



NIMBUS

LALJEE VERMA

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*To my wife Usha -
for tolerating me and my poetry*

About The Author

Air Vice Marshal L K Verma is a senior officer in the Medical Branch of the Indian Defence Forces. He is a prolific writer of Hindi literature and has four books to his credit. Out of his published books, three are collection of poems and one is a play. He writes under the pen name 'Laljee Verma' and has received 'Prem Chand Samriti Award' for his contribution to Hindi literature. The poet has a rich background. He has been a mountaineer, a paratrooper and always loved nature in its naked beauty. This is amply reflected in his poems. Apart from being rich in literature, his poems have a philosophical bend. The present anthology is the first collection in English by a renowned Hindi poet. It will surely be appreciated by readers.

Preface

A Spot of White on Canvas

A spot of white on a canvas may not be seen but cannot be denied either. It is there whether one sees it or not. It may mingle with the larger backdrop and become imperceptible, but it is there. I never thought I could write poems in English. But somehow or the other the nimble thoughts kept appearing in one form or the other in my mind. It was not that I wanted to diversify into another language but as my ideas kept acquiring form, I was compelled to jot them down in the language they came in.

Writing in Hindi and English are totally different; more so when one is writing poetry. The polemics, the simile and the metaphor are of totally different dimensions. Most of my Hindi poems cannot be effectively translated into English and so is the case with my English poems. Only a few can find equal expression in both languages. Writing in two different languages is arduous, and is not always appreciated either by other authors or by the critics. But poetry does not respect boundaries of language. It is like an ice cap. When it melts due to heat of ideas, it just flows in the form of fountains and streams.

My poems in English are perhaps those, which I could not pen down in Hindi - not because of lack of adequacy of language but because of differing parameters. It has not attracted any special effort, at least not the effort of conceiving the thoughts in Hindi and then translating them to English. These poems have their nascency in the English language and could not be expressed satisfactorily in any other tongue.

English is a rich language with a comprehensive vocabulary. However, my diction is comparatively finite and I do not know if I have done any justice to my ideas. I have tried to articulate my thoughts as they came to me during different times of my life. Even if the readers find some of these poems reverberate their

own thoughts, I would imagine that I have succeeded, because in literature success comes with commonality of thoughts. The English poems of mine are a part of me and I cannot divest myself from them. That was the compulsion and that is the essentiality of bringing out an anthology in English.

Laljee Verma

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