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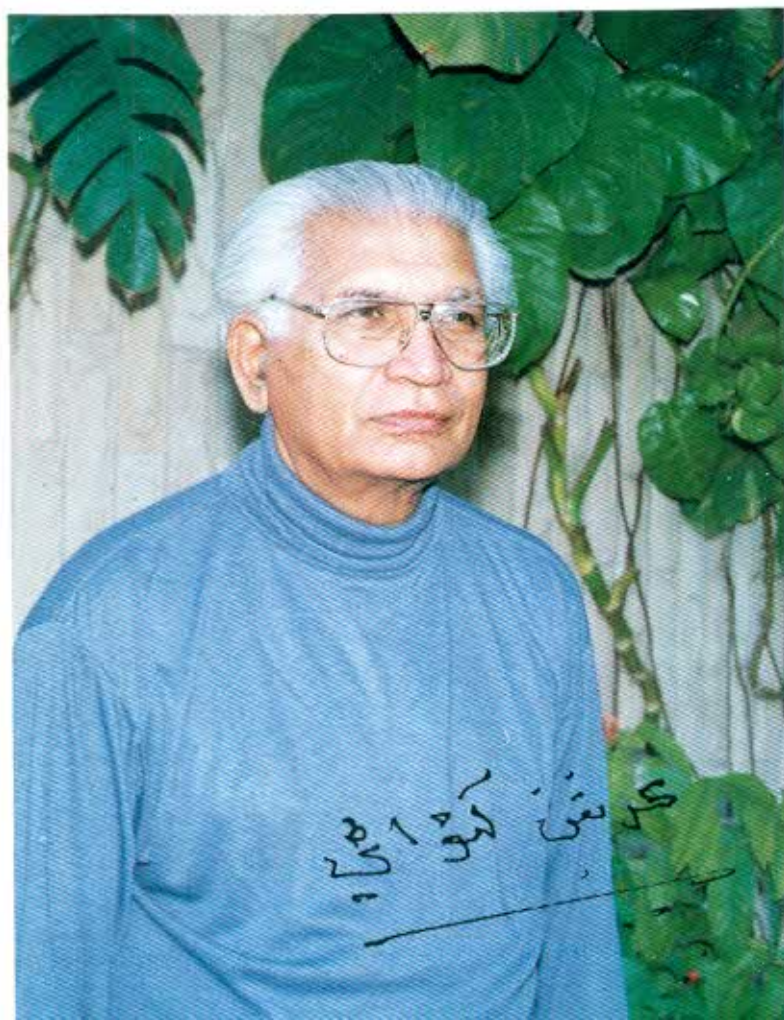


Indian Institute of Sindhology

invite you to

meet the author

Krishin Khatwani





In his study

Krishin Khatwani defies Categorisation or Classification. He is not a writer to be labelled, put a tag on, and kept on a shelf under a given category. Marxist Critics have claimed him as a 'Progressive' writer while some others have branded him as a writer belonging to the 'Romantic' tradition. Evidently, both labels cancel each other; and infact, the vast body of his writings would admit neither of these labels.

True, in his teens he was close to Shri Sobho Gianchandani, the great Marxist thinker of Sind. But then he is also a product of Tagore's Santiniketan. (He is a recipient of Vishwa Bharati Diploma). Inevitably, two parallel influences - of Marxist thought and of Tagorean Neo-classical aesthetics - can be discovered in Krishin's writings. But over the years these original influences have faded and only their faint traces, if any, remain in his writing today. He is a voracious reader as well as prolific writer. And his reading of literature is uni-

versal, catholic, open minded, and intense. With his modern mind-set and sensibilities and tender sensitiveness it would have been a surprise if he had not become himself - Krishin Khatwani.

Born in 1927 in Sind he, at the age of 20, witnessed a holocaust which was nothing less than the death of History. He lost the land of his birth, was uprooted from his soil, cut off from his cultural moorings. It was a void, a nothingness where one did not live, but only just breathed to survive physically, and sank deep into nostalgia, a remembrance of the paradise lost.

Krishin is realistic enough to realise that the nostalgia, the memory of the past, has to come to terms with the present however harsh, cruel and irredeemable. This conflict of the past and the present, this pain of the hopelessness of regaining the lost paradise pervades most of his writings. His short story 'Purana Kitab' (Old Books) depicts the painful transition from the past to the present. His famous novel 'Yad Hik Pyar Ji' (Sahitya Akademi Award 1980) encounters this dilemma, and Krishin with his sensitive handling of 'I' tells us it is not necessary to reject the past as it is not possible to live in it, with it; one must accept the reality of the present.

There is something sad, almost tragic, about Krishin's short stories and novels. The characters portrayed are lonely, with intense feeling of

incompleteness, suffering - representatives of the present times. Krishin explores the complex mysteries of Man-Woman relationship giving us a new insight : that this relationship has to remain ever incomplete, unfulfilled. Whether one agrees with his world-view or not, no one would find him lacking in his artistic and sensitive handling of his subjects for Krishin is essentially, an aesthete.

He is a great lover of painting (he was a student of Painting in Sarnagati School of Arts), of poetry, of music, of nature. No other Sindhi writer has described the beauty of nature more sensitively than Krishin. He has often tried to fuse man with nature. His language is as simple, straight forward and honest as nature. He does not make 'Profound' statements, nor does he intellectualise his subjects. He writes with feeling, with his heart, with sen-



At home

sitivity. This is the essence of his creative art.

Five novels, eight collections of short stories, a collection of Biographical Sketches, a full-length play, a collection of poems, (which are like monologues on loneliness, and existential angst) and a travelogue are indeed a remarkable achievement. But Krishin often laments privately that he achieve nothing. This is the lament of a writer who is still engaged in an unending odyssey to unravel the enigma of existence.



With Sindhi writers at Mohan-Jo-Daro



With wife Sushila, in Canada

A Select Bibliography

Novels

AMAR PYAR

Mumbai : Kahani Publications,
1961

Mumbai : Shobha Publications,
1963

Larkana, Sind, Pakistan : Chund
Publications, 1980

18.5cm. 82p.

MUHINJI MITHDI SIND

Mumbai : Kahani Publications, 1962

Karachi, Pakistan : Sindhica
Akademi, 1991

18.5cm. 237p.

VAIRATH ZINDGIYOON

Mumbai : Priha Phuti Publications,
1978

18.5cm. 130p.

YAD HIKA PYAR JI Mumbai :

Shobha Publications, 1978

Mumbai : Priha Phuti Publications,
1983

Larkana, Sind, Pakistan : Chund
Publications, 1980

18.5cm. 196p.

SAT DIHAN Ulhasnagar : Sindhi

Times Publications, 1985

18.5cm. 116p.

Short Stories Collections

TUTTAI TAROON

Karachi, Sind. : Navajwan Sahitya
Mandal, 1943

VINDRI AIN BIYOON Mumbai :

Naeen Duniya Publications, 1962

18.5cm. 92p.

MITHRI TO NA SUNJATO

Mumbai : Koonj Publications,

1973, 18.5cm. 103p.

PARDESAN Baroda : Sangeeta

Publications, 1980,

18.5cm. 117p.

AKELI Ulhasnagar : Sindhi Times

Publications, 1980

18.5cm. 116p.

JIYAPE JO SADHAN

Ahmedabad : Kavita Sahitya Mala,

1985, 21.5cm. 95p.

BIPAHIRI Ulhasnagar : Sindhi

Times Publications, 1990

21.5cm. 120p.

DHUNDHILA CHEHRA

Ulhasnagar : Sindhi Times

Publications, 1993

21.5cm. 100p.



Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award 1980

Biography

SIYASI MUDABAR

Karachi, Sind : Navajwan Sahitya
Mandal, 1943

Play

AASHIYANO Mumbai : Koonj
Publications, 1976

18.5cm. 111p.

Poetry

HIK DIGHI SAANT Ulhasnagar :
Sindhi Times Publications, 1989

18.5cm. 119p.

Travelogues

MUHINJA MURUARA

Ulhasnagar : Sindhi Times Publica-
tions, 1992

21.5cm. 122p.



*Speaking at International Literary
Conference, Karachi Pakistan*

Books On Krishin Khatwani

KRISHIN KHATWANI

HIK SHAKHAS, HIK FANKAR
Baroda : Sangeeta Publications,
1987, 21.5cm. 226p.

Books Translated Into Other Languages

AMAR PYAR *Hindi*

New Delhi : Bharatiya Jnanpith,
1974

SMRITI EK PREM Ji *Hindi*

First Edition : National Book Trust
India, 1985

3rd Reprint : 1995

*Also translated into Gujrati,
Tamil, Malayalam.*

BIN BULAYA MEHMAN

Hindi Short Stories Collections,
Bikaner : Surjeet Prakashan

SAT DIN, *Hindi*

New Delhi : Samakalin Bharatiya
Sahitya, Sahitya Akademi, 1993

*Also translated into Telugu,
Malayalam*

AASHIYANO,

Many short Stories & poems
translated into *Hindi, English,
Gujrati, Marathi, Kannada,
Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam,
Punjabi.*

A Chronology

- 1927 - Born in Tharushah, a village in central Sind, now in Pakistan.
- 1943 - Published of First Book (Biographical Sketches).
Joined 'Sarnagati School of Art' as part-time student of painting.
- 1944 - Published of second book (Short stories)
Toured Sind in the company of Shri Sobho Gianchandani, a wellknown personality in letters and politics of Sind, still active in Pakistan.
- 1945 - Left for Santiniketan for further studies in Visvabharati University after passing matriculation examination at Karachi.
- 1947 - Last vacation visit to Karachi.
- 1949 - Received Vishwa Bharti Diploma on writing thesis on Soviet Novel.
Mother died.
Married Sushila.
- 1961 - Publication of first novel 'Amar Pyar'.
- 1973 - Best drama award from Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli & Sahit Sabha.
- 1980 - Sahitya Akademi Award on novel 'Yad Hik Pyar Ji'
- 1981 - Swami Award from M.P. Government.
Central Government Ministry of Education Award on short story collection 'Akeli'
- 1985 - Visited England, Canada, U.S.A.
- 1989 - Visited Karachi, Pakistan for an International Literary conference and toured Sind.
- 1991 - Bhartiya Bhasha Parishad, Calcutta, Award for total contribution to Sindhi Literature.
- 1992 - Visited U.S.A. and Canada.
- 1993 - Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, (Continued).