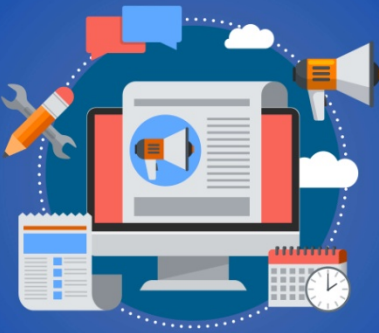


ISSN 0976 - 8165




**THE CRITERION**  
AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH  
— 11<sup>th</sup> Year of Open Access —


**Bi-Monthly Refereed and Peer-Reviewed  
Open Access e-Journal**

Vol. XI, Issue-2 (April 2020)

Editor-In-Chief : Dr. Vishwanath Bite  
Managing Editor : Dr. Madhuri Bite



The Criterion  
www.the-criterion.com



AboutUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/about/>

Archive: <http://www.the-criterion.com/archive/>

ContactUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/contact/>

EditorialBoard: <http://www.the-criterion.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.the-criterion.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.the-criterion.com/fa/>



---

ISSN 2278-9529  
**Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal**  
[www.galaxyimrj.com](http://www.galaxyimrj.com)

## If at all

Mushtaque Barq

If at all you remember:  
the night of no moon  
when behind the curtain, the stars  
exposed the ail in the campus of ribs  
that deliberately bruised night  
after tethering the dreams once for all.

If at all you remember:  
how those folds of heart in the graveyard  
into ashes in a jiffy we turned  
that we had decked up with pearls  
fallen from the two forlorn streams  
and margined with dry lips.

If at all you remember:  
the ripple we created nay by pebbles  
but by shedding the salt  
to write on the liquid heart of city  
an invisible tale of woes  
that died for want of takers.

If at all you remember:  
how on that fatal night  
dogs barked endlessly at the graveyard  
where we had buried metreless verses  
like an aborted mass calmly  
and rushed back to huts.

If at all you remember:  
for many years after the bridge collapsed  
how the paperboats of sighs struggled  
to cart the wishful cries  
from Jhelum to Ganges,  
and the two waters in the ocean  
of tears vanished and finished.

### Authors Bio:

Mushtaque B Barq is a columnist besides a poet and short story writer. His earlier translation work: Mystic Voices of Kashmir, Verses of Wahab Khar , The Wings of Love were

published by Jay Kay Books and Withered Petals was published by Global Fraternity of Poets His poetic collection is available on Poetry Soup and Poem Hunter.Com. He teaches English Literature and is associated with various literary clubs and forums. The author was awarded 'Editor's Choice Award' for outstanding achievement in poetry presented by Poetry.Com and International Library of Poetry in 2007. In 2017, the author was awarded with a certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his poetry being published in The Criterion: An International Journal in English in February 2017. The author's publications are available in New Age Islam , Shabnama. faiz-e- zabaan- org., Kashmir Lit ( On line journal of Kashmir and Diaspora writing)and The Tibet Journal. Author is a regular columnist of Daily Kashmir Images, his column 'Creative Beats' is a regular feature of his writing. His short story collection : Feeble Prisoner, Aditiya Publications has been appreciated by readers. The author was awarded Late Ab. Rashid Farash Memorial Award by HF Foundation. He is a member of Jammu and Kashmir Fiction Writers Guild.