

Sanjay Ghildiyal



Staircase to his soul

The latest feather in his cap, the M S Randhawa award. Catching up...

Sukant Deepak

Dialogue. Between man & woman. Between matter & spirit. A dialogue that liberates, and not just from the self, wafting across unmapped borders - physical, mental and metaphysical. An interaction with Germany-based poet and writer Rajvinder Singh is like crossing one's own line - is it liberation? "My self emerges out of dialogue, all I write is nothing but a dialogue with life, language, listener and the reader, and yes, with myself too." In Town on Thursday, the writer, who has the honour of being the first non-German to be conferred with the 'Poet Laureate' title in Germany, insists that his lyrical poetry is all about life, divorced from any 'ism'. "Life is to be seen as such, in freedom. Man's always been condemned to be created in bounds. The moment he's born, he's enveloped in a freedom of different colours."

For someone who started writing from age 11, poetry is

about the interesting part of life. "When you're small, you create stories as excuses. Remember they are stories and not lies. Creativity is inborn. Every thinking person is a creator." Smiling that he wanted to do research on Brecht, as, "the great writer always imposed his solutions on others. He presents a problem and then gives the solution himself. I think as a writer, your domain ends in presenting the problem in an aesthetic way and prepare the reader to raise his thinking level. However, considering that Brecht is considered a holy cow in Europe, one is not really encouraged to be critical about him."

Rajvinder is busy teaching German in that country. He smiles, "Yeah, a part of my income comes from teaching the Germans their own language. I also teach creative writing." For someone who has eight poetry books in German, it has never been tough to write in a language other than his mother tongue. "You must remember that no human being

thinks in the language he expresses in. You ought to think in a proto language of humanity."

Attributing his frequent visits to India to the fact that he's discovering the country in a new light, the writer elaborates, "with every new visit, I try to find out why I visited the country last time. I introduced myself to the real essence of India only when I left the country. I look at it in entirety now. This country's not a micro-cosmos but a cosmos in itself. Contradictions are the key to advancement, we must realise that."

Surviving as a full-time writer in Germany hasn't been tough for him. "Yes, the state takes good care of you. A lot of fund is spent on culture, there's no other way, considering the cultural fragmentation post Third Reich."

An almost two-hour 'dialogue' concludes. What emerges is more than words, more than language. In fact a terrible beauty.