

SACRED SPACE

# The significance of Guru Purnima

Vijay Vohra

On every Guru Purnima I feel very sad, I just feel helpless to control my tears. I keep remembering that sweet form with smiling face, those Divine feet which we will never be able to touch again. But then I try to console myself with His very words, "Pain is but an interval between two pleasures". So this distress too shall pass and He shall fill the void again sooner or later. Throughout His life He cautioned us number of times not to have body attachment.

Now we have to realize this truth that Bhagwan Sri Satya Sai Baba is not the body, which is temporary and bound to perish one day. Real Baba is His teachings. He is embodiment of compassion, selflessness and goodness. If we follow His teachings, which He not only taught but also exemplified in His life, we will have Him always with us and around us as He used to say. He said, "God is Love, Live in Love", "Truth is God, God is truth". Hence real form of Bhagwan is Love, Truth, and all His teachings.

*We should never criticise other's Guru. Rather we should have mutual respect and toleration for other's feelings and faith in different Gurus. True Guru is one, not many. They may appear to be many but they all derive their power from one source only, and that is God. The devotees should have full faith in Mantra. One should have steadiness in the discipline needed to have it and hold it even in direst distress.*

Let us recollect what our beloved Swami told us about this sacred day Guru Purnima. Swami said, "This day is very sacred. This is the day on which the first light was lit, the light that has not wavered since then and will not falter forever, though worlds may change and eras may end and begin again. That is the light of wisdom which destroys the night of ignorance. And so, this is the day of eternal celebration throughout the land of Bharat. It is the day of joy for all pious people".

This day is also celebrated as Vyasa Purnima. Sage Vyasa was the grandson of Maharishi Vashishta, the son of sage Parashara and the father of famous rishi Suka. He collected the Vedas and elaborated upon their teachings of works. He is also known as Veda Vyasa.



## Guru Purnima Special

Swami said, "Vyasa is primal Guru of all who walk in the path of God. Vyasa planted and nurtured the seed of theism through- the Vedas, the Mahabharata and the Gita. He gave the world the philosophy of Divine Leela, the idea of the basic Atma immanent everywhere and the secret of this changeful creation. The scared literature that arose from his efforts is theism, and so he is the universal teacher of humanity. Vyasa Purnima is therefore the day on which man has to remember him with gratitude."

Now, it may be asked what is the connection of this day with the life and work of Vyasa, the sage of sages? Our beloved Swami said, "Vyasa brought the resplendent message of the Lord to the human community struggling in the dark, unaware of the Divine, which scattered the night and lit the lamp of wisdom in the heart of man. It established the era of Namaparyaya (recitation of God's name) of the upliftment of man through constant recitation of the name of the Lord. Besides that day was Purnima, the full moon day. On this day the mind that sails in firmament of the heart shines in full glory, untarnished by sensory desires and free from markings of impulse and passion. The full moon reminds one of paramatma, full, untarnished and unblemished. Vyasa first revealed the secret of making the mind in every one as clear and full as the moon on full moon day".

Who is a Guru? Modern Gurus whisper a Mantra into the ear of the disciple and stretch their hand for money. These Gurus also give Mantra to group of people together when they deposit money in advance. Such people are not fit to be called Gurus.

A true Guru makes you realize the formless and attribute less Divinity.

Gurur Brahma-Gurur Vishnu  
Gurur Devo Maheshwara

Guru sakshat Parm Brahma  
Thasmai Sri Gurave Namah  
(Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu, Guru is Maheshwara, Guru is verily the supreme Brahma). Since it is difficult to get such a Guru these days, consider God as you Guru.

Other than God who, then can be the Guru? Not every person who instructs, not every scholar learned in the Shastras. The Guru must tread the path of Shashtra, devoid of any trace of lust, greed or anger. He should be full of all the traits of right conduct. Such a person alone deserves to be accepted as a Guru. Again he should have the skill to illumine in the disciple the flame of Jnana to dispel the darkness of ignorance. He must avoid dragging him down into samsara by any thoughtless words of his. The Guru will be true to his role only if he gives the disciple the Mantra and the meaning and instructs him in the fundamental reality. The Guru can remove the veil of ignorance that covers the reality in a man but a "Sadguru" creates a thirst for wisdom in his devotees.

Our Sadguru Baba said, "Guru Purnima is the day on which you desire to worship the Guru and please him by praise. But that is not the real significance of this day. The man is endowed with the mind. The mind can plunge him into bondage or lead him, him to freedom. When it helps him to attain liberation, it becomes the Guru. The mind has to shine in serene splendor without any trail of evil.

It is to be fixed on Supreme Being alone. When that victory is gained, that day is Guru Purnima, and the full moon of the mind, for the moon is the deity presiding over mind. That day is Purnima in the true sense when the mind is filled with pure love. Let your mind shine brilliantly like the moon on the full moon day".

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Our beloved Swami said, "Many aspirants have in their anxiety to achieve quick results sought a Guru in haste and later discovering his defects, they are struggling and suffering, for they can neither give up the Guru nor discard the Mantra. But persons in this condition need not despair. Whatever sort of Guru may be, the mantra that he gave is concerned with the Lord, is it not? Deepen your faith in that Name, respect it as the gift of God and proceed. Then you will forget the defects of the Guru very soon. And those who do not come across the right Guru need not also be dejected. Let them have a faith that God is their Guru, their mother and their father. Adopting the name and form that most appeals to you, practice the sadhana with pure and unselfish intent".

So we should not fritter away our allotted time and offer it to our chosen name and form of God. It is the time for all of us Sai devotees to reflect on how much Bhagwan has enriched and illumined our lives and to repay at least a fraction of that debt by rededicating our lives to "His Mission".

BOOK REVIEW

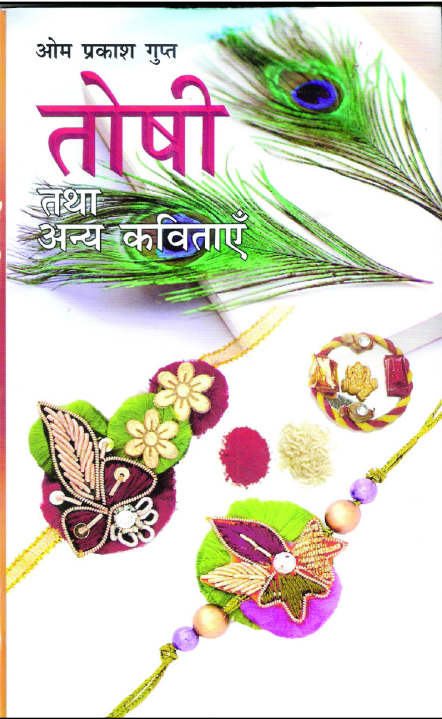
## A Milestone in Hindi poetry

TITLE OF THE BOOK: TOSHI TATHA ANYA KAVITAYEN  
(TOSHI AND OTHER POEMS)  
ISBN: 978-81-927016-0-8  
LANGUAGE: HINDI  
WRITER: Dr. Omprakash Gupta  
PUBLISHER: Akshya Prakashan, Ansari Road, New Delhi

Prof Satnam Kour

'Toshi and Other Poems' is a valuable and vibrant addition to the enviable treasures of poetry in Hindi. This collection of poems has incessantly contributed to the existing intellectual potentialities and towering literary stature of Prof. O.P. Gupta. Poetry is a pious pursuit, spontaneous and urgent like the human breath, vital and of use like the latest human inventions.

In the present collection of poems, the poet crafts a world for readers where the foundations of everyday existence are exalted. Through these poems, the reader is bidden to scrutinize specifics of all



*Most of the titles of the poems are symbolic. With beautiful symbols and metaphors, the poems seek to show the influence of words through words.*

things, varied issues and diverse aspects of life like trials and tribulations of human

existence, naked description of social realities, ugly face of political system, degradation of Nature at the hands of modern man - all have been extensively dealt with.

Though the poet calls this book a collection of his personal memories and experiences, yet all the poems have a very fine tinge of universality. Most of the titles of the poems are symbolic. With beautiful symbols and metaphors, the poems seek to show the influence of words through words.

'Chinaron Ki Awaaz' is a fine example symbolic structure. Time and again, the poet uses the symbol of '1947' to highlight the Communal tensions that tear apart the secular fabric of India not once but often, due to short-sightedness of political leaders. Personification of 'India' as 'Mother' divided by her own sons is painful and thought provoking.

Pious and incredible relationship with Toshi, the poet's cousin inspires him to form citadels of feelings of nausea, memory and desire which are held close to his bosom with a rare fondness.

In most of these poems, there is an irresistible strain of romance wherein the personal becomes the universal and the universal becomes the personal.

CAREER COUNSELLING

# The Fine Arts Finesse

Gauri Chhabra

Almost a decade ago, when students used to express their interest in Fine arts it was viewed as an avocation and not a vocation. Artists could not lead a comfortable life by making art as the nucleus of the career, so it remained at the periphery.

However, with creativity and aesthetics entering almost all domains, Fine Arts has become not only an avocation but also a vocation and that too a lucrative one.

In a layman's terminology, Fine Arts include drawing, painting and sculpture; each expansive in itself forking into multiple pathways and inroads. Painting involves designing murals, portraits, scenery using various types of medium and on different surfaces. Sculpting is creating statues, monuments by either chiseling stone or carving wood or handling clay. This is a highly involving and time-consuming task. Modern sculptors use materials like reinforced cement, concrete, white bronze or plaster of Paris, which all give amazing results.

### Changing face of art:

Today artists have stepped out of their own world and brought about a confluence of creativity and commerce popularly called Commercial Art. Art joins hands with commerce and becomes an integral part of today's business. A relatively new area - commercial art - is the application of the different types of art media for commercial purposes - such as creating advertisements, billboards, book jackets, window displays, cinema slides, technical catalogues, packaging etc. In case you wish to join this field, you only need to be a good artist but also be adept in the 'art of marketing and publicity.

### Some of the changing faces of art are:

Design, today has changed its face and become an amalgam of aesthetics and technical skills. First priority is given to create something that reaches the commercial and technical standards rather than only being a good work of art. Designers create a seamless integration within various departments to bring about a marriage of aesthetics and commerce.

Graphics brings about a confluence of illustration and photography, lettering, designing symbols and logos. Natural interest and talent needs to be enhanced with formal training since this helps foster and further the artistic acumen.

### Course Cursor:

There are several courses in Fine Arts including Bachelors/Masters Degree in Fine Art. For BFA courses, one must have passed the Higher Secondary Examinations or 10+2 level. It is usually a four to five year course. MFA course is open to BFA graduates. This is a two year course. Other than these courses there are diploma and certificate courses in various streams of Fine Arts

### Under Graduation:

The eligibility required for Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts is a higher secondary (10+2) pass. Usually, the course duration for this course is 3-4 years in most of the institutes and universities. Founda-



tion and specialization course are taught in the first and remaining years respectively.

B.A. (Fine Arts) - Stands for Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts. Typically, a B.A. is a three year course, minimum eligibility for which is an intermediate (10+2). It is a discipline which is developed for aesthetics and creativity. Subjects studied under this degree are drawing, painting, figure drawing, portraiture, watercolor, art-making concept development, and art history critique.

B.A Bachelor of Arts (Graphic Design)

BFA (Bachelor in Fine Arts)

BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) offers a 3/4 years integrated course. The first year deals with integrated education in aesthetics, application of design and art, while the rest of the three years are meant for specialization in niche arts like sculpture, painting, applied arts, history of art, graphic art, visual arts, graphic print making, and commercial arts.

BMM, Bachelor of Multimedia:

Bachelor of Multimedia is a four year full time degree program offered at Apeejay College of Fine Arts Jalandhar. For admission to this course you must have obtained 45% marks in aggregate in 10+2 examination (any stream) from P.S.E.B. / C.B.S.E. or any other examination recognized as equivalent thereto by the G.N.D.U. Amritsar.

Post Graduation:

\* MA Fine Arts of 2 year duration

\* MFA, Master of Fine Arts. You should have passed in B.A. with 50% marks in aggregate having Fine Arts as an Elective subject or Bachelor of Design with 50% marks.

\* Post Graduate Diploma in Commercial Arts of

one year duration.

After Post Graduation:

\* Ph.D Fine Arts (Full time)  
minimum three years from the date of registration

\* Ph.D Fine Arts (Part Time)

Institute Scape:

\* Apeejay College of Fine Arts, Jalandhar

\* Government College of Art, Chandigarh

\* Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar

\* Lovely Professional University, Phagwara

Career Prospects:

Art has come out of the walls of being a solitary pursuit and has entered almost all domains like art studios, advertising companies, publishing houses, fashion houses and the like. If you wish to go in for variety and flexibility you can choose to be a freelance artist. You can also foray into teaching, direction, photography, tele-

vision, clothing and fashion, as art director for magazines, on-line services, software companies, publishing houses, manufacturers, advertising, promotion and product design.

Today, art has spread its wings everywhere. In every piece of art in a newspaper, magazine, book, poster, and leaflet there's a graphic artist. Here too, there are inroads. You can put the magazines together, draw the cartoons and graphics, develop visual aids like logos and designs for commercial houses or create illustrations for books and magazines in a publishing house, design websites, animate graphics, paint murals, paint faces, do anything under the sun.

And you are no more solitary... there is a team with you. If you care to widen the canvas, you can foray into photography, landscape design, interior design, shop-window design, framing, and textile and clothing design.

All these platforms would make your creative juices ooze and flow besides bringing lucre for you. By the time you know you would have made a vocation out of your avocation. A vocation that draws you into the realm of multinational companies along with the coveted job titles and fancy salaries.

Final year BFA student Harpreet Singh, who took up Fine arts against the wishes of his family, says "For first two years, my father was upset that I chose to become an artist. He is a happy man ever since I joined Infosys as a Graphic Designer".

So, do not curb your creative juices, just make them flow... and create a career compass of their own...

For queries contact gauri\_nagpal@yahoo.com

## INNER VOICE

### STRANGERS

They come and go,  
And leave memories and desire of presence.  
I ne'er felt short of them or so...  
For my life was always so dense.  
But a divine moment, I remember  
Faintly rather,  
When in the green September,  
I met her on leaves and feather.  
Her face was so bright,  
For which the Moon had to shy,  
I cherished her every sight,  
While she had a deep sigh...  
And, then the wind began blowing faster,  
The diamond like drops started to sing.  
The rain also wanted to touch the blonde lady.  
Then she started towards me,  
She was steady,  
O Caesar! A friend o' her, she wants me to be.  
The dust started to fell,  
And I went with her till her destination.  
I never went to heaven, neither to hell,  
But still I got salvation.  
I can't forget that day,  
For I met an angel,  
But I have no more to say,  
After all, we were strangers...

Hardeep Singh,  
APS Janglot

### EXILE MISERIES

Come back my yester life,  
With my kiths kins friends and wife,  
With my loving parents blessings,  
With the worthy teachers teachings,  
With a vision of my inner self,  
With a divine courage for others help  
With all the friends and none a foe,  
With the right theme of real life show,  
With the discloser of a truth,  
That I have never met my youth,  
Oh! the exile miseries, are harsh enough,  
The hopes yield nothing but life gets tough.

G.L. Nehru Girdhar  
Amb Bagh, Muthi

### MISS YOU MOM

Thousand words could not bring you back  
I know, because I tried.  
Thousand tears could not bring you back  
I know, because I cried.  
Mom I miss you.  
Although your soul is at rest,  
And your body is free from pain.  
The world would be like heaven,  
If I will have you back again.  
You will always be there in my thoughts,  
And always in my heart,  
No matter where I go,  
Because I love you so.  
My life might last long forever,  
Whatever land I will view,  
Whatever you or grief will be mine,  
I will always remember you....  
And miss you always mom.

Tisha Singh Bandral  
Research Scholar  
(Commerce Department)  
University Of Jammu

### MY DREAM

Yet another day I sleep,  
I sleep and have a wonderful dream,  
Again just remembering me about my goal,  
That still in my life I have to play a major role.  
The dream starts and ends,  
but I devote most of my time to it,  
Just remembering about my dream.  
Walking, talking and playing,  
Having the desire to fulfill it,  
I walk across the streets,  
Just thinking about my dream.  
Nobody can guess and nobody can cheat,  
That's the speciality of my dream.

Divya Sudan  
Christ school Poonch

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