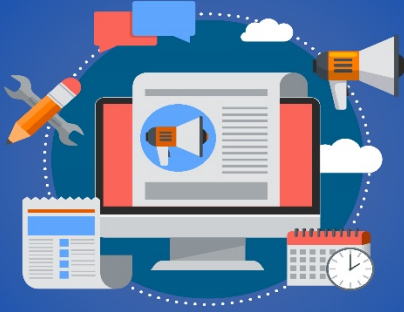


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## Journey

**Dr. Sachidananda Panda**

Asso. Prof, English  
BIMIT, Bhubaneswar

There comes a time...!  
When nothing disturbs one any more  
Seasonal changes or social upheavals  
Hypocrite ruler or helpless populace  
If one prays in Temple, church or Mosque  
If evening 'kirtan' loses its usual musk  
If 'Azaan' isn't heard from a cliffy terrace  
If a hall of Cross doesn't enlighten a dippy mess  
If lotus doesn't bloom early in the morning  
Or, if Bees do give up their sweet humming  
When pleasure and pain look as well equal  
You may say...!  
One is on the path of self withdrawal.

This cannot be a callous act  
It's no juxtaposition of fiction and fact  
Not even a lazy cumbersome or indolent attitude  
May not be an explicit attempt, for solitude  
This is a time, when one scouts for a personal space  
To keep oneself off from all material haze  
Food or favor, pump or grandeur, all the spicy craze  
Nothing attracts, nothing interests, besides...!  
A search for an ounce of sublime grace

Life's essence lies in the salinity of Tears  
It's ostensibly different, till it is tested  
Its quiddities are evaluated  
Through umpteen colour glasses  
Till it's challenged by hard realities  
When we feel the presence of absence  
Ignored or ignorant,  
We tend to weigh between frosty faces  
Niggardly consoling about its inevitabilities  
When Silence rules the roost, on folded foreheads

A space where we scrutinize times spent  
Fouls or follies or some earlier dent  
Revisit the grooves, once were greener though  
Untangling the frills of deeper owes  
Count the beads of lost opportunities

At times cautiously hiding, the whisking sighs  
Grossly unmindful of, when a doleful smile  
Gets smeared on dry lips  
While a pair of blank eyes,  
Stay glued at the sprawling oblivion.

**Biographical Note:**

Dr. Sachidananda Panda is currently working as an Associate professor [English] in BIMIT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. He has Long eighteen years of experience in Teaching and training at Graduate and Post Graduate level. An avid learner, a Poet & Philosopher; His Poems are aimed at revealing the core contours of life with motivational and realistic undertones. He Published Books on seven different Titles in the field of literature, Communication, & Business Communication. He holds different prestigious positions as Editorial Board Member of several Journals both National and International in the field of literature and multi disciplinary publications. He is known for his oratory and is a most sought-after public speaker on matters of social concern.