

ISSN: 2349-2147



Modern Research Studies

Editor-in-Chief
Gyanabati Khuraijam

**An International
Journal of
Humanities and Social
Sciences**

An Indexed & Refereed e-Journal

www.modernresearch.in

Title: *Silent Days* by Jaydeep Sarangi

Author/s: Divya Girishkumar

**Volume 1, Issue 2
September 2014**

pp. 391–392.

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Silent Days by Jaydeep Sarangi. Allahabad: Cyberwit.net, 2013.
pp.64. ISBN: 9788182533967. ₹ 175.

Review by: Divya Girishkumar*

The voice of Jaydeep Sarangi is increasingly being recognized nowadays. Sarangi is the author of several books of poems and his literary talent straddles different realms of aesthetic sensibility: poetry, academics, editing and translation. Sarangi's works lies at the intersection of postcolonial, philosophic and spiritual auras that cross traditional borders and produce interdisciplinary dialogues. His new collection of poems, *Silent Days*, springs out from his intimate concerns for his 'roots' and the various 'routes' that he traverses. The anthology, with fifty poems in total, is a powerful expression of the poet's personal anguish, social concerns, memory, happiness and hope.

Sarangi's poetry is deeply engaged with the themes of tradition v/s modernity, where he depicts his poetic soul as yearning to return to his lost days of childhood. He feels 'homeless' in his own land which is torn by misery, brutality and social hierarchies.

The house was complete...
How nice it is to think, time is ripe
Things to follow as history completes its full cycle.
(Homeless in my Land, 40)

Along with these grappling questions, Sarangi transforms his lyric from its profoundly private origins to a much more public form. While reflecting on Dalit plight, he writes:

Unspoken fossilized feelings
Seek freedom in easy poems
Singing woes of land lost
They mould their class identity

Torch of expression blazes bright
In every Dalit's wordy pool.

(The Torch, 43)

Silent Days, therefore, brings into a productive synthesis the lived connections between the musings of poetic self and the burden of a fractured life in a mechanical world. Sarangi beautifies his poetic renditions with traditional and vernacular Bengali terms to prove his affinity with his home culture, exploring the complex issues stemming from the machinations of everyday life.

Jaydeep Sarangi, in his *Silent Days*, creates a rich tapestry of literary and mythological influences that nourish his pen.

The Baul says:

“O heart, wake up

Embrace all to your sweet bosom”

(The Baul Call, 61)

Lakshmi as she sails with several names,
leads us to a full Moon circle.

(Goddess Lakshmi, 45)

Silent Days, thus, is a collection of powerful poetic renderings that unspools, describes and demonstrates the workings of a poetic selfhood tracing the silent, intimate connections between the outer body and inner soul as aesthetic fields- where experience dwell and poetry originate. Sarangi is definitely a literary artist who nourishes the Indian English poetic scene with his fresh poetic colours.

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