

THE AUTHOR

S.L. Peeran, Judicial Member of Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal, Chennai, is a poet composing poems in English and Urdu. So far four of his books of poems in English have been published : (a) *In Golden Times*, published by The Home of Letters (India), Bhubaneswar (b) *In Golden Moments*, published by Bizz Buzz Publications, Bangalore (c) *A Search From Within*, published by The Home of Letters (India), Bhubaneswar (d) *A Ray Of Light*, published by Bizz Buzz Publications, Bangalore.

Now, *In Silent Moments* is being published by The Home of Letters (India), Bhubaneswar. Peeran has still to his credit two more unpublished works : *A Call From The Unknown* and *New Frontiers*, awaiting publication. Many of the poems from these works have already appeared in many anthologies, poetry magazines and journals in India.

Peeran's poetical works have been well acknowledged for his sufistic and matured thoughts, and for the poems being reflective, meditative, descriptive of nature and characterization of human nature and throwing light on the human nature and growth.

In his foreword to *In Golden Times* Dr. Krishna Srinivas, writes, "Like Blake Peeran sees the world in a grain of sand and Eternity in an hour.

An administrator lispng in numbers may sound strange but Muse in Peeran has blossomed into many-splendoured exuberance.

He writes Haiku and Tanka with illumined vision. There is inner vibrancy, a matchless verbal incantation in his lyrics !..... They have deep poignancy. And there is passionate naturalness in all he writes".

Dr. Gordon Hindley writes, "S.L. Peeran is a worthy Lakshana or sign post of the best in all of us and in Indian English writing." While Bernard M. Jackson of England writes "A delightful Collection by a writer who combines sincerity with craftsmanship - a fine command of English !

A.B.I., U.S.A. and I.B.C., England have included the name of S.L. Peeran in their biographical publications.

- *Publisher*

IN SILENT MOMENTS

S. L. PEERAN



**THE HOME OF LETTERS (INDIA)
BHUBANESWAR**

IN SILENT MOMENTS

(a collection of poems)

**By :
S.L. Peeran**

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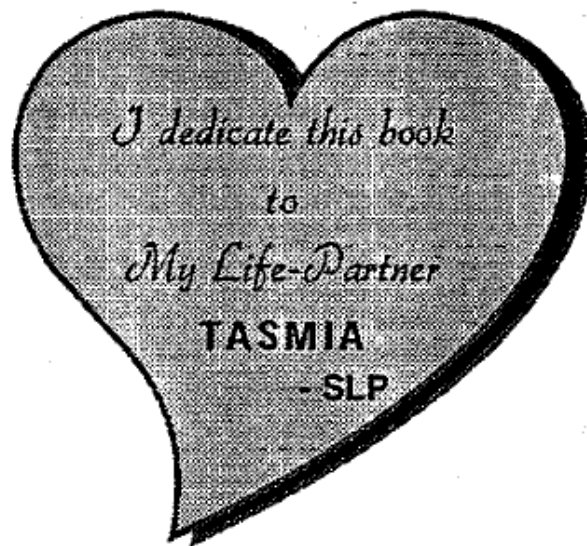
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I dedicate this book

to

My Life-Partner

TASMIA

- SLP

FOREWORD

S. L. Peeran, a Judicial Member of the Customs, Excise & Gold Control Appellate Tribunal, is a fascinating combination of a humane, God-loving soul of rare refinement and sensitivity, suffused with Sufistic thoughts and enriched and mellowed by wide experience of life, garnered from a habit of deep reflection and detached observation, especially from the vantage point of his high judicial office. "*Seek peace, love, goodwill / In calm stillness of the night / Deep meditation*", says Peeran somewhere. In *Silent Moments* obviously is the outcome of such meditation, when the mind is stilled and deep truths glow, from the depths of one's being, on the horizon.

Poetry is an incantation of the soul, celebration of the abiding varieties of our human existence. It mirrors a perception of the world peculiar to each poet. What invests the present collection with special significance is the exciting fact that it affords us a glimpse of its author's unique, colourful creative presence. Poetry is *not* merely putting together some clever lines. It is, like falling in love, a serious and blissful proposition. And Peeran's poetry is born out of the confrontation of his whole being with Reality - with the luminous truths of life as well as its seamier manifestations. As the poet himself says, his poems are born from inner turmoils, inner sorrows, inner questionings, inner joys, inner frustrations and ecstasies. Speaking at a Seminar in Bangalore sometime ago, Poet Gordon Hindley observed:

"I define poetry as that utterance which, apparently presenting a particular - an individual - thing or event, in fact emphasises the universal experience within which the particular thing or event occurs. True poetry thus leads us beyond the personal towards an even more immediate yet greater awareness... It brings about an awakening; an enriching of our nature."

And proceeding to cite some specimens of poetry which according to him accomplished this, the speaker quoted among others some of Peeran's verses. Can there be a better tribute paid to a poet ?

Peeran is a delectable fusion of a serene elevated soul with the sensitivity and sensuousness of an aesthetic being. A genuine reverence and wonder for Nature and an all-enveloping love run through all his utterances. With moving faith he voices his fervent hope:

*Somewhere, someone, some day
Will sow the seeds of affection
To bloom as fragrant flowers
To fill the gardens of love.*

Prayerfully he wishes "*Let the streams of love / Flow within, to cleanse the being.*"

A deep piety marked by virtuousness is the Poet's view of an ideal life. He sings :

*Life led with righteous living
In humanity and servitude
In patience and contentment
Enjoys honeyed fruits of heaven.*

This state of joyous innocence represents to me the quintessence of Poet Peeran.

Peeran's voice is not one of angry protest; nor is he given to haranguing his erring fellowmen. He is one of a genuine lover of humanity, in anguish over what he sees around him in the country and the world in our day. "*Somewhere, someone,*

some day/ Will hear my lonely sad voice", is all his hope. As a God-immersed soul, he knows:

*When the swords are out
And you are required
To pass through untrodden path,
When the bugles have been blown
And your enemies are out
When the dark clouds hover
Without any silver lining,
With gathering storms and tempests
Lightning thunder and tornadoes
When your heart has melted
And courage has given in*

It is the same flair for flashing vivid full-blown visuals that one finds in the description of the primitive man in *Back To Fold With Zest* and in the long four-page poem *Birth And Growth For Total Merger* which parades in rapid succession life in all its stages - from the moment of pre-natal conception to the final attainment of communion with the Supreme Being. This striking feature you meet with, in fact, all over in this volume.

The crop of *Haiku* and *Tankas* figuring in this book speak of the command the Poet has over these art forms. Particularly the haiku are a treasure trove of priceless pearls. These precious vignettes of life glisten like self-illuminating pearls. The Poet has captured the soul of this genre in his compositions. As the master-practitioner of this Japanese art form, Dr. Mohd. Fakhruddin pithily puts it, 'what is below the surface is important in haiku - the words float on the surface, the emotions below'. The haiku presented go over the whole spectrum of life experience and human emotions. To sample a few, a haiku runs: 'Life is a mirage / Storms blowing of dry leaves, twigs / To oblivion'. Another sorrows: 'Humanity weeps at / A mad scientist's creation / Atom bombs, cloning.' Yet another talks of 'Parents in night clubs / Teenagers in dancing halls / Pubs for more taxes'. Still another speaks of 'The onset of youth / The eternal fire brewing / Yearning for the flesh'. The sensuous poet comes up with this, another gem: 'When eyes shut, lips sealed / Storms, turmoils of life subside / Become motionless'. The judicial persona in the poet alerts: 'Hold the pans even / With judicial decorum / Save democracy'.

To quote but one *tanka* :
*Beautiful garden
Jewel of heaven on earth
It was here, here, here:
Ah : Shalimar : lost beauty*

Peeran is a mellowed individual, in consuming love with life with all its beauty - and yes, its ugliness as well. A haiku of his speaks of a moth:

*A candle flickers
A moth circumbulates, burns
In ever deep love.*

One is left wondering whether the Author of this book here is not speaking of himself !

August, 2001
Chennai

SRINIVASA RANGASWAMI

PREFACE

'In Silent Moments' is an offshoot of inner turmoils, joys and ecstasies experienced in the calm and silent moments of night and when a person is all by himself reflecting on the life's myriad issues, detached from the daily hub and dub.

I have expressed my personal experiences in the form of verse and poems. I am an amateur poet and I have spelt out my thoughts in my poetry to share it with my poet friends. I have not put any extra effort or strain. They have come to me spontaneously in a flash of a moment and it has assumed the form of my personal poetry. I again seek apology of poets and critics for my shortcomings and I would endeavour to improve with positive criticism received from critics and poet-friends.

My *better-half* Tasmia, has shared much of my inner turmoils, joys and frustrations. As a *life-partner* she, every day, reads my thoughts and emotions and lives with it. She has contributed to my inner personality and much of my poetic output is as a result of sharing of my experiences with my *life-partner*. She has devotedly been sailing along with me in all types of weather and storms. As a token of my love and gratitude I am dedicating this book to her.

I deeply acknowledge with gratitude, the readiness with which Srinivasa Rangaswami took the task at my behest to go through my manuscripts and pen a profound *Foreword*.

I share my pleasures and joys of reading my poems in the regular poetic meets arranged by 'Poetry Foundation', Chennai, and my gratitude and thanks to all my poet-friends and their valuable suggestions to improve upon my poems.

I hope this humble work of mine would be received well by the poetic world.

Chennai
22nd November, 2001

S.L. PEERAN

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