

Impact Factor: 8.67

ISSN:0976-8165



THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

Bi-Monthly Peer-Reviewed eJournal

16 YEARS OF OPEN ACCESS

VOL. 16 ISSUE-2, APRIL 2025

Editor-In-Chief: **Dr. Vishwanath Bite**

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ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

www.galaxyimrj.com

The Alchemist of Sorrow

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She sat down to weep
And wept pearls.
She gathered them all,
Carefully crafting each one.
She rejected a few, adored some,
Weaving them into a beautiful necklace,
Worn with pride.
The pearls themselves unaware,
Of their beauty.
It was the magic of the combinations, intentions or skill?
The crowd gathered to descry,
Their eyes filled with awe.
They were compelled to think
About how to achieve such excellence.
She put the necklace on display,

And a few admirers turned into competitors and enemies.

Some tried to plagiarize,

But there was always a difference.

Their tears were not as unique as hers.

Some wept alongside her,

Some wept for her,

And some wept out of jealousy.

Others were busy drawing inspiration.

This was the power,

Of each pearl, carefully woven into a single thread.

She is a poet;

Her tears are poetry.

She assembled all her grief

And crafted a radiant chain,

Echoing the 'Self'

Selectively and carefully,

Yet transparently,

Weaving them with metaphors and personification.

This 'Riviere', picked from the warren of my heart,

Is now open for display.

Bio Note:

Akanksha Pandey is a research scholar in the Department of English and Modern European Languages at University of Lucknow under supervision of Dr. Fatima Rizvi. Apart from publishing research papers in peer reviewed journals and as book chapters, she is also fond of creative writing. Her poems have appeared in several publications, including *Rhetorica Quarterly*, *The Stroke Stories Publishing House*, *Setu Journal* (Pittsburgh, USA), and an anthology by the All India Forum for English Students, Scholars and Trainers.