detailed

treatment of the contemptible aspects of the present reflects the author's personal pain and anxiety.

Written in a simple language the book evokes both anxiety and thoughts. The poems require a careful reading from the readers who are expected to exercise their mental readiness to perceive the technique used by the poet and also to have heart to feel the substance in order to have the real pleasure of reading poetry. The poet must be congratulated on his brilliant effort. The book is a must read for anyone interested in poetry. With a striking cover, the book feels good to hold in the hand and is a delight to read.

**Reviewer : Dr. Neeraj Kumar, Associate Professor, P.G. Dept. of English
Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya (Bihar)**