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On Every Step
Translation of Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh's Poem
Kadam-Kadam Par in English

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On every step,
I see crossroads,
Stretching their arms!!

I put a foot,
Hundreds of roads burst out,
I wish to go over them all;
Seems very charming and glamorous,
Their experiences and my dreams...
All seems true;

A strange uncomfortableness emerges in the heart,
I want to take off a few deep,
Who knows, what could be found!

I suspects that in every stone
There is a bright diamond,
In every chest there is an impassioned soul,
In every bright smile, eternity,
I suspects that in every voice
There is epic grief.
I want to go through them all in a moment,
I want to go through each heart,
Thus I walk giving myself,
O! Strange life!!
Only for the sake of being stupid
I walk everywhere taking myself
Oh and it is great fun watching,
I am duped...
In my own heart,
A glad idiot sits
Laughing tearfully it becomes passionate
And get lost in the universe.

Taking stories and
Giving me something, these crossroads spread
I just stand for some time
Talk something...

On Every Step

...get novels.

Sad stories, different types of complaints
Ego-analysis, character recitals,
Fashioned vital surah and verses
Get to hear!

Smiling poems obdurate
Talk of love
Burning stairs of living and dying
Climb reverence!!

Taking nervous symbols and smiling portraits
When I return home...
Analogies, say at the door
You must live
For hundred years more.

At home too, on every step, I see crossroads,
I see hundred roads daily, stretching their arms,
Branches – offshoots emerges,
Hundreds of new subjects I see everyday...
And, I think that
In today's life

The difficulty of a writer is not
Lack of topics
But, their surplus,
Prosecutes him

And, he fails to make a right choice!!

Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh was one of the most prominent Hindi poets, essayist, literary and political critic, and fiction writers of the 20th century. He is widely considered one of the pioneers of modern poetry in India, and known as being a pioneer, the mainstay of Prayogvaad Experimentalism movement of Hindi Literature.

He is best known for his long poems: *Brahma-rakshasa*, *Chand ka Muh Teda hai* (The Moon Wears a Crooked Smile), *Andhere Mein* (In the Dark) and *Bhuri Bhuri Khak Dhul* (The Brown Dry Dust). His complete works extending to 6 volumes were published in 1980, as *Muktibodh Rachnavali*.

His poem *Kadam Kadam Par* was published in his poetic volume *chand Ka Muh Teda Hai*. In this poem he has given expression to the difficulties of a poet. As he himself was a poet, he very well knew what problems a poet face while selecting an appropriate topic for his poem. In *kadam kadam par* he has very appropriately expressed his views about this situation of a poet when he finds himself in a dilemma. A poet can see thousands of topics and subjects around him and his problem is, on which topic he should write. Muktibodh too faced this problem and for him the most appropriate topic was social welfare.

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