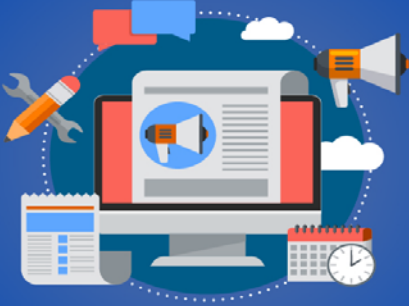


ISSN 0976 - 8165



THE CRITERION


AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

11th Year of Open Access


**Bi-Monthly Refereed and Peer-Reviewed
Open Access e-Journal**

Vol. XI, Issue-6 (December 2020)

Editor-In-Chief : Dr. Vishwanath Bite
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ISSN 2278-9529
Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal
www.galaxyimrj.com

A Visit to Ghats

Sonalika Chaturvedi
Research Scholar (English),
Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences,
National Institute of Technology, Uttarakhand.

As I reach the intersection
at Godauliya
a proud bull sitting
on the top of a
tall cylinder platform
welcomes me
to the street of
color, Mirth, fragrance
and a
happy chaos
I make my way
walking past the
people old and new
stopped midway
by a cow or few
and I wonder
how peaceful is the
union of the
deity and the devotee
the honking of a scooter
breaks my spell
and I move forward
embraced by the smell of
hot and syrupy jalebi,
and crispy kachauris
it's early morning you see
the flower vendors
are to be noticed
all over the place
they also have these
little earthen oil lamps
they will offer
to sell you
and so I know

I have reached
the ghats, finally
I can see
the Ganga
my feet reluctant to move
I wait here for a while
for the view
demands me to stay
to absorb from far
the serenity
of the flowing river
ever so calm
ever so peaceful
before I am ready
to go near
I now walk down
the stairs
one step a time
I sprinkle the water
over my head
feeling blessed
I sit down
with my legs
immersed in the Ganga
aware of all the
commotion going on
still a sense of tranquility
surrounds me
the sound of
the chants,
the hymns,
the ringing bells
soothes my troubled self
the sun is up
gracing the sky
I want to keep sitting...

Bio:

Sonalika Chaturvedi is a Research Scholar of English at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology, Uttarakhand. She has done her masters from Banaras Hindu University, India. Her interest lies in ecocritical studies and climate change theories. She writes poem on diverse topics through the lens of an introvert.