

Lapis Lazuli

An International Literary Journal

ISSN 2249-4529

www.pintersociety.com

GENERAL ISSUE VOL: 8, No.: 2, AUTUMN 2018

UGC APPROVED (Sr. No.41623)

BLIND PEER REVIEWED

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JAYDEEP SARANGI

Translated Poems

Poet: Subodh Sarkar is a Sahitya Akademi award winning Bangla poet and Ex-editor of *Indian Literature*.

Bluff

I was awed by the wonder of the Taj Mahal.
But Taj Mahal couldn't impress me
Because that building is standing on false logic.
Standing between the moonlit Yamuna and one citadel of lies.
I realised:

Shahjahan had seven wives
Mumtaz was the fourth.

Shahjahan had killed Mumtaz's husband
Then married her.

Mumtaz died while giving birth to their fourteenth child.

Then Shahjahan married Mumtaz's sister.

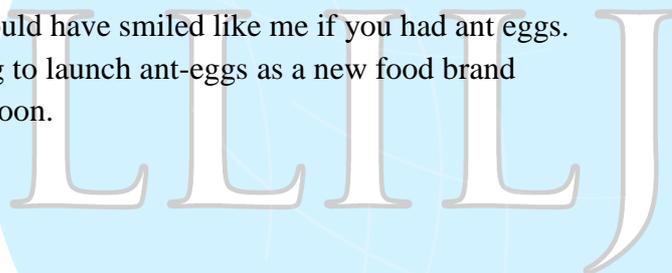
Standing in front of the Taj Mahal,
We never reflect over Shahjahan's poor bio data
Even a murderer can be mad after love.
I do not believe that Shahjahan built the Taj Mahal
Out of sheer love for Mumtaz.
Shahjahan actually loved himself
He left a bluff on the site of the Taj in this mortal world.

Ant Eggs

To remove poverty from this tiny planet called earth
We have taken all measures.
I heard it thirty years ago, what a sweet remark.
I was overjoyed and couldn't express my happiness in words.
Today, Jim Young Kim, the president of the World Bank, says
Chi fi nu fu nim oung fu
It means we have been removing poverty from the earth.

I couldn't resist
I went to earth on a tour
I was surprised in India
Yadullah Kalamgulam Brahma has the key
this fascinating country is the home to
One third of the poor of the world.

I broke into a smile, one Indian
Who has the face of an ass, colour of a chameleon and leg of a lizard?
Asked me, why are you laughing?
I replied
Even you would have smiled like me if you had ant eggs.
We are going to launch ant-eggs as a new food brand
In America soon.



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BIO-NOTE

Jaydeep Sarangi is currently the Principal and Professor of English, New Alipore College, Kolkata. He is an author, editor, translator and critic of multiple works and publications on Australian literature, Indian writing in English, postcolonial studies and the Dalit literary movement in India. He has also travelled to several universities as a resource person (and a poet) on postcolonial studies, poetry, and Indian literature in the context of world literature. He has delivered keynote, plenary address and invited talks at different Indian and foreign universities and read poems including University of Udine, University of New South Wales, Wollongong University, Rezeszow, Krakov, Flinders, South Australia, Adelaide University and University of North Anglia. He is the Vice President of Guild of Indian English Writers Editors and Critics (GIEWEC) and the Secretary of Intercultural Poetry and Performance Library, ICCR, Kolkata. Sarangi is an important link for Australia-India literary voices with five collaborative anthologies of poems. He guest edited four issues for the Muse India, latest being, "Aroma of the Heart: Poetry by the Youth". He currently serves as Chief Editor of international poetry journal Teesta. He is on the editorial boards of several journals of language and literature, and has served as a peer reviewer as well as interviewing several prominent Indian writers. He currently is an individual editor for the New Fiction Journal and Writers, Editors, Critics.

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