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# **THE INTERIORS**

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

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**Editor**

**Neeraj Kumar**

Professor

P. G. Dept. of English & Research Centre  
Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya-824 234 (Bihar) India

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*Address for Correspondence*

**Dr. Neeraj Kumar**

*Vatsalya*

312, Anugrahpuri Colony

Gaya-823 001 (Bihar) India

Mob. 9430476346

E-mail: neerajmu86@yahoo.in

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## REVERENTIAL HOMAGE



**Professor Chhote Lal Khatri**  
**(11<sup>th</sup> December, 1965 - 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2021)**

C. L. Khatri, a reputed, perceptive critic and editor of *Cyber Literature* and several anthologies of criticism, was a reputed voice in Indian English poetry. He was a bilingual poet writing in English and Hindi. His four poetry collections in English are *Kargil* (2000), *Ripples in the Lake* (2006) *Two Minute Silence* (2014) and *For You to Decide* (2016). He was awarded Michael Madhusudan Academy Award for his poetry collection, *Kargil* in 2002. His poems were widely published, anthologized and translated into different languages in India and abroad. He had authored eight critical books including one on Vivekananda and edited fifteen anthologies of criticism. His areas of interest included Indian Literature in English, Poetry, Folklore and Postcolonial Studies. He was a Professor of English at T.P.S. College, Patna.

May his soul rest in peace !

*Courtesy*  
Editor

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**RANA ANUPAM RAJ**

Beauty behind Face

The Dusky Dawn

**SHORT STORY**

**SHARDENDU PRASAD SINHA**

The Sting of Infatuation

## EDITORIAL

Literature is closely related to society. It not only reflects but also shapes the complex ways in which men and women organize themselves, their interpersonal relationships and their perception of the socio-cultural reality. The attitude of the male author towards men and women depicted by him in his works and the attitudes of the characters, male and female to one another highlight the gender relationship as well as the author's attitude towards these relationships. Literature, thus, offers the best possibility of exposing the politics of gender. Since literature reflects the socio-cultural reality, the depiction of women in literature has been according to the social status enjoyed by women, but the status of women has not been the same at all times and in all the societies. Yet by and large women all over the world have always enjoyed a secondary status vis-a-vis men. The roles of women were restricted by their womanhood and, therefore, the experiences of the muted female half of the society were not reflected by literature. Since the literary tradition was primarily patriarchal, 'the proper woman' in the male authored texts was the selfless, self-effacing, submissive, one who was prepared to internalize the idea of her own inferiority-an 'Angel' in the House' who accepted, without questioning the gender-defined role assigned to her by the patriarchal society.

But with the rise of feminism, women became aware of the fact that their inferiority is not ordained in heaven, that gender is neither natural nor immutable because it is the creation of patriarchy; it is a construct which can be deconstructed. Women realized that the system of patriarchy, which has been with us for a long time, no longer served the needs of the rapidly changing society where women were trying to emancipate themselves from subordination, where they were trying to explore their possibilities and to define their potential. They were disgusted with the male notion of women's 'proper place' and wanted to redefine themselves as well as their 'proper place'. They grew intolerant of their exploitation and victimization by men and revolted against their marginalization. They started struggling to dethrone the myth of femininity, to reject the constructs of the patriarchal thought and to reorder the world. This kind of awakening in women, their realization of self-worth, led to a social revolution. They sought new definitions and hence tried to redefine themselves according to how they viewed themselves. With this significant social change, came the change in images of women in literature. The roles of women in literature now are no longer restricted and a woman went on earning appreciation for reasons other than playing well her role as a daughter, a wife and a mother. She is not required to find her total fulfilment in submissive domesticity. Literature now has no dearth of women characters making efforts at self-actualization, at proving self-worth.

Most of the papers in the present issue of the Journal deal with the women-centred issues. It contains twenty eight well-written research papers covering a



wide range – Dalit literature, Feminist literature, New literature, Queer literature, Philosophical literature, Translation studies, American literature, Indian as well as British poetry, Diaspora literature and Gender studies. Besides, the Journal also includes creative writing section containing, five poems, composed by experienced Professors as well as the budding scholars. The poems have been followed by one short story entitled "The Sting of Infatuation", quite relevant in modern context. A book review has also been included in the present issue of the Journal.

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 & Head, Dept. 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 all the Associate Editors 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, who during this critical period of pandemic contributed their scholarly papers to the Journal. I also thank my departmental colleagues, research scholars, 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, Dr. Shalini Agrawal (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Botany, Dr. V.K.S. College, Rafiganj, Aurangabad, Bihar) 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 (III year, SLS, Pune) and Ansal Agrawal (Std. XI, DAV Public School, Cantt. Area, Gaya) for helping me in numerous ways. Ms. Kanchan Devi, Proprietor, Shivam Computer Press too, deserves thanks who designed and composed the present issue of the Journal. I am also thankful to Mr. Rakesh Yadav, Proprietor, Adhyayan Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi for the final printing 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, 2021

Neeraj Kumar