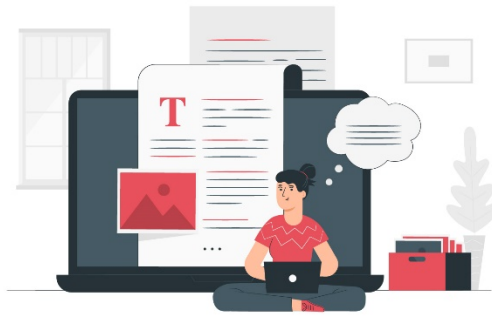


IMPACT FACTOR: 7.86

ISSN 0976 - 8165



THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

12th Year of Open Access

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

Vol. XII, Issue-2 (April 2021)

Editor-In-Chief : Dr. Vishwanath Bite
Managing Editor : Dr. Madhuri Bite



www.the-criterion.com



AboutUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/about/>

Archive: <http://www.the-criterion.com/archive/>

ContactUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/contact/>

EditorialBoard: <http://www.the-criterion.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.the-criterion.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.the-criterion.com/fa/>



ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

www.galaxyimrj.com

Guilt and Gratitude

Swati Moheet Agrawal

Tonight as I lie suspended on my bed,
I cannot let the day drop down,
I cannot put out the light,
I feel horrendously guilty, compulsively guilty,
basking in luxuries and pleasures,
opulence and splendor,
when others are toiling to make ends meet;
treading precariously,
moment after moment,
grateful for a hand-to-mouth existence.

It strikes me sometimes with a pang
whether I even deserve it all?

Here I drown myself in an extravagant tulle gown
to feed my ego,
there a househelp drowns herself in menial works
to feed flour and rice,
here I am comfortably ensconced in a chauffeur-driven car,
there a maid totters and lurches towards her ramshackle shanty,
here I am wishy-washy about the pair of shoes to wear,
there someone is content with a frayed pair.

Alas!
All of us are not cast in the same mould,
life flows differently for different people,
people feel guilty and grateful in different ways.

Bio:

A writer based in Mumbai, India, **Swati Moheet Agrawal** delves in poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Her work has appeared in *Café Lit Magazine*, *Mad Swirl*, *The Drabble*, *Friday Flash Fiction*, *Ariel Chart*, *Café Dissensus*, *Active Muse*, *Setu*, *Kitaab* and is forthcoming in *Thimble Lit Mag*, *Muse India*, *The Pangolin Review*, *Nailpolish Stories* and *The Dribble Drabble Review*. Follow her on Instagram @ swatihowrites