

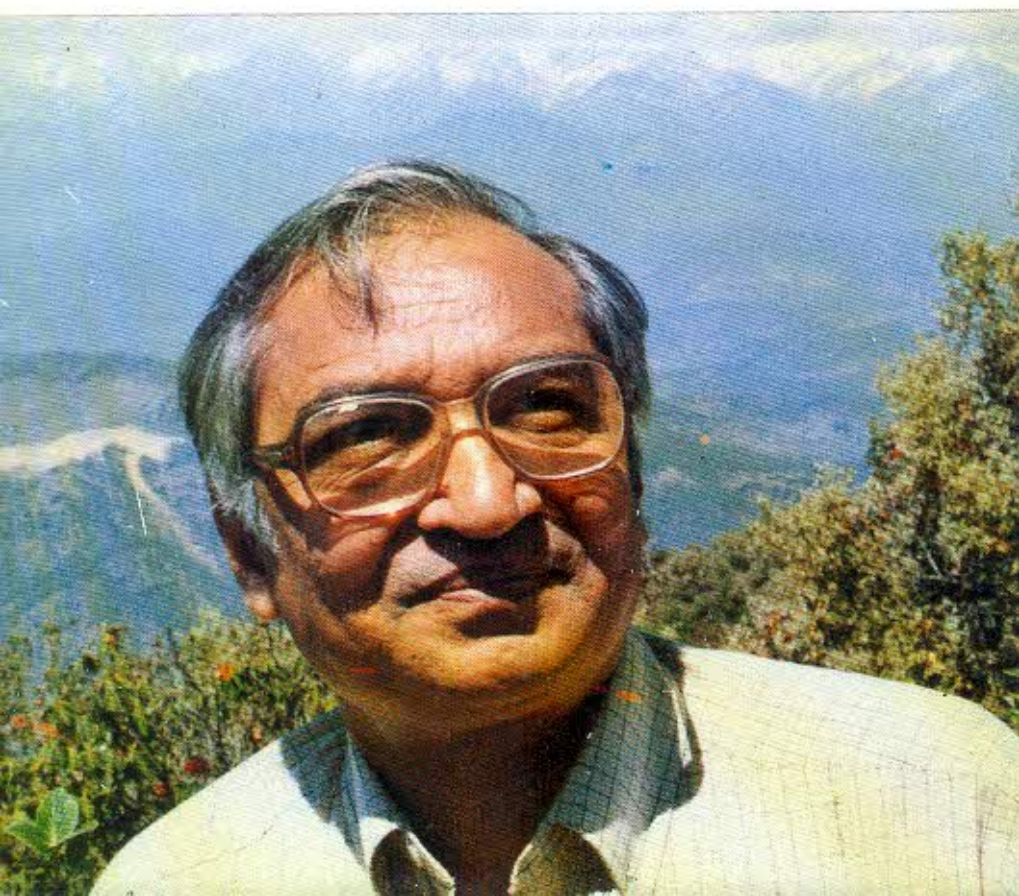
19 September 1989



Sahitya Akademi  
invites you to

meet the author

Harindra Dave



## LET US MEET THE POET & HIS POEM

### I Do Not Know

*I have swallowed my tears  
and I do not know,  
I swam across a desert  
and I do not know.*

*These days,  
In an effort to forget you,  
I have almost forgotten you  
and I do not know.*

*In an attempt  
to save my self respect  
I have just beseeched  
and I do not know*

*In nurturing thorns  
at times  
I have been very near to flowers,  
and I do not know.*

*The atmosphere is charged with  
the silence of friends;  
Have I said something...  
and I do not know.*

(Translated from Gujarati)

Harindra Dave



**I**t so happens that before anybody can take Harindra Dave to the alter for the critical analysis of his creative work, he himself puts his head under the guillotine. But guillotine does not behead him. It brings out the toughness of his fabric which apparently lay concealed behind his sobriety. Harindra does not make tall claims even though he has penned about eleven novels, scribbled half a dozen books of essays and indulged in play-writing, his main-stay is poetry and poetry alone. As poet Sundaram observes "Harindra sits on the same pedestal with Nachiketa or Satyakam Jabal. A few of his poems manifest unapproachable heights."

Harindra Dave has been writing since childhood. His first poem was selected by Umashankar Joshi for publication in 'Sanskriti' and by Vijayrai Vaidya in 'Manasi' when he was in his early teens. Since then he has never looked back. If he has spent last fortyfive years in his encounter with creative writings, he has devoted almost four decades to journalism also.

Most of his novels and essays were written as serials or articles in dailies, weeklies and monthlies. Even his popular novel 'Madhav Kyanya Nathi' which brings out a pattern of a lyrical novel, making a subtle use of myth to present the contemporary ethos, was written that way. "Combining daily journalism and creative writing is tough" he says, "so when there is a compulsion, then only it gets done." His another novel 'Gandhini Kavad' depicts the contemporary situation with marked sarcasm. 'Anagat' is yet an entirely different novel in which slow death and disintegration of a village is effectively communicated through characters, unusual but true to life.

He is a journalist of repute. His voice in the field has been recognised as that of sanity and public decency. His commitment to the profession is total and his fearless forthright and frank attitude is being appreciated not only in Gujarati journalism, but in Indian journalism too.

*With Niranjan Bhagat & Suresh Dalal — 1972*



A liberal journalist, Shri Dave offers no rigid dogmas. His 'Janmabhoomi' and 'Pravasi' are not party papers but their credibility lies in presenting a wide spectrum of views. As Shri Umashankar Joshi remarked: "Shri Dave plays the role of a high priest in a worldly 'Shabda Yajna' that Journalism really is." When such a man writes there is indeed, a perfect blend of sensitivity and sensibility.

As already stated, his main-stay is poetry. His collection of poems 'Hayati' received Sahitya Akademi Award in 1978 for "outstanding contribution for its inimitable personal touch, tenderness of feeling, an encompassing diction and experiments in form and metre".

He is a lyrical genius. He is successful because in mad race of being considered modern, he has not snapped his ties with the tradition. He has his own voice that springs uninterruptedly amidst the din and bustle of the world around. Love and death are two major subjects around which his creativity revolves.

Krishna, a symbol often dealt by him in poems and novels, emerges in a new perspective in his major work 'Krishna Ane Manavsambandho.' His indepth study of Mahabharata, original interpretation blended with his ardent love for the topic make this book both a work of research and creativity.

With poetry as with prose, words sometimes acquire a life and will of their own. Harindra Dave says, "I think words sometimes use me. They are a difficult entity to deal with. Because one is not writing simply to express something, but also to prove something. So I like to go to the root of the word. J. Krishnamurthi once said that so many words have lost their meaning because they have been carelessly used. But for me, to use a word is to know it. And then it is difficult to use it lightly".

*With Umashankar Joshi—1987*



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## A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### POEMS

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- Aasav • Swati Prakashan • 1961 • 108 p. • 17.5 cm.  
Maun • Swati Prakashan • 1966 • 132 p. • 20 cm.  
Arpan • Vora & Co. • 1972 • 127 p. • 10.5 cm.  
Samaya • Vora & Co. • 1972 • 80 p. • 17.5 cm.  
Suryopanishad • Vora & Co. • 1975 • 104 p. • 24 cm.  
Hayati • Chimanlal Literary Trust • 1976 • 148 p. • 21.5 cm.  
Cup of Love (English version of Swaminarayan Saint Poets)  
• Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan • 1981 • 111 p. • 21.5 cm.  
Madhuvan (Edited by Harindra Dave) • Swati Prakashan • 1961 • 263 p.  
• 18.5 cm.  
Kavi Ane Kavita • Gujarat Sahitya Akademi • 1989 • 68 p. • 21.75 cm.
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### LITERARY CRITICISM

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- Kavi Ane Kavita • Somaiya Publications • 1971 • 254 p. • 21 cm.  
Umashankar Joshi • Kumkum Prakashan • 1986 • 117 p. • 21 cm.  
Vivechanni Kshano • SNTD Women's University • 1987 • 255 p.  
• 22 cm.
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### NOVELS

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- Aganpankhi • Vora & Co • 1962 • 236 p. • 18 cm.  
Palana Pratibimb • N M Tripathi • 1966 • 170 p. • 18 cm.  
Anagat • N M Tripathi • 1970 • 256 p. • 18.5 cm.  
Sukh Namno Pradesh • Vora & Co • 1976 • 286 p. • 19 cm.  
Sang Asang • N M Tripathi • 1980 • 291 p. • 18.5 cm.  
Lohina Rang Lal • N M Tripathi • 1981 • 336 p. • 18.5 cm.  
Gandhini Kavad • N M Tripathi • 1984 • 202 p. • 19 cm.  
Mukhvato (Part I and Part II) • N M Tripathi • 1985 • 684 p. • 18.5 cm.  
Vasiyat • N M Tripathi • 1987 • 572 p. • 18.5 cm.  
Nandita • Rannade Prakashan • 1987 • 80 p. • 18 cm.
- 

### PLAYS

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- Yuge Yuge • Vora & Co • 1987 • 72 p. • 21.5 cm.  
Sandhya Kale Prabhat Pheri (Enlarged version of Yuge Yuge)  
• N M Tripathi • 1987 • 96 p. • 18.5 cm.
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### ESSAYS

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- Nirav Samvad • R R Sheth & Co • 1981 • 300 p. • 18.5 cm.  
Veratun Swapna Ghutatun Satya • N M Tripathy • 1986 • 334 p.  
• 18.5 cm.  
Ishwami Aankhnu Aasun • N M Tripathi • 1987 • 304 p. • 18.5 cm.  
Shabda Bhitari Sudhi • Rannade Prakashan • 1987 • 205 p.  
• 18.5 cm.  
Gheena Divano Ujas • N M Tripathi • 1988 • 296 p. • 18.5 cm.  
Shri Aurobindo Jeevan Rekha • Vora & Co. • 1972 • 20 p. • 21 cm.  
Krishna Ane Manavsambandho • N M Tripathi • 1981 • 476 p.  
• 21.5 cm.  
Dharma Sabha • N M Tripathi • 1989 • 201 p. • 18.5 cm.
- 

*Translated from English into Gujarati — three novels, three volumes of shortstories, three collections of poems and a biography.*

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## A CHRONOLOGY

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- 1930 : Birth
- 1946 : First Poem published in 'Manasi' Gujarati literary quarterly
- 1950 : Free lance film journalist in Bombay
- 1951 : Sub-Editor in Janshakti Daily. Passed B.A. with Gujarati and English Literature, Bombay University
- 1961 : 'Aasav' First Poetry collection published. Passed M.A. with Gujarati and English Literature (Bombay University)
- 1962 : Editor 'Samarpan' — Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's cultural fortnightly. First Novel 'Agan Pankhi' published
- 1968 : Editor: U S I S Press Section
- 1973 : Editor 'Janshakti' (Gujarati Daily)
- 1978 : National Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Hayati' (Selected poems)
- 1979 : Editor—Janmabhoomi and Pravasi (Evening and Morning Gujarati Dailies)
- 1980 : Editor-in-Chief—Janmabhoomi and Pravasi
- 1981 : Study Tour of U.K.
- 1982 : 'Ranjeetram Gold Medal' for contribution to Gujarati Literature  
'Aurobindo Medal' for 'Krishna Ane Manavsambandho' (An essay on Mahabharat)
- 1984 : Lecture tour of U.S.A.
- 1987 : Visit to Moscow (USSR)
- 1988 : Visit to Damascus (Syria), Stuttgart, Munich & Bonn (West Germany) United Nations (New York) Budapest, Balaton Fured (Hungary)
- 1989 : Visit to Paris, Moscow and Islamabad

*With Urdu poet & scholar Ali Sardar Jafri—1989*

