



Sahitya Akademi

8 October 2009

meet the author

Harshdev Madhav



Sri Harshdev Madhav (Jani Harshavadan Mansukhlal) is a powerful and prolific Poet. A winner of many awards he has established himself as a modern Sanskrit poet. His collection of poems *Tava sparshe sparshe* bagged central Sahitya akademi award, 2006. This is a collection of poems noted for their intensity and original imagination. The work is undoubtedly a priceless contribution to modern Indian poetry in Sanskrit.

He changed the face of Sanskrit poetry by introducing new forms like *haiku*, *tanka*, *sijo*, mono image poems, baul kavya, graph poems, mural poems, symbolic poems, college poems, absurd dramas, typographical poems, etc. in Sanskrit literature.

His poems need a critic like Mammata, who gave critical commentary to ancient Sanskrit poetry. He contributed a lot to modern poetry, but still he composed many poems in traditional chandas. The kind of poetry he introduced became famous in India and abroad and is countable as (*Uttamadhvani Kavya*) one of the specimen of best poetry in Sanskrit literature.

Harshdev Madhav's contribution to the modern Sanskrit is great. Internationalization and modernization of Sanskrit poetry is an outcome of Harshdev's vision and visualization. He may not be fully acceptable by orthodox Sanskritists on account of

his arbitrariness to use some English words in original form and some in sanskritized form, but the subject matter he presents is definitely upto the mark. He presents the idea through new images and motives and expresses much through economy of words and lines. In conventional terms we can say that his *abhivyakti* is through *anyukti*. He is a spokesman of present-day world and singer of human sensations. He is appreciated by western critics as a full-height poet. The promising new corner also exploits Sanskrit allusions and associations against the backdrop of the native and local nuances of dialect.

He has written four critical books on famous poets like *Magha*, significance of epics, Puranas and Indian culture and published from time to time. He brought out six valuable books on teaching, learning and speaking Sanskrit. He is not only well known as a poet but famous dramatist also (the Drama *Mrityurayam Kasturikamrigosti* is well known to Sanskrit world). He wrote seventeen books in other languages and presented 90 research papers till now. Nine books are edited on special subjects and three other and published by him. He paid a lot more attention on child literature. He composed four books on it and which were appreciated by many institutions. More than ten students are doing



With wife



Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award from Prof. Gopi Chand Narang

research on his works. This is the evidence to prove his worthiness as a poet. Dr. Harshdev involved himself in many editorial boards and edited many books and co-edited 18 books which include Rig-Veda Dashama mandal. He is the member of the post Colonial Journal of India discourse book I (2007), *Manibhai prajapathi* and Dr. M.V.Joshi Felicitation volumes. He prepared Text books for VIII and XI standered for the Board of secondary education Gujarat.

He began writing in 1970 and published his first book, *Rathyasu Jamboo Varnanam Siranam* (Sanskrit poetry) in 1985 followed by *Haath Fanfonse Andhalla sugandhene* (Gujarati poetry). He has written and edited more than 75 books in Sanskrit, Gujarati, Hindi and English, besides his works of translation. He has 20 collections of Sanskrit poetry, four collections of Gujarati poetry and two collections of Sanskrit drama. Some of his important works are *Mrigaya*, *Nishkrantah sarve*, *Pura yatra srotah*, *Mrityu Shatakam*, *Bhavasthirani jananantarasaauhridani* collections (Sanskrit poetry), Head lines again (English poetry), *Pakshi ke Pankh par Gagan* (Hindi poetry) *Kshan Swapna* (Gujarati short stories) and *Nakha chihna* (Sanskrit criticism). He is a recipient of Kalpavalli Award of Bharatiya

Bhasha Parishad, Akhilabharatiya Kalidas Award and Gujarat Sanskrit Sahitya Academy Award (Five times). Through his poems, every time he is adding some thing new, which will be recollected afterwards as an era of the epoch making creativity. By his efforts Sanskrit literature is breathing a new spirit. Truly he gained national and international reputation for his writings.

Inclusion of his poem in world poetry Collection *Vishwa Kavita Tulana* (2005) is remarkable. Seven of his works got translated into Gujarati, Hindi, English and Oriya. Six books are written on his poetry and references given in more than 12 books.

He has a Bird view of the poet's Literary and Academic Voyage. A lecturer in M.K.Arts College Ahmedabad he is one among some multilingual whose daring works poets deserve more serious attention. Born on 20th October, 1954 in Vertej Dist, Bhavanagar, Gujarat, he secured Ist class in M.A (Sanskrit), in 1981, B.Ed in the academic year of 1983-84, and awarded PhD in 1990. He started his career as Asst. Teacher in K.G. Higher Secondary School and then he became a Lecturer in Sanskrit in H.K. Arts College where he is now working as the Professor in Charge. His specialization is in

Vedic literature, Tantra Sastra Puranas, Modern Sanskrit Criticism and poetics. He was recognized as a Research guide in Kaccha University, Bhavnagar University, North Gujarat University and Gujarat University. He is member of the editorial board in Sanskrit Magazine *Drik*. He is working as member of research board of advisors, The American Biographical Institute since 2003. He is serving Sanskrit by holding the post of President, Sri Vani Academy and as a member and trustee of Sanskrit Seva Samithi. He served in many Institutions like Executive Council of Sanskrit academy Sourashtra University (2000-2004) and General body of Sanskrit Sahitya Academy (1994-1999).

The treasure of poems by Harshdev Madhav is vast much worthy. Some of the best works are briefly introduced here:

1. *Rathyasu Jambuvarnanam Shiranam*: It was published in 1985. The characteristics of the poem are allusive style, Universal Context, New Flexibility, New meaningful transparency and Modern Sensibility.

2. *Shabdanam Nirmakshiakeshu Dhvamsavashesheshu* (1993): Here new experiments have been done. These experiments attracted many literary workers.

3. *Mrigaya* (1994): This work

won him Kalpavalli Prize. These kinds of poems enriched the Sanskrit literature.

4. *Lavarisa Digdha Swapnamayah Parvatah* (1996): In this poem he introduced new forms like *Haiku* and *Tanka* which was imported from Japan and *Shijo* which was imported from Korea. Thus he worshipped Goddess Saraswati through his Modern style.

5. *Aaseechcha Me Manasi* (1997): Here new things have been introduced in a novel way. This can be an ornament to Minerva. The style of Mono Image has been introduced here.

6. *Nishkranthah Sarve* (1997): This kind of poem was never before in Sanskrit Literature. This has introduced a kind of experimentation in Sanskrit.

7. *Pura Yatra Srotah* (1998): This is the first imitation. Many other poets have adopted the style used in this poetry. This poem gives an indication that Modern Sanskrit is as great as the old one.

8. *Mriyu Satakam* (1999): The poet successfully portrayed death here.

9. *Kalosmi* (1999): Here we can experience a different kind of style. This can also be considered as a creative masterpiece.

10. *Sushumya Nimagna Nauka* (1999): A collection of a real craftsman and genius artist.



Receiving Akhil Bharatiya Kalidasa Award from
Ajay Singh, Minister, M.P. Govt

A Select Bibliography

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L a v a r a s a d i g d h a h a
Swapnamayah Parvatah
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(1996), Niskrantah sarve
(1997), Purayatra yatra srotah
(1998), Kaloasmi (1999),
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Susumanyam Nimagna Nauka
(1999), Bhavasthirani
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- Mahakavi Magha (1993, 2006),
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Translated work

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Edited Words

Sanskrita Sahityaman Mahatma Gandhi (1998), Kadambari (2000), Amrusatakam (1996)

Criticism on Sanskrit Sastras

Dharmasastrano Paricayatmaka Itihasa (with Rushiraj jani), Bharatanum Rasasutra arupakana aprakaro Dwani Siddhantaane dwanina prakaro (2006)

Co-Edited books

Kavyaprakasa (1990), Gangalahari (1990), Naisadhiyacaritam (1991), Rgveda Mandal X (1992), Karnabharam (1994), Buddhacaritam (third cento) (1993), Ratnavali (1993), Sundarakanadam (1993), Kathopanisada (1994), Mundakopanisada (1994), Saundarnadam canto 3 and 4 (1994), Sanskrit Sahityano Itihasa (1999), Manusmriti (Adhyaya-6) (1997), Santavilasa ane karunavilasa, Kasambari Sukanasopadesh (2004), Jatakamala (2005,2006), Vaidika Suktamanjusa (2005), Vaidikavanamaya (2008)

Books for Children

Gagaraman Sagara (1999), Puranoni Vartao (1999), Ekata jhindabada (2003), Dakanano Dara (2005)

Chronology

1979 Kaviloka Sisukavya Prize
1980 Virat Jage Varta Paritosika-Second Prize
1997 Kalpavalli Award by Bharatiya Bhasa Parishada, Calcutta For Mrgaya
1997 First Prize for the research paper 'Tantra Sastroman Trikonanun Pratika': in the context of Sakta Tantra by Saurastra Vistara Sanskrit Parisada
1998 RamaKrishna Sanskrit Award by Saraswati Vikasa Canada
1999 Best citizens of India Award
1999 First Prize for research Paper 'Gyatri Mantra Sakta

Drstise' by Ved Vigyna Akademi
Five Awards of Sanskrit Sahitya Akademi Gandhinagar, For Mrgaya, Lavarasadigdha-Swapnamayah Parvatah, Niskrantah Sarve, Bhavasthirani Jananantara-Sauhrani, Nakhacihna
2001 Akhil Bharatiya Kalidasa Award for Niskrantah Sarve
2005 First Prize for the research paper 'Kadividya Srtiprasuta Brahavidya
2006 Central Sahitya Akademi Award For 'Tava Sparse Sparse'