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**Title of the Book:** *Floating Haiku*

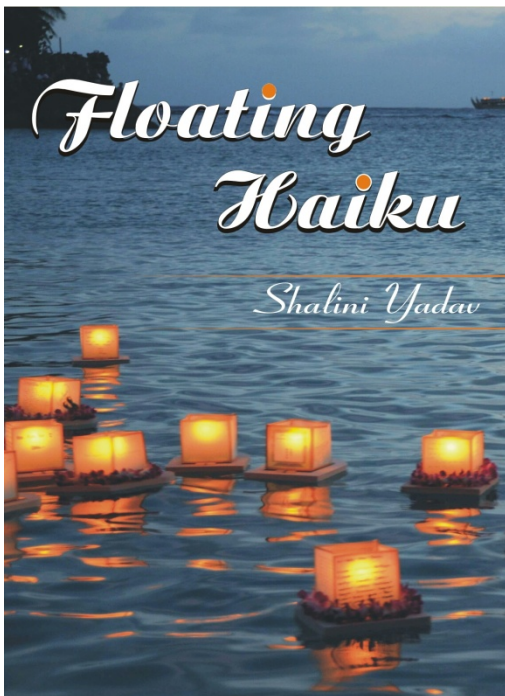
**Author:** Dr. Shalini Yadav

**Publisher:** Cyberwit.net, Allahabad

**Book Length:** 66

**ISBN:** 978-81-8253-592-3

**Price:** Rs. 300 / US \$ 15



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*Floating Haiku* is a beautifully crafted collection of haiku poems. The collection is a complex mixture of 155 poems on diversified themes and few beautiful images randomly captured by the poet herself. The title of the book in itself is quite symbolic and an expression of nature's beauty in combination with human intellectuality that the poetess expresses with poetic delineation: *Floating sweet haiku / Of multi-color crawlers / In*

*ocean of mind.* In this haiku poem from which the title was picked, the poet has metaphorically stated that haiku poems are like crawlers floating in the vast ocean of poet's mind.

Shalini, the poetess, being imaginative, discloses in the 'Acknowledgement' that through these miniatures she could reach "*clouds' land, oceans' crawlers' or stars' galaxy on the wings of fancy.*" Her poems take the readers on her fanciful feathery couch for the joyful ride of the world capturing beautiful moments in the nature and relishing those at utmost. The 'Foreword' in the book provides readers crisp history of haiku poems, indeed, complementing to their knowledge and arousing an innate desire to continue turning the pages of the book.

Shalini as a poetess is a keen observer of nature and the movements of its creatures that remind us of the great Japanese poet Matsuo Basho. Her following poems are good illustration of her minute observation of nature's activities:

*A flower bloomed full  
With touch of a fly's wings  
Preserved the moment.*

~~

*Dewdrop on leaf's edge  
Basked in the glory of life  
Before it met doom.*

Her poems have the bent to create scenic effect at the poetic canvas with strong imagery and metaphors especially of marine creatures that are astoundingly picturesque. Few examples of her poems that express how she picks up visual colors of words for filling in her arty little lyrical pieces within the restriction of 17 syllables:

*Brown cookies lying  
Flattened on the baking plate  
Of sea beach's oven.*

~~

*Sand dollar moving  
Across brown seabed slowly  
Like mermaid's lost coin.*

Shalini's poem resembles to Kobayashi Issa with realistic slant who tries to draw attention towards humanity and life philosophy through her poems. Her poems are the couriers of these philosophical messages; life and brotherhood, flora and fauna, rural and urban endowments. How life is unstoppable and can be grown from anywhere, it can be grasped through these little miniatures-

*Pictorial notes*

*In a tree growing green through  
Reckless piano.*

~~

*Slate-pencil urchins  
With algae and sponge growing  
Lives embracing bod.*

Void, gloominess and heart-rending melancholic state of a forlorn lady is well described through these lines-

*Lying lady calm  
Beneath an old blue gum tree  
Misted eyes in pain.*

Following poems utterly succeed in creating a pang in readers' hearts with graciousness and placidity:

*Butterfly flutters  
On other flower's petals  
My rose is withered.*

~~

*Screeching of car brakes  
Reminds joy ride promises  
Your words' levity!*

Reference of places like Osaka, Costa Rica, Carribean forests and Mount Fuji in few poems, appear like they are chosen with deep interest. The poetess intends to arouse a desire in the readers to travel these places. Moreover seasonal happenings and changes in nature are minutely observed and are portrayed with such an efficacy that we feel driven with the seasonal shifty moves. Few illustrations of such haiku are given below:

*With your soul's kinship  
Osaka my heart becomes  
Cherry blossoms bloom.*

~~

*Sprawling wild grape's mass  
Following by steep canyon  
Fall's pleasing aura!*

~~

*Clouds of fog blown in  
From Caribbean forests  
Spreading Christmas joy.*

Being a woman, a life-giver, Shalini has dealt the subject of motherhood with delicacy and great care, bringing her every haiku up as- *A pampered kiddie / Slept in mother's cozy lap / Lullaby of warmth.* On the other hand she points out towards a newborn baby's struggle through these lines- *A joey crawling up / Mother's body to reach pouch / Nature's weird journey!* Furthermore, from her personal experiences as a mother she has drawn attention towards the nature of a child in this following haiku-

*Throwing stones a kid  
To fret surface of water  
Childhood can't stand still.*

In modern era where there is tough competition, human mind is full of shrewdness, hugger-mugger and treachery to win life race, the poetess raises some questions through her haiku-

*Shed exuvia  
Like quilling of a hedgehog  
Am I predator?  
~~  
Man shows real color  
Chameleon in green bush  
Is the plot thickened?*

In some poems the poetess has inscribed poetic libretti with a techno-advanced imprint that is a qualitative addition to the poetic skills of the poetess exhibiting her technological knowledge with impeccable handling-

*Eerie sounds come from  
The graveyard after midnight  
Ghosts' whatsapp chit-chat.  
~~*

*Click-clack of keyboard  
Dancing fingers singing mind  
Techno music spreads.*

Every haiku in this collection is a kind of a mini capsule to get rid of miseries, pain and suffering one gets from hustle-bustle and rush of modern life. Intelligentsias or entrepreneurs, old or young, masculine or feminine, everyone who likes reading poetry will definitely be benefitted by these delightful and stress-reliever mini doses of haiku poems. Turn the pages and float with ignited haiku poems of Shalini Yadav to adore aesthetical nature and understand philosophy of life.