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Life: A Substance

Soubhagyabanta Maharana

When heart throbs with ineffable joy
Even the marrow of the bone
Feels life's presence being zestful
Like a butterfly enticed by passion-flower.
Life seldom signifies for living only
For years together to see births and deaths
Of near and dear ones , kith and kin
Enjoying the biological pleasures
Like pigs, dogs , reptiles and animals.

While dreams face hard realities
Of the moments of an unsung life
The struggle goes on in the body
Changing blood into ink for a manifesto.
Love has sundry colours like the ravishing rainbow
To be painted on the canvas of life
Solemnizing blood and tears , despairs and delights

In the symphony of love's journey
Life plays a vital role to justify
The spirit of hope, faith, amity and peace
When surging emotions fervently
Embellish the rugged human body.
Singing the glory of humanity
The sparkle of slice of life rejuvenates men
To adore for light with a penchant
Amidst the pervading darkness.

Biographical Details:

Mr.Soubhagyabanta Maharana [b.1951] is a reputed bi-lingual poet, critic and translator of Odia and English. His poems have been published in the leading Odia and English magazines like The Telegraph, The Indian Literature, Poetry First, The Sun Times , The Eastern Times ,The Poetry Chronicle, The Mirror of Times , Muse India e-journal, Ashvamegh Ejournal, Poem Hunter.com and Samkalin Bharatiya Sahitya [Hindi] of Sahitya Akademi. He has so far published 14 Odia poetry collections , one Hindi poetry anthology and 3 essay collections of criticism on modern Odia poetry. For his excellent contributions to Odia poetry at large he has received 35 awards and felicitations from various literary and cultural organizations of Odisha. Moreover, he has

received the prestigious Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award for poetry for the year 2010. Besides, in 2007 he received the prize for the competition of English translation of Sahitya Academy for Indian Literature, New Delhi, in its Golden Jubilee Celebration. Some of his Odia poems are translated in English, Hindi, Bengali, Kannad , Gujarati and Assamese . He has availed the Travel Grants to Authors pertaining to Sahitya Akademi. Moreover, Mr. Maharana has translated some poems of reputed Odia poets into English. He is the Chief Editor of Bhumashree - a literary quarterly magazine published from Sambalpur. He has now settled at Sambalpur as a retired Divisional Manager of L.I.C of India, Sambalpur Division .