

## WHEN WORDS FAIL, MUSIC OF PEACE RULES THE WORLD: TRANSLATION OF OMPRAKASH SHIV'S POETRY INTO ENGLISH

**DR. CHANDRASHEKHAR B. SHARMA**

Head, Department of English  
SMT.REWABEN MANOHARBHAI PATEL  
MAHILA KALA MAHAVIDYALAYA, BHANDARA

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"[reading a work in translation] is like viewing a piece of Flemish tapestry on the wrong side." - Cervantes

Modern Age is the age of hope, desire and undying quest for balancing the unequal nuances of musical notes echoing in the galleys of this queer world. Poets with poetic sensibility explore innumerable possibilities to pacify this violent outburst with peace wrapped in musical diction and soothing expressions. One such very familiar voice emerges from the hustle and bustle of the Nagpur city holding pen in one hand and a white dove in another. Omprakash Shiv is one of most popular poets of the region with a very long experience of writing articles, columns, research papers, several collections of poetry, essays, etc[1]. He is the recipient of many national and international awards. He writes in Hindi and some of his works are translated into Marathi and English. His poetry advocates peace, prosperity and unconditional welfare of mankind on this beautiful planet.

The present paper is an endeavour to present some of Shiv's poems translated into English. His poems primarily focus on violence, blood -shed, terrorism, peace, protest, Nature, and many more issues directly related to mankind. Unanswered Questions presents the barbaric massacre of the Army school children in Peshawar. Promise Writ In Water is a real picture of the havoc painted with filth and dirt on this planet. War presents turmoil and tumult in the world, and Eternal saga of suffering is an elegy written in the graveyard of FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI nuclear disaster. Man Sans Birds glorifies and laments the split in the relationship between Man and Nature. All poems were published in NAVBHARAT [Nagpur edition] in 2015.

Translation of poetry poses a major challenge when the translator has to mind-map or read the mind and soul of the source language poet. Shiv's poems comprises of lucid diction: very simple and straight forward expressions. It was a great source of joy and academic satisfaction for me to delve deep into his poetry.

### UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

(dedicated to the Army school children who were brutally

murdered in Peshawar in a terror attack)

Tiny tots frolicking in the haven of hospitality  
Are drowning in the pool of red-blood inhospitality  
Soft buds blooming in the heavenly garden  
Are destined to be crushed brutally  
Unpardoned!  
Their sons and daughters  
Are my own children  
Now they are  
the children of my world!  
Pleas fall on deaf ears  
Bullets mute the little angels' wails  
In high-pitched sound  
the unbloomed buds of lesser god  
Rose to martyrdom!  
Lessons of Unity and integrity echo  
in the hub of education  
blood stained hands move the cradle of innocence  
unanswered questions linger in the universe  
the butchered school children  
tremble on the floor  
Agony and pain rule the world.  
Can peace be conceived in the womb of terror?  
Can terrorists rule my world?  
Can a Terrorist  
Read and write the story of humanity?  
venom-roots of terror are engulfing  
the desperate pleas of mothers  
and we have to answer the questions  
scribbled on the face of dead children  
Alas! We have to answer  
the unanswered questions!

### PROMISE WRIT IN WATER

Your moon is extremely beautiful  
But its image looks ugly  
in the dirty ditch.  
The filthy odour  
ozze out of open drains...  
fierce heat of the sun unfurl  
specks of rotten breath!

Load shedding at night  
 Prepares gutters foul  
 The breeding ground for mosquitoes.  
 Behold I  
 ugly image of your beautiful moon  
 in the dirty trenches.  
 My home  
 My city looks beautiful  
 In the sunshine  
 Looks beautiful in the twinkling night!  
 The trees planted on the eight lane highway  
 Are placards on 'save nature'.  
 Overcrowded colonies  
 Suffocates in smoky oxygen.  
 The broken sewer line  
 Contaminates  
 the pure drinking water...  
 the slogan of safe drinking water  
 is a promise writ in water!

**WAR**

Nuclear test  
 Harbinger of hell  
 Invites blue sky  
 To die!  
 To die!  
 To die!  
 Warmongers are bold  
 Cruelty uncontrolled  
 kills humanity  
 Once more!  
 Once more!  
 Once more!  
 Gift of god  
 Dollars oozes from oily walls  
 Gulf- tycoon enthrals  
 Incessantly!  
 Incessantly!  
 Incessantly !  
 World -war mania  
 Deadly schizophrenia  
 Broken Ozone pollutes pure  
 Air !  
 Air !  
 Air!  
 Dance of death  
 Radiation creates unrest  
 Annihilation everywhere  
 Limitless!  
 Limitless!

Limitless!  
 Landmines are curse  
 Design hate-networks  
 Seal the borders  
 Worse!  
 Worse!  
 Worse!

**Eternal saga of suffering**

(elegy written in the graveyard of FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI nuclear disaster)

Earthquake...  
 Tsunami...  
 Inferno...  
 Radiation...  
 Five celestial elements stifled  
 Strangled...  
 Serpentine curves of human growth  
 Heading towards annihilation !  
 Earth didn't quaked  
 Ripped opened like a bamboo stick  
 The eternal Time  
 Untimely passed away...  
 The joy of life  
 In a flicker of moment  
 Buried under the elm!  
 Earth lost her pride  
 The existence  
 Speed of Time!  
 The blue deeps snarl  
 Tsunami dance  
 Engulfed the city of snow -clad mountains.  
 Cars on the waves  
 Ships unlocked from the harbours  
 Drowned the children of god  
 Concrete jungle  
 Into the sea of development...  
 Relics lingering  
 Garbage of life  
 on the shore !  
 With its broken wires  
 The mad circuit  
 Burnt everything...  
 Burnt the human nests  
 Shopping malls  
 factories!  
 Saga of suffering  
 Pierced the heart of humanity  
 Pity and terror  
 rule the world

the T.V. screen!  
Venomous stings of nuclear hub  
Unlocks the gates of Hades  
Radiation penetrates  
Blinds god's own sons!  
Death dance  
In a trance  
On earth, sea and sky!  
The hissing snake  
Crawls in the lanes of humanity  
Radiation trails on the forbidden tracks  
Mission annihilation  
Will it cease ?  
Sunrise uncertain  
future incarceration!  
Alas! Man will repeat the history  
Agony  
Pain  
And destruction!  
Hiroshima  
Nagasaki  
Chernobyl  
Semipalatinsk  
Wailing on the pyre of human psyche  
and humanity!  
The cry of pain  
Fukushima -the agony of shame  
Isn't it the nude dance of fame?

### Man Sans Birds

Now  
birds do not fly in the sky  
cannot touch its azure beauty  
their ancestors  
once upon a time  
Conquered the cerulean sphere with fluttering wings  
Conceived and pampered annals of civilisation  
art and culture  
Dreams swimming in eyes  
triggered by the winged-wanderers

rose in a crescendo  
Taught man-made wonder  
aeroplanes  
artistic movements of flying  
On the breast of sky!  
But now,  
the crowd of these flying machines  
destroyed the green bushes  
The long endless runways  
Fathered wastelands  
And the poor winged-creatures  
Ponder mass suicide.  
Like the leg of Angad  
Imperial towers  
Shakes their wandering passion  
forget to descend in celestial beauty.  
Now we do not hear chirping  
From their mute nests  
Radiation has marred their winged-world  
Inhumanity  
confiscated their ancestry of eternity.  
Segregated from the embelical cord  
Away from the womb of mother nature  
winged-beauties are in grief  
venom-laden breeze suffocate their breath  
Chemicals  
disable fluttering-wonder of the world.  
Desperate to save themselves and their progeny  
Migrating to another  
unknown world  
mass exodus of the winged- brethren threatens  
humanity  
query fundamental  
lingers in chaos  
Can man live without birds?

### REFERENCES:

1. Omprakash Shiv :Academic bio-data