

ISSN:0976-8165

THE CRITERION

An International Journal in English



Vol. 7, Issue-I February 2016

7 YEARS OF OPEN ACCESS

www.the-criterion.com

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ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

www.galaxyimrj.com

Extirpating the Darkness: In Search of the Light

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As the radiant sun
struggles to peep through
the fissures in
the fringe of the crests
that stand idyllically
like a pantheon of sentinels
guarding the distant mountain
Awakened by the canorous chirping
of the tiny birdies
I open my window
early in the morning
which gives me a perfect view
of the monastery
located in the vicinity

Every day at this time
I see her
immersed in a deep meditation
while strolling barefoot
in the sandy compound
The intense composure of her gestures
reminding me of the *Bhikkunis*
depicted in Buddhist scriptures

I know well
It was the saffron robe
that once saved her
from her gloomy past
when she used to be
the wife of a man
A merciless drunkard
who battered her
every evening
I can still remember

how she fell on the ground
and wailed miserably
like a vixen

Nevertheless,
no longer is she drowned
in the dreadful darkness
Instead she is surrounded
with the gleaming sunlight
Having chosen the righteous path,
the ideal path that leads to the light

Glossary

Bhikkunis – Fully ordained female monastics or nuns in Buddhism