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## An Interview with Poet Sonnet Mondal

Elizabeth Waterhouse

**Sonnet Mondal** is an Indian poet and the founder of *The Enchanting Verses Literary Review*. He has authored eight collections of poetry. His most recent book being *Prismatic Celluloid* (Authorspress India). He was bestowed *Poet Laureate* from *Bombadil Publishing*, Sweden in 2009 and was awarded “The IPTRC International Best Poet award” from *World Poets Quarterly*. His works have appeared in several international literary publications including *The Sheepshead Review* (*University of Wisconsin, Green Bay*), *The Stremetz*, *India Today*, *Nth Position*, *Fox Chase Review*, *The Penguin Review* (*Youngstown State University*), *Two Thirds North* (*Stockholm University*), *California State Poetry Quarterly* (*California State Poetry Society*) and *Friction Magazine* (*New Castle University*) to name a few. Most recently, he has been enlisted as a National Record Holder as “*The First Indian to write a new type of Sonnet Poetry*” at the Indian Book of Records.

Details of his works can be found at [www.sonnetmondal.com](http://www.sonnetmondal.com)

**Interviewer:** International Television Award Winner Australian **Elizabeth Waterhouse**.  
(Freelance Writer/Lyricist/ Composer/ Poet)

**1: Sonnet you have been widely published at a very young age as a Poet. What is the difference between the seventeen year old and the world acclaimed poet today?**

Perhaps at seventeen years of age it was the beginning of beginning and now it is beginning.

**2. What influence did success have on your life?**

Successes elevate a person's desire to pursue certain likings to a greater extent with love and devotion. Success is just a catalyst in the process of achieving and continuing one's love. Here too I feel the same. It has allowed me to take poetry more seriously.

**3: As an acclaimed International Poet you have been interviewed many times. So what would you consider to be the most interesting question you have ever been asked?**

It has always been if Sonnet is my real name, who named it and how.

**4: Your mining engineering skills and talents and inspiration as a Poet- do they ever come in conflict?**

It is tough to balance mining engineering and poetry but as the saying goes where there is will there is way. These two are like the two parallel tracks of rail required to balance the running train of my life.

**5: If you had the chance to talk with five people living or dead- who would they be and why?**

This list is so long that I can't scoop out five names of it.

**6: Who has been the greatest influence in your life?**

I won't coin the term 'greatest influence' but will take a few names such as Keats, Wordsworth, Eliot, Whitman, and Tagore whose poetic journeys surely inspire me.

**7: What are the important thing/things you have learnt from life so far?**

Perseverance, compassion, integrity and the ability to fine-tune oneself in different state of affairs are the key qualities to survive well in this demanding and oft changing world.

**8: As Chief Editor of “The Enchanting Verses Literary Review” and other International literary works what makes certain poetry outstanding and places it immediately on the must publish pile.**

I keep searching for fresh imageries, metaphors and simple yet profound constructions in a poem. In addition to this ambiguity and flow are two elements that separates out a piece on the must publish pile.

I never add themes while editing any issue for that eliminates many quality poems which could have otherwise been included.

**9: Why do you believe Poetry has fewer readers than any other form of Literature?**

Poetry is the most knotty, terse and allegorical form of literature. Naturally due to the numerous dimensions it carries with itself, poetry requires multiple readings to get to its core. Naturally most people go for those forms of literature which can be perceived easily through a fast and plain reading.

**10: What is the most pivotal and ‘emotional focus’ within your work?**

I do not fix any focus within my work. I keep on penning on several themes but I am emotionally attached to nostalgia, cause of mass movements and human values.

**11: What do you believe is the most paramount obligation for you as a writer towards your work and your readership?**

The most important thing is to develop innovative and fresh tones in poetry to maintain the flow of an ever evolving genre.

**12: You do not seem to compartmentalize yourself as a poet why is that?**

The only thing that I am compartmentalized is that I am a human being who loves literature. Our whims and interests keep on changing. What is my liking for poetry today may be for prose tomorrow. So it will be better to express myself as a litterateur than a poet.

**13: The Internet how does it affect your life and how has it affected poetry in general?**

Internet has wired the whole civilization into a global village and no field whether it be science or literature has been left untouched. Poetry is no exception. Internet and new e journals have uplifted the importance and readership of poetry to a large extent.

**14: When a poem first comes into your head what is your first method of recording it?**

Writing poem is just like capturing a snapshot through words. Whenever a scene attracts my vision or an incident jerks me, I keep thinking of words to frame it but it often happens that a poem takes shape on its own out of a suitable beginning.

**15: You have invented the highly praised “21- line Caudate Sonnet”. What is so special about this new form of sonnet that it has received such praise and such high International acclaim?**

I have a mind to innovate and experiment. I do not like work that does not speak about itself on its own. 21 Line Caudate Sonnet was just an experimental poetic form and was well received though I feel I have to work more on this form for greater perfection.

**16: As a world renowned Poet what is it that Sonnet Mondal believes he can do to contribute to his country and its people?**

If it is about a poet's duty then the only way to serve, is through penning poetry and establish Indian English in front of a wider international audience.