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Title of the Book: *Promise-A Life*

Poet: Ranjani Neriya

Publisher: Virgin Leaf Books, Mumbai

Year of Publication: 2013

Pages: 99

Rs. 95.00

Reviewed By:

Dr. Vishwanath Bite

Assistant Professor in English

Government of Maharashtra's

Ismail Yusuf College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Jogeshwari (E),

Mumbai, 60.

Ranjani Neriya's *Promise-A Life* is her second collection of poems consisting 64 poems, which is divided in four parts as if the life stages are painted in beautiful words in the 4 stages of life. Reading from first poem to last takes us to various moods and experiences, ranging from personal, autobiographical to social, much bigger in scope and finally to philosophical.

First part of the book has sixteen poems beautifully crafted mostly in nostalgic tone. Very first poem 'Episcope' is the appropriate beginning to the Journey of life which shows glimpse of the entire collection of the poems. A short poem reads,

.....

I search on
To husk riddle
Peel while throb
On ranging nucleus,

A touch and I shall
Glissade into
Sun-gold smithereens

Her purpose of the life painted through this collection is very much clear through the first poem; it certainly is for the serious poetry lovers and not merely rhymed lines to amuse readers with the music. Neriya's poems are full of images, symbols and she takes readers on a ride to her childhood and early adulthood to showcase a kaleidoscopic view of variety of experiences.

‘Biorhythmia’ a series of poems, nostalgic in tone and full of imageries, reveals poet's journey of life as a child. She recalls ‘grandfather, nurse, Venkanna, Chandana, Sr. Berenice and everyone who shaped her life. Poet not only lets us travel through her past meeting these people but also provides us with her point of view to look at past, life lived and the nostalgic memory and its presence in life.

Second section of the book has sixteen poems which takes us through the ‘Metropolis’. It is about the busy yet energetic life in the metropolitan cities ‘The Bombay Fishwife’ is one of the realistic poems in the anthology. It speaks about the woman in grief because of her husband's death at sea, yet she refuse to keep mourning and wipe her tears to send her boys in the sea. It not only shows the realistic picture of the bustling life of the ‘fishwife’ but it also talks about the brave woman, reader can frequently meet the ‘modern’ woman in Neriya's poetry.

Made of tighter grain
Than geodes in breaking earth
She heals with the pride of her unreturning man
Dissolved like salt
And thinks, now
It is time to send the boys

Sixteen poems in the third section are on the variety of themes mainly about the life, social issues and the nostalgic tone continue in this section as well. Fourth section in the poem takes readers to more philosophical journey. One of the poems in the section ‘poor number’ reads,

It is all about
The way we stalk sadness
Some riding pillion, others
Teeth into wind
Bare boiled wounds everywhere

Another beautifully crafted poem in the section is about the role of nature in the human life which reads,

.....
Its all about longings
As they say, be a drop

In the ocean to find
The ocean in a drop

.....

Fill the mazer, tippie and flow,
In the crook of heart to know how
One leaf it is mints the whole green glade
One nimbus wheels this cosmic clay.

Neriya's poetry is full of conceits like we find in the metaphysical poetry, her diction is not much easy for the common reader of the poetry but it certainly is the great read for the serious readers of the modern poetry. This collection of poems has vast range of vocabulary and Neriya has used it to shower the apt meaning.

Poet's thoughtful and philosophical vision has shaped her poems to such an extent that I found myself going through her poems time and again. Her poems are fine blending of classical and modern poetry. I would recommend this collection to the readers who love to read modern and experimental poetry.