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A VOYAGE FROM INNOCENCE TO EXPERIENCE

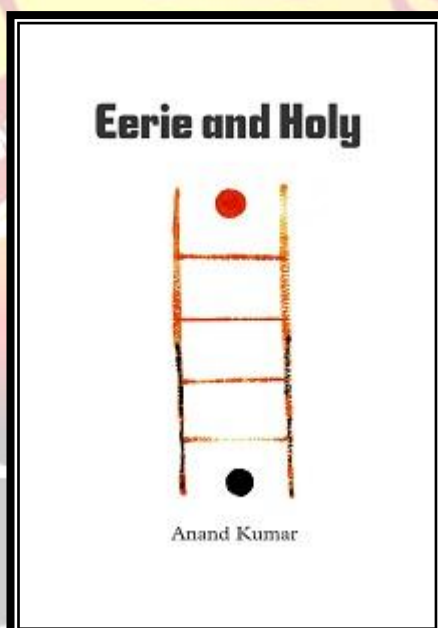
(A Book Review By)

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Title: *Eerie and Holy*, Poet: **Anand Kumar**, Published by: **Authorspress, New Delhi, 2014**,
Price: **Rs. 295 /- \$ 14**, Pages:148, ISBN: **978-81-7273-834-1**

- **Prof. Anand Kumar**, chair of the department of Reproductive Biology in All India Institute of Medical Sciences and a Fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Medical Sciences, is spiritual, philosophical and literary genius whose mastery over narrative and colloquial lyrics are well realized. His *Eerie and Holy* is not only a collection of narratives but narratives interspersed with poetry.

▪ **DrAjit Kumar**

He introduces and closes his anthology with Sri Aurobindo's quotes. His strength as a poet resonates powerfully in Poet's Note:

I dabble with words,
Create undefined structures.
That's certainly an art
...
I couldn't care less
If my art is something else.
I am free, I am free, I am free. (9)

All the 64 poems are full of life and arise out of his visions and philosophical sight. The elaboration executed by the poet in his 11 parts is highly admirable and commendable because he has put forth skepticism without prejudice and full-fledged liberty of expression taking the readers into the world of heart touching realities. The poems show skepticism without prejudice and demonstrate a force that carries readers into the world of heart-felt reality.

In his first part, 'Holy', he has composed 7 well-constructed meaningful poems. Through these poems, he unmask the innocence of human nature. He raises many aspects which are directly or indirectly associated with a Presence. At one place he articulates, "I hadn't seen God then" (22) and later confesses, "I know nor the truth, Therefore the untruth. Idea of mind or the object of sense, I'm sure of none"(34). In 'Love and Passion', the poet unveils various small and secret but substantive capacities which cobble the full human existence. All the poems in 'Eerie' are deep in meaning and touch the heart. Use of images and narrative skills enlarge the literary value of the book. He says, "The moon sank before its rise...hungry wolves howled; men slept" (62). In fourth part, 'Wisdom', he makes an exuberance of emotions through words. His symbolism innovative and demonstrates a higher cognitive existence of man. The fifth part 'Maya' has important message for the modern world. The sixth part, 'Love and Passion' resolves the true essence of humanity, and that is love. Prof. Anand Kumar turns to the next part 'Places, Cities, the Sea and Volcano' and voices unspoken aspects of city life. In "Delhi", he says,

For my city
Has neither sky
Nor waters
To fill colours in. (97)

He strikes a somber note in the next part, 'Monuments and History'. He skillfully narrates a day at "India Gate". He writes, "Night reigns...In silence they cry together...During the day...Come evening...At midnight..."(108). In the next part 'Eerie', the poet presents his philosophy using emotions and virtues. The poet in his second last part, 'Art of God' desires to achieve the most realized vision for humanity:

The King
Climbed skies
On thunderbolts
Underneath
Auroras danced. (129)

In the last part, 'The Last Mile', Prof. Kumar recalls Dushyant and other parts of history. It has a masterly finishing touch. The beauty of the poem lies in his words. He writes in "The One and the Many":

Words muttered
Phrases uttered
Ideas expressed
Ones repressed, (19).

Graphic description also has increased the joy for the readers. I would like to appreciate the poet for his grandeur style, diction and presentation. His poems teach the concept that poetry requires a meticulous search for images and words. In "Love Poetry", he begins,

Bras, undulating breasts
Once lemon-tight,
Cigarette, lipstick, roses,
Heart, tears, twilight and night,
Sunrise, moonlight,
Bars and coffee,
River, salted air....(92)

Such elevated language will certainly appeal the intellectuals and academicians at large. He attempts a comprehensive analysis of the various aspects of life through his heart touching the most suitable words for a thing or situation.

I am sure readers will enjoy the flight from the fake imaginative aspects to the realities of this world. The poet satirizes the various social evils through his well-constructed and composed poems. The poet deals with the various social and human aspects in a manner that manifests profundity as well as realistic sensibility. I would go to the extent to say that Prof. Anand has achieved and developed a new perspective and invention in Indian English poetry through his elegant poems.



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