

VOLUME. 2 ISSUE. 5

# RESURGAM

THE STORY IS YOU

MAY 2016

**HAI NA MAA**

Featuring interview  
with Aditya Tiwari

# EDITORIAL



Dear Riser,

I vividly remember the first time I read, 'The Alchemist,' I was hooked by this quote: "Remember that wherever your heart is, there you will find your treasure." Now, unlike Santiago, I am not looking for gold but trying my best to get my work valued as the rarest metal, that shines with subtle radiance.

On this 22nd May, our group Rising Litera completes its first anniversary. It's been quite a journey, from meetups to events, from caffeinated conversations to book launches, from novel exchanges to coming up with Resurgam, we have experimented, learned, faltered, yet grown throughout our journey.

Many a times, our stake holders have asked, "So, why you formed this group" Or "What return you get out of this" Or "How do you get time for such activities and events". And oft-times I'm tongue tied to revert and mostly smile to avert the questions. One cannot explain, I believe, the 'Why's and Why Not's' of every initiative you undertake in life. And those who understand our vision, require no explanations.

I'm grateful to Neha, Kavita & Anand, who took an initiative to start one of it's kind literary group in the city of foodies. Begun with a WatsApp group, today we are more than 300+ members around the world and I believe, there's no looking back.

Theme for the May issue is, "Hai naa Maa". Scroll to read amazing write-ups dedicated to mothers. Also, I am thankful to Mr. Aditya Tiwari for sparing his precious time to share insightful interview for the month.

Wishing you the best, Always.  
Keep Reading, Keep Sharing. Keep Rising.

  
**Irfan Ali Sehorewala**  
**Chief-Editor | Resurgam**

# RESURGAM

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# Hai Na Maa

May 2016

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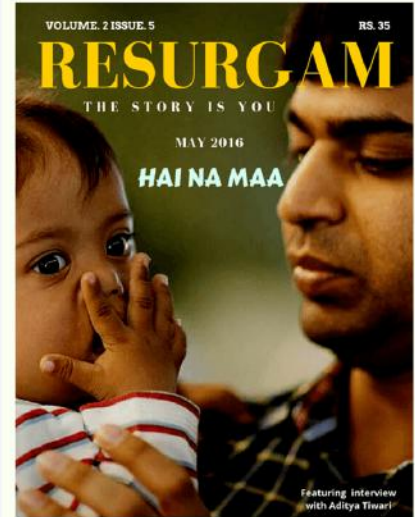
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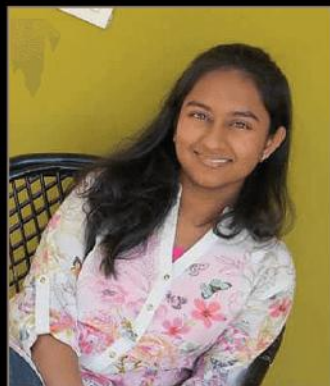
*For the month of May,  
Resurgam features  
interview with Aditya  
Tiwari.*



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# RISERS SPEAKING



It is difficult to find people with same madness as yours. But when you do, it turns out to be a heaven. Rising Litera is one such heaven for me.

**Mana Shah**



Every new idea needs rich soil to grow in. As it draws from the richness of the soil, it grows into a concept, then a program and then a movement. Rising Litera is the idea that found root in the literature rich ethos of Indore. Lovers of art, culture and the written word are the amniotic fluid that nurtured this idea which is rapidly growing into a concept, with its roots reaching out far and wide. I feel proud to be a part of this unique group that ideates and radiates freely, without fear and the head held high: a microcosm of the India that our beloved Tagore visualized. Keep Rising! -

**Jaspreet Taunque, Author of Black Water White Fire**



Once they were talking about art.. That should be different and smart... No ambiguity should be there.. It should vigilise..it should make everyone aware... Then once they got inspired and thought of creating "ART ERA" .. They wanted to mend innovation's mantra... They wanted appreciation's walk through .. Then got created "rising litera"..

**Divya Rajpal**

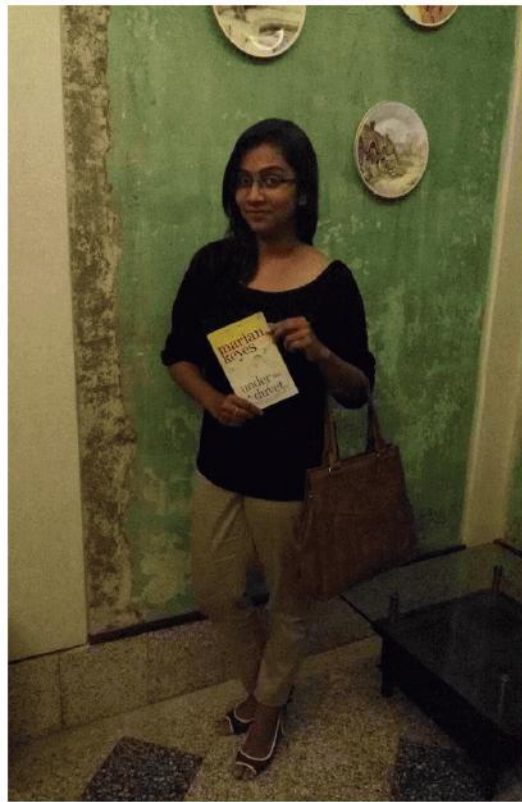


It was about a year ago when I got to know about this wonderful group of people through the newspaper. And, it was a dream come true to be able to interact with book lovers (which is an endangered species). Since then, I have learnt a lot through various workshops organized by the club, and relished in meeting new like-minded people. It gives me immense pleasure to know that we are completing a year of knowledge and literature. I take pride in being a reader, and a part of Rising Litera.

**-Divya Agrawal.**

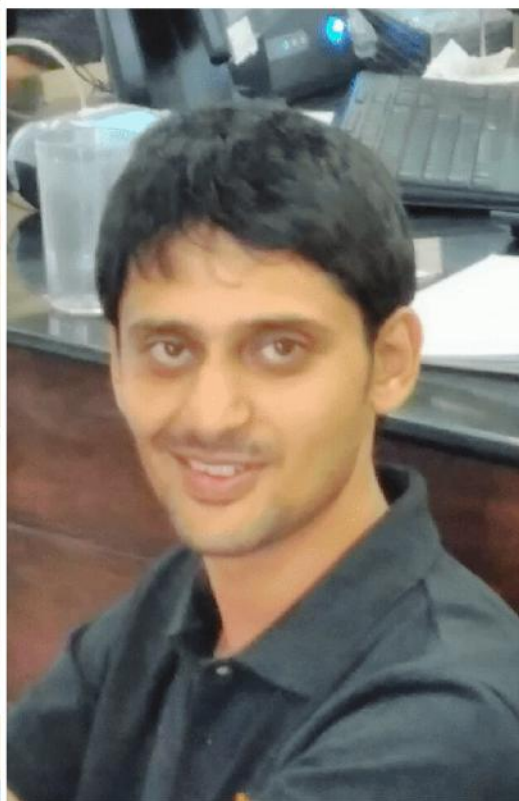
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# Raaga







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# MADRE DIOSA

By Shreya Singh



*The Author is a Software Engineer and a passionate Writer.*

Annoying as always, she asked me to place my sheets in place. Judging by the raise in her voice, I guess this must be

the fifth time! Oops, I figured the familiar insanity for sanitary in me, comes from her!

Moving on the same note, what is it exactly with mothers that they are undeniably and unmistakably constant in their power of driving the children crazy.

I remember from my childhood, I had always loved my aunts (mothers of my friends), presuming they are the sweetest for the way they would always offer me some chips and cola which my mother would never let me buy from the street vendors. She had beaten me red for stealing a toy from the shop which was later bought by my father, so I didn't see the point. She would haul me out of my bed early in the morning to catch my school bus. She would force milk down my gut. She would spank me for scoring zero in Maths... and there is lot more. Well, it is her fault that she was worried about my teeth and stomach or see to it that I am installed with good morality or that I am punctual for my own good or how I carry myself or how I handle adulthood. Entirely her fault isn't it!

Later when I grew some brain, and thereby reasoning, I came to the terms that my mother indeed is the best that I can ever have. Its only time when all the ladies turn into a mother and figure out what it is like to raise another lady or a man. For now, all I can really hope is that one day when my child is all matured and when it would think about me, it will be proud and all boastful like I am right here and right now for my mumma! Often, I am mesmerized by the beauty of my mum's smile and laughter.

It is actually amazing how we keep finding faith and God everywhere when we are all already gifted with one: the one who bore unbearable pain just to end up bringing out shitheads like us!

**P.S. - Oh! And for those who are still wondering, madre and diosa are Spanish words meaning mother and Goddess respectively.**



# MERI MAA



Who has bought us in this world?  
 Who cares for us the most?  
 Who fulfills all our needs and wants?  
 Who loves us the most?  
 Who works so hard for us?  
 Who makes food for us?  
 Who is always with us and who always helps us in tough matters?

While the answer of all these questions is only one.....

Meri maa.

Our maa is the person who helps us, is with us, fulfills our needs, cares for us and does many more things for us.

Everyone loves their mother, and every mother loves her child.

Many children do not spend time with their mother but spend their time with their friends. They also spend time on playing computer and mobile games. They don't understand that they should spend time with their mother in place of doing all these things. Besides that, after some years they will be in higher classes and would not be able to spend time with their mothers they would be engaged in their studies. After that they will come in collage where they would be so busy within themselves and their studies that they will not be able to spend a few days with their mothers. Then, the next stage will be job where everyone knows that it is very difficult to spend time with their families and then the life goes on like this only.

So through this essay, I want to convey this message to you that:

Whatever happens never trouble your mother and never think that she does not care for us, because she is our MAA.

- Archit Khadelwal

*Author is a Class 6th student from Shishukunj International School, Indore. His interests include Story writing, Dramatics and Cricket.*



# A Mother's Day Gift Through Pages of My Diary!

By ALEFIYA SAIFEE

“Mother’s Day – so what you girls would do for me, fancy out a cake or a card or something, hmm?” my mother used to ask us each year on Mother’s Day when I and my sister were young 8-9 years old girls. I remember how I made the worst desserts ever with dry fruits & chocolates floating in raw milk or with jam over bread decorated with gems chocolate. Though mum literally found it hard to eat and used to get angry at us over wasting food items, she used to be the one who ate it all!

Now we are grown-ups and Mother’s Day has become all the more ‘fancy’ for us, to specify in my mother’s words only, with elaborate gifts & customized cards & cakes and furthermore by whatsapp status & profile pictures & FB status updates – all of which my mother has never liked much. She always laughs and asks us to be more realistic. So forth, as I am writing for my mum so this article won’t at all have any of those mother-child ‘fancy’ portrayals.

Just a pretty small attempt, for her with these few excerpts from my personal diary:-

**18 th June, 2003**

We are shifted Indore. I will go to big school here. My teacher says I need to work on my English. Mummy is worried. She brought me cursive writing books and teaches me English daily. I am scared how will I study here now?

**4 th November 2004**

I have just recovered from jaundice (I had jaundice due to pani puri I ate from nearby thela without telling my mummy) and all my projects at school are left. Now my mum is making them all for me and she brought me my friend’s notes as well. I hope all goes well. Love you mum.

**17 th September 2006**

Today our exam results were announced and I stood 3rd in my class. My name was put up on notice board and my mum was so happy upon seeing it. I even saw a tear rolling down her cheeks. I am so happy today seeing her happy because of me. It is best day of my life.

**12 th February 2008**

My mum has decided to go for doing B.Ed and become a teacher. I watch her preparing for her entrances with all house chores done side by side. I ask her to let me help as well but she refuses & asks me to focus on my studies. My mum is really my inspiration.

**30 th April 2009**

Mummy stood first in her college in B.Ed. course and was awarded gold medal. She had her convocation ceremony today and is also covered in a few newspapers with her photo. I am so proud of you mummy. Hope to be like you someday!

**19 th December 2010**

Today was my first recital performance at my school annual fest. I was so nervous and about to almost cry. To my surprise my mum arrived in first row in audience minutes before my performance despite of her busy teaching schedules at her school. I was so happy and performed so well by reciting my poem looking at her enthusiastic face. Thank you mum!



**1st June 2011**

I am so scared of counseling session tomorrow regarding my subject selection in class 11th . Mum just came to my room and reconciled me saying that it must be completely my own decision. She promised to support me in all my endeavors.

**12th May 2013**

Our 12th board results were out today morning and mum-dad just returned from a family function. I was so excited to tell them my 93% score. Mummy was so happy and both of us cried out of contentment.

**16th July 2013**

I finally chose IET DAVV Elec. & Telecom branch for my graduation in Engineering. Mum is equally happy and anxious. Though I am little upset for not being able to make up to any top colleges, mum motivated me to proceed ahead with all I have. Hoping for the best to happen!

**1 st October 2014**

I got an internship at a great startup in Indore 'Vatsana Technologies' as Creative Content Writer. Mum is apprehensive of this out-of- my-field thing to hamper my studies. She places a lot of hopes for my future. But for me, this internship is a way to make my mum contented & make her realize that she does not need to worry much about me. I can handle things well professionally too.

**22 nd August 2015**

Today I received my first stipend through my internship as Research Writing Freelancer at NISCO, New Delhi. Just said this to my mum who was so delighted and we all planned an ice-cream treat from my favorite outlet from my own earned money. This day couldn't have been any much better!

And many such entries as I turn over pages of my diary, with my mother being my silent guide & friend in different ways & means. There has never been nor will ever be any moment of my life I can think living without her. Though how loud I shout the quotes of being independent and a 21 year old adult- I find myself rushing for her help over every single thing. Be it a dress to wear at a party or my dilemmas over my future.

This Mother's Day, a thank you is all I have to say to her for years now and for the years ahead. She not just owes me my life but even the tiniest happiness I achieve out of living all these small moments that make up my life is her gift.

**Happy Mother's Day, Mummy!**

**- From the stupidest daughter to the best mother ever!**

*Author is pursuing Engineering from Indore. She is assistant Editor at Resurgam, and a passionate writer who also works as a mentor at 'Rang De Zindagi'.*





## कचरे की बाल्टी

माँ, माता, मोम, मम्मी या अम्मा चाहे किसी भी नाम से पुकारा जाए, उसमें छुपा प्रेम, स्नेह और ममत्व हर एहसास से परे होगा। ऐसा कोई रिश्ता या शब्द नहीं हो सकता जो प्यार को और शुद्धता से बयां कर पाए। पर विडम्बना कह लीजिये, भौतिकता के मोह में हर एहसास की तरह ये भी कहीं मौन रूप से सिकुड़ने लगा है। क्षणिक खुशियों में उलझे हम शायद माँ की सार्थकता को न चाहते हुए भी अनदेखा कर रहे हैं। सच कहे तो शायद हम भी अभी इस बात से अनजान हैं।

पर क्या सच में हम उस स्नेह से दूरी बनाने लगे हैं? हमने 'मदर डे' पर फेसबुक पर अपना प्रदर्शनी चित्र भी बदला, ना जाने कितनी कविताये दोस्तों को भेजी होगी, स्टेटस अपलोड करे होंगे, व्हाट्सएप्प पर माँ की महिमा का बखान भी कर दिया, रात को ठीक 12 बजे माँ को उठाकर ये एहसास भी दिला चुके कि हम उनसे प्यार करते हैं। फिर क्यों इन सबके बावजूद ये माना जाए कि हम अब भी कहीं चूक गए हैं। सारी जिम्मेदारी निभा ली इस दिन फिर क्यों ये माने की अब भी कहीं कुछ कमी है।

शायद जवाब को स्वीकार कर लेना मुश्किल है, समझना मुश्किल है पर देखकर अनदेखा कर देना उतना मुश्किल भी नहीं। जरा सोचकर देखिये क्या सिर्फ मदर डे पर भावनाओं के सागर को औरो के सामने खाली कर देने से हमने एक और जिम्मेदारी से पीछा छुड़ाया है। क्या हम भी अपनी भावनायें इसलिए व्यक्त करने को मजबूर थे क्योंकि बाकी लोगों ने भी ऐसा किया? सुबह फेसबुक पर माँ के प्रति अपार प्रेम दर्शाने वाली संतान कैसे अगले ही पल किसी अणु सामान छोटी बात पर माँ पर क्रोधित हो जाती है। हमारे प्रेम की गहराई क्या प्रदर्शनी चित्र बदलने तक सीमित हो गई है? दिखावे की होड़ में क्या हम असलियत को किसी तहखाने में ताला लगाकर पीछे छोड़ चुके हैं? क्यों हम ये सवाल नहीं पूछते खुदसे की हमने मदर डे की मूल भावना का सम्मान करा या नहीं?

काम में व्यस्त माँ जब कचरे की बाल्टी बाहर खाली कर आने को कहती है तो हम आदत से मजबूर बहाने थोपने लगते हैं। न्यूटन ने कहा था कि हर चीज़ बदलाव का विरोध करती है। न्यूटन के सिद्धांत को आदतन सम्मान देते देते हम मदर डे के मूल भाव से दूर हो चले हैं। अनजाने में ही सही पर हर छोटी-मोटी बात में हम माँ पर झल्ला उठते हैं। साल में एक दिन ही-हल्लड़ करके शायद हम प्रेम का दिखावा करने में जरूर कामयाब हुए हैं पर शायद प्रैक्टिकल एगजाम में हम कहीं फ़ैल हुए हैं। माँ की चाहत वो फेसबुक पर व्यक्त बातें नहीं थी, ना ही वो कविताये थी। बिन कहे शायद वो तुम्हारे वक्त की चाहत रखती होगी। पर क्या गर्दन झुकाए पोस्ट करते समय हम इस ख्वाइश को नजरअंदाज कर गए? अगर हाँ, तो शायद हम रिश्तों की दाल में प्यार का तड़का लगाना भूल गए हैं।

जैसे कचरे की बाल्टी में भिन्न भिन्न कचरा होता है शायद हमारी इस अनजाने में बदलती मानसिकता की बाल्टी भी दिखावे, तकलीफ, प्रेम, ईर्ष्या, स्वयं को बेहतर साबित करने की होड़, भौतिकता के कचरे से भरी है। आवश्यकता है इसे जल्दी से जल्दी खली कर देने की, नहीं तो ये कचरा कब बाल्टी से निकलकर हर तरफ फैल जाएगा अनुमान लगाना मुश्किल नहीं है। जब हम ऐसा करने में कामयाब हो जाएंगे तो शायद न्यूटन के सिद्धांत को अपवाद मिल जाएगा।

हर परिवार में ऐसे माहौल की उम्मीद करना जहाँ हम अपने प्रेम को शाब्दिक रूप से व्यक्त कर पाए बेईमानी होगी। पर क्या छोटी छोटी किन्तु अस्पष्ट संकेतों में अपने एहसास को व्यक्त करना इतना मुश्किल है? बिना किसी लालच के अपनों की खुशियों में डूबी माँ को क्या मुस्कान और जिम्मेदारी का तोहफा देना इतना महंगा है? क्या हम अपने अहं और झल्लाहट को एक तमाचा जड़कर उसकी जगह मुस्कान और समझ का परिचय नहीं दे सकते?

कब होगा ऐसा ये कहना मुश्किल है और ना ही सटीकता से ये कहा जा सकता है कि कब वो झुकी हुई गर्दन फिर उठकर इस अनमोल रिश्ते के अर्थ को वास्तविक रूप से कृतज्ञता का एहसास करवा पाएगी। सवाल कठोर है पर स्पष्ट है। बदलते वक्त में प्रेम पर भ्रम और तकनीक का ये मेल किसी न किसी ओट में छुपकर व्यंग करता ही रहेगा। जब अच्छे दिन आएंगे तब आएंगे खैर तब तक वो कचरे की बाल्टी इसी इंतज़ार में होगी की कोई उसे खुशी से उठाकर वहाँ छोड़ आए जहाँ उसे फेंका जाना उसकी नियति में था। जब उस कचरे की बाल्टी को उठाने को हमारे हाथ स्वतः आगे बढ़ने लगे, तो समझ लीजियेगा की मदर डे के मूल भाव को हम जीवंत कर पाए हैं।

## -Vishal Verma

Author is a Company  
Secretary. He loves writing  
Poems and Stories





# "Mothers"

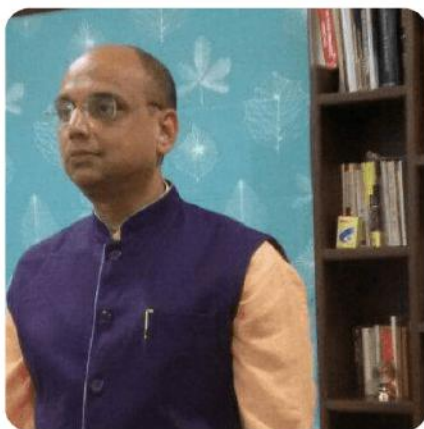
Respect and Realistic Approach.

By Shabbir Rangwala

(Disclaimer:- I have highest regards towards the elders of the society. The views expressed here by no means undermine respect for them.)

A kid is always taught since childhood that mom (father, elders and teachers too) are never wrong. Words said by them are supreme - they are sanctum sanctorum..... this is not hundred percent true. Any individual has its own way of thinking - own biases - own prejudices. Moms like any other mortal are subject to bonafide mistakes. It is not essential that whatever she says is all correct...or in right perception. Their way of thinking can differ from their kids.

The Holier than thou maxim towards mom creates confusions in kid's mind. If a kid is questioning them he/she will be regarded as misbehaved child. And if he/she follows blindly, for the entire life he/she will curse himself for doing things against his/her own wish.



*The Author is a businessman, an ardent reader who loves to write occasionally.*

This is continuing since generations. Mom can do no wrong syndrome kills art of reasoning. Instead of leaders it tends to manufacture followers. And so, now forth time has come to say - "HEY JUNIORS", always respect and listen to your elders and if you have some different approach just sit out and discuss.

No issues at all, simple.

Moms can be wrong, can have bizarre stand which may not be acceptable to kids. Weigh all the pros and cons than decide. The first lesson of Democracy should begin at home, and it is duty to disobey when it is sin to obey.

In nut shell always respect your mom (and elders) but never follow them blindly.



# माँ तेरी याद आती है

- PRADUMN CHOUREY

माँ, एक छोटा सा शब्द मगर विशाल और गहन चरित्र से परिपूर्ण। इस विषय पर, इस एक शब्द पर आज तक ना जाने कितने लेख, अनगिनत कविताएं कई सारे विचार आदि नाना प्रकार की साहित्यिक कृतियाँ प्रस्तुत की जा चुकी हैं। उनके सामने मेरी व्याख्या तो मामूली ही साबित होगी मगर फिर भी इस अद्भुत विषय पर अपने विचार व्यक्त करना अपने आप में गौरवांवित्र कर देने वाला है।

माँ और उसकी संतान का सम्बन्ध मात्र रक्त का नहीं होता वह सम्बन्ध होता है भावनाओं का। रक्त सम्बन्ध टूट सकते हैं मगर जो लोग भावों के माध्यम से एक दुसरे से जुड़ जाते हैं उन्हें विलग कर पाना नामुमकिन ही सिद्ध होता है। जिस प्रकार अग्नि से उसकी ऊष्मा को विलग नहीं किया जा सकता, समंदर से उसकी लहरों को विलग नहीं किया जा सकता, पुष्प से उसकी महक अलग नहीं की जा सकती ठीक उसी प्रकार माँ को अपनी संतान से कभी विलग नहीं किया जा सकता।

संतान कहीं भी हो कितनी भी दूर हो माँ उसके भावों को भांप ही लेती है और यह शक्ति उसे ईश्वर से ही प्राप्त हुई है। मेरी माँ और मेरे बीच भी एक अनोखा सम्बन्ध है जो शब्दों से ज़्यादा भावों को समझता है इस बात का एक जीता जागता उदाहरण आपके साथ साझा करना चाहूँगा-

कॉलेज की पढ़ाई के लिए मैं इंदौर आ चुका था। पढ़ाई और बाकी कामों की भागदौड़ के बीच में पिछले 3-4 महीनों से घर नहीं गया था। माँ का अक्सर फ़ोन आया करता था उनके अनेक सवालों में एक सवाल हमेशा मौजूद रहता था के- "तू तो हमे फ़ोन ही नहीं लगाता मेरी याद नहीं आती क्या?" बार-बार, हर बार यह सवाल सुन सुन के मैं परेशान हो चुका था और शायद इसी के कारण एक दिन क्रोधित होकर मेने कह दिया "हाँ नहीं आती याद" मेरा यह उत्तर सुनकर फ़ोन कट गया उसके बाद अगले 3-4 दिन तक घर से कोई फोन नहीं आया।

एक दिन अचानक मेरी तबियत बिगड़ गई बुखार सर पर चढ़ गया, गला बैठ गया, मन बेचैनी से भर गया दवाई लेकर मैं जैसे-तैसे अपने पलंग पर जाकर लेट गया और आँखें बंद कर ली, आँखों के बंद होते ही माँ का चेहरा मेरे सामने आ गया और बंद आँखों से आंसुओं की एक धार निकलने लगी।

दुखी और हताश मन से माँ की याद में कुछ पंक्तियाँ निकल आई-

"दिन में छाया अधियारों में  
दुखी दिल के तारों में।  
छल-कपट की दुनिया में  
जब खुली आँखें भी धोखा खाती हैं।  
मन में छुपी कोई बेचेनी  
जब रुक रुक कर तड़पाती है।  
कोयल की वाणी भी जब  
कानों को चुभती जाती है।  
नाम आते ही घर का  
ये आँखें कुछ दिखलाती हैं।  
और वो दृश्य देखकर ये नन्ही आँखें अशकों से भर जाती हैं  
वो अशक भरी आँखें बस एक बात दोहराती हैं के माँ, तेरी बहुत याद आती है  
तेरी बहुत याद आती है।।



ठीक एक हफ्ते बाद जब माँ का फ़ोन आया तो मेने फ़ोन उठाते ही कहा के- "माँ तेरी बहुत याद आती है" | मेरी कमज़ोर आवाज़ सुनकर माँ की आँखें भी भर आई होंगी और कुछ देर की खामोशी के बाद उन्होंने सवाल करना शुरू किया और मैं सहजता से जवाब देता रहा।

उस दिन मेने माँ से लगभग आधे घंटे बात की।

यह सत्य है के बचपन से ही मैं अपने पिता से अधिक प्रभावित रहा मगर आज भी जब मैं उस किस्से को याद करता हूँ तो इन आँखों में आंसुओं का सैलाब आ जाता है। वास्तव में माँ से बढ़कर इस दुनिया में कोई नहीं और जिस घर में माँ नहीं होती उस घर में अन्धकार के सिवा और कुछ नहीं रहता। सत्य ही कहते हैं मुनब्बर राणा साहब के -

"देख ले ऐ अँधेरे तेरा मुँह काला हो गया माँ ने आँखें खोल दी घर में उजाला हो गया"

अंत में आपको एक विचार के साथ छोड़ जाता हूँ-

"बारिश निराशा की इस जग में  
कहाँ नहीं होती।  
दुःख का बादल तो उनपर फटता है  
जिनकी माँ नहीं होती।।"

विचार अवश्य कीजियेगा।

*The author is pursuing  
graduation in mass  
communication. He is  
also a passionate poet.*







## FOUR THINGS ALL FICTION AUTHORS MUST DO TO IMPROVE THEIR STORIES



### NEIL D'SILVA

Neil D'Silva is an identifiable name in the world of Indian Literature. The Best-Selling Author has 3 published books to his credit.



#### **Be a Skilled Observer**

A good writer must be a great observer. Your stories come from there—from what you observe. Observe everything—people, trees, birds, buildings, even the stones on the street. Listen to what they say. Look at what the birds do in the trees. Look at what the cobbler does when he is not mending shoes. Look at what the people tell the traffic policeman when he catches them for riding bikes without helmets. Why, even if you are in a hospital, observe the various goings-on. You do not know what might give you grist for your next story. Not just grist, an observation can spark off a whole new novel itself.

It has happened with me. My debut book was born out of one such observation. I'd really say—an author must never shut their eyes or ears except when they are sleeping.



#### **Be Inquisitive**

Always ask questions about things you do not know. It could be a new experience, or a new device. Anything. If you do not understand something about it, find out. Find out the reasons, causes, and effects of things. If there's a new business, find out more about it. You could manifest your inquisitiveness by either asking direct questions or by finding out more information on the Internet or in the libraries or whatever. Trust me—if you are looking for something unique to write, blending observation with inquisitiveness will never let you down.

I am actually pestering a lot of people with my questions for something that I am working on. I need to do a lot of research and only the information in books cannot help me. I have to ask people. That's the only way it works.

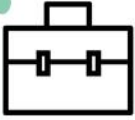
In my experience, authors constantly look out for ways to improve their craft. They enthusiastically read books to improve the craft of writing, they participate in Facebook groups and discussions, they visit workshops and events where they can learn more about enhancing their style and so on. However, fiction writing has existed even before there was Facebook, or before there were workshops on writing, or even before books about writing were written. So how did the people do it? How did the Renaissance writers churn out such memorable stuff that we quote so often even today?

The big secret is—enhancing your fiction writing does not have much to do with the writing craft. There are no rules in fiction writing. Chuck all that talk that every story must have three acts, or that there should be a single point of view, or that one should not use adverbs, or even that there must be show and not tell. Enough of that claptrap! I can cite dozens of classics, popular in their time, where such rules were not heeded to.

All that a fiction writer needs to do well is to tell a good story. That's all it takes. And, if you are trying to improve yourself as a fiction writer, improve your story-telling.

And, again a big secret. Improving your story-telling has nothing to do with the actual writing craft. Instead, the following are the things that might actually help you.

**Observe!**



## ***Travel a Lot***

I have always noticed that avid travelers are great authors. They have such a wealth of experiences in their mind that they have to just rummage through the recesses of their mind and something pops out. When you travel, your mind opens up and you see that people live, eat, dress, and dance differently. It does something to you. It adds more dimensions to your outlook, and all this shows itself in your stories.

It also helps you with the locales. You can set scenes in those places you have visited. Oh, just go out and travel whenever you can! If you are an author, you just cannot avoid that.



## ***Watch a Lot of Movies***

A lot of people will tell you to read books to become a better writer. I stand by that too, but I'd add to that by saying that you need to watch a lot of movies too. After all, fiction writing is an art that needs to create a visual in the readers' minds. Your words have to paint a picture. What better and quicker way to assimilate that craft within yourself other than watching movies?

I watch a movie a day, sometimes more. I watch a lot of TV shows too. And I do not restrict myself to language or genre. I watch them all. This kind of exposure has helped me immensely in becoming a better writer.

Do this, and more. You might just unearth an idea through your observation somewhere and be able to set it in a new location and make it terrifically visual. Just give it a chance, and all the best!

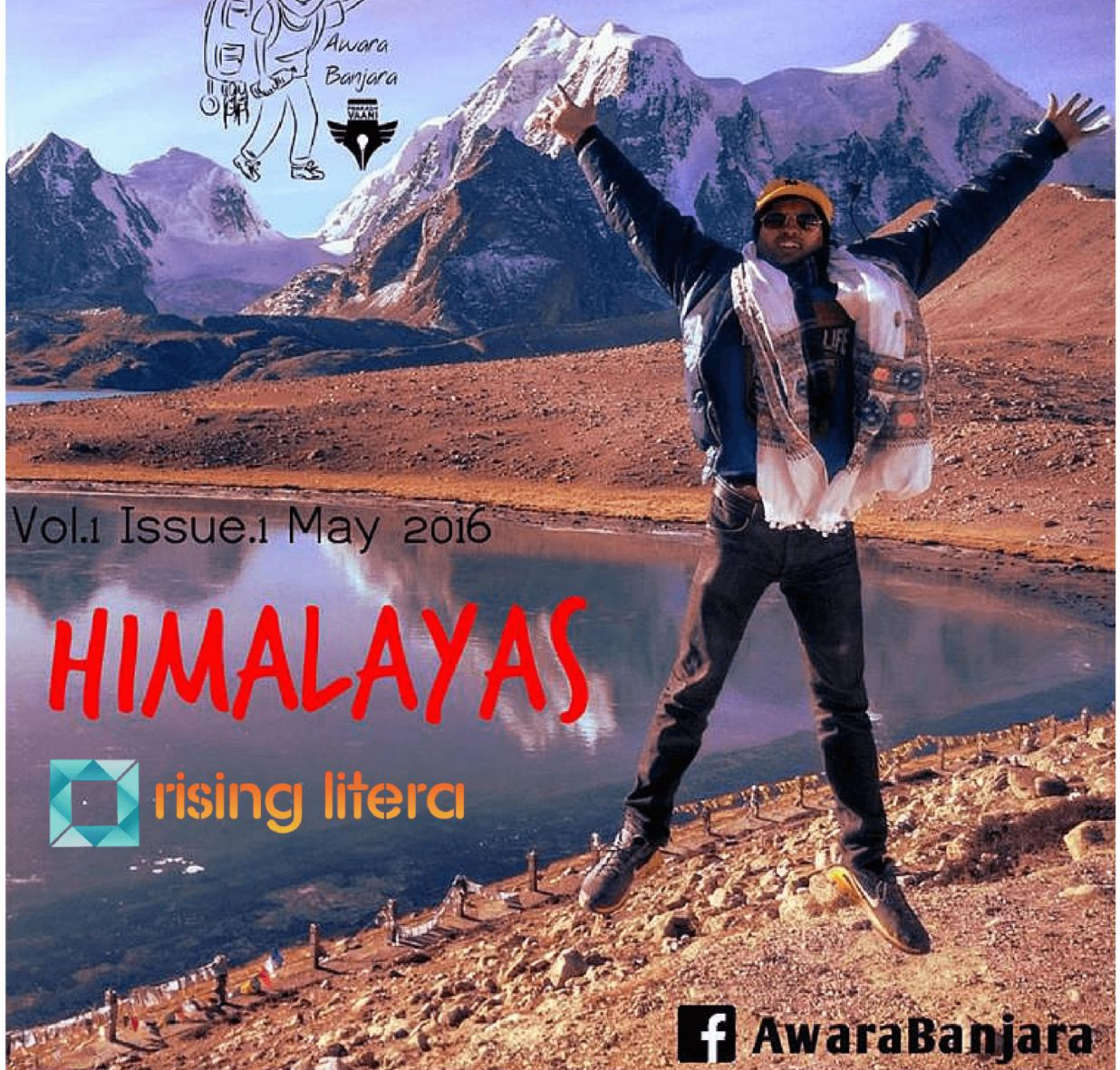


## NEIL D'SILVA



# AWARA BANJARA

INDIC TRAVEL SECRETS



Vol.1 Issue.1 May 2016

## HIMALAYAS



rising litera

 **AwaraBanjara**



# माँ



## Rafika Rangwala

Author is M.A in English literature. She is fond of writing and through her pen she desires to curb social evils from the society.

मुख से निकला हुआ पहला शब्द माँ  
पहला प्यार माँ  
हमारी खुशियों में प्रसन्न होने वाली माँ  
उत्साह में उत्साहित होने वाली माँ  
परेशानियों में संबल देने वाली माँ  
हमारे दुःख से दुखी होने वाली माँ  
कठिनाइयों और बीमारी में सहारा देने वाली माँ  
समस्त इच्छाओं को पूरी करने की टोह में लगी रहने वाली माँ  
इसलिए माँ के पैरों में जन्नत की मान्यता है |  
परन्तु ये माँ जब उम्र के अंतिम पड़ाव में निर्बल शरीर और  
मानसिक रूप से हो जाती है तो हमसे कितनी के लिए इतनी ही प्रिय रहेगी? -- माँ



# MY ANGEL

As I opened my eyes for the first time,  
A beautiful angel smiled at me,  
And held my hand as the clock struck nine,  
She said, "I'll always be there, we're meant to be".

I kept weeping, she kept caressing,  
I gave her thousands of sleepless nights,  
Having her around was such a blessing,  
I alone was always in her limelight.

My angel, my mother, a doctor by profession,  
Left her to spend every moment with me,  
Leaving practice me alone was never a question,  
Her sacrifices are treasured and will always be.

It was time for school, she opined,  
The first steps outside taken by my l'il feet,  
Frightened, I stopped, turned around to find  
her smiling, motivating me in the scorching heat.

And then she became my teacher,  
Taught me all the scientific notions,  
And then she became my preacher,  
Gave me values, morals and worthy emotions.

As I grew up, I found in her a best friend,  
Kept talking, sharing stuff with no end,  
My advisor to dress well, my make-up artist so witty,  
Be it any occasion, she made sure I look pretty.

I look at her magical eyes, her kohl,  
And wonder hoe does she play each and every role,  
"Is she a superwoman?", I ask myself daily,  
She's truly my life, my angel, my fairy!

(Thank you mom for all the amazing things you've done for me. I love you!)



## HEENA RAJPAL

*Author is pursuing  
Engineering from Indore. She  
loves reading novels and  
writing poetry.*



माँ  
तुम क्या हो? - वर्णन मुश्किल  
माँ  
तुम कितना कुछ - समेटना मुश्किल  
माँ  
तुम साहस - जब मैं टूटी  
माँ  
तुम डोर - जब मैं छूटी  
माँ  
तुम संबल - हर ठोकर पर  
माँ  
तुम धीरज - हर आँधी में  
माँ  
तुम पहेली - हर कुछ दिन में  
माँ  
तुम सहेली - हर एक पल में  
माँ  
तुम मासूम - जैसे कोपल  
माँ  
तुम सुद्रढ़ - जैसे भूधर

माँ  
तुम छाया - तेज तपन में  
माँ  
तुम नीर - प्यासे दामन में  
माँ  
तुम सुगंध - जीवन पुष्प की  
माँ  
तुम प्रतिमूर्ति - इश्वर की  
माँ तुम इतना कुछ कैसे हो?  
श्यामल संसार में श्वेत कैसे हो?

कहा से लाती हो इतना साहस  
कहा से आती है तुममे इतनी उर्जा  
सारी नासमझी को मेरी  
समझने की ताकत इतनी उमदा

कितना नमन करूँ मैं तुमको  
वर्णन कभी न कर पाऊँगी  
यह चाह पूरी तब होगी  
जब तुझ जैसी बन जाऊँगी



Avisha Awasthi Shah

Author is an Interior  
Designer.



# माँ

ये सफ़ेद कागज़, नीली कलम और तन्हाई  
 सोच रहा हूँ तुझको और ये आँखे हैं भर आई  
 तेरी यादें अब मुझको रोज़ आकर घेरती हैं  
 खुशियाँ जैसे अब मुझसे अपना मुहँ फेरती हैं  
 तू वहाँ मैं यहाँ क्यूँ हूँ रोज़ खुद से पूछता हूँ  
 मालुम है तू साथ नहीं फिर भी तुझको ढूँढता हूँ  
 दोहराता हूँ वो किस्से, जो तू रातों को सुनाती थी  
 सिर पर मेरे थाप ठोककर लोरी गाके सुलाती थी  
 मेरी पसंद का पकाती खाना, अपने हाथों से खिलाती थी  
 खुद ही रोती थी कभी जो मुझ पे गर चिल्लाती थी  
 हँसते गाते गुनगुनाते मेले जाया करते थे  
 मटके वाली कुल्फी और मिठाई खाया करते थे  
 मेले के वो सारे झूले जो तू मुझे झुलाती थी  
 थक जाता जो कभी तो गोद में उठाती थी  
 कितनी ही हैं यादें उनकी, जो पल, हमने साथ बिताये हैं  
 उन पलों की खुशबू ही, अब तक, मुझको गले लगाये है  
 ममता के उस आँचल में, फिर, छिप जाने को जी करता है  
 साथ हँसने गाने को, संग खाने को जी करता है  
 चेहरे पर हंसी है दिखती, पर मन उदास है  
 चारों ओर है फैला, बस तेरा अहसास है  
 सबकुछ है फिर भी यहाँ, अकेला सा लगता है  
 "माँ" तू जल्दी आजा के, घर अधुरा सा लगता है



ANKIT SURESH SHUKLA

**Author is an entrepreneur,  
 writer and a travel enthusiast.  
 He loves meeting people and  
 getting acquainted with different  
 cultures.**



माँ...  
कैसी है माँ?  
जिसने नौ महीने अपनी कोक में रखकर,  
हमें जन्म दिया,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
सीने पर काला टीका लगाकर,  
हमें संसार की बुरी नज़र से बचाया,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
पैरों में छाले थे उसके फिर भी,  
हमें अपनी गोद में उठाया,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
खुद अपना पेट काटकर,  
हमें भरपूर खिलाया,  
ऐसी है माँ।

कैसी है माँ?  
सर पर उसके ईटों का तसला था,  
मज़दूरी में भी अपनी संतान को गले से लगाया,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
खुद अनपढ़ थी,  
पर अपने बच्चों को पढ़ाया-लिखाया,  
अपने तजुबों से समझाया,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
दफ़्तर से थकी-हारी लौटकर,  
सारा घर संभाल लेती है,  
ऐसी भी है माँ।  
कैसी है माँ?  
आखरी दम तक संघर्ष करती रही वह,  
ले अपने बेटे को छाती से चिपकाए,  
वीरगति को प्राप्त हुयी, रानी लक्ष्मीबाई,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
यूँ तो निः संतान थी वह,  
पूरी दुनियाँ को शांति का पाठ पढ़ाया,  
'मदर टेरेसा' जैसी,  
ऐसी है माँ।



कैसी है माँ?  
जग की कुरीतियों से कुचलकल,  
दोबारा उठ-खड़ी हुयी,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
उसकी ज़िंदगी में कितने भी दुःख हो,  
साथ हँसती है हमारे,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
हज़ार गलतियों पर भी,  
फिर माफ़ करने का दिल रखती है,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
कैसी है माँ?  
काम से देर से लौटकर आने में,  
इंतज़ार करती हमारा,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
झुर्रियाँ पद जाती है उसके तन पर,  
परवाह तब भी हमारी नादानों जैसी  
करती है,  
ऐसी है माँ।  
कैसी है माँ?  
जब हमें जन्म दिया,  
एक वही पल ऐसा था जब हम रोये और  
वो हँसी,  
ऐसी है माँ.....



**KHUSHBU BATHAM**

**The Author is an  
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writer by passion and  
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# है न माँ

**FATEMA MALUBHAIWALA**

पूछा था मैंने रब से जन्नत का पता  
अपनी गोद से उतारकर मुझे उसने तेरी बाहों में सुला दिया  
इस नए जहाँ में जब आँखें खुली  
कोई न था जाना पहचाना  
गर कोई अपना था वो तू ही तो थी  
है न माँ?

तेरी गोद में बिताया हर वो पल  
तेरी बातों से सीखा हर मुश्किल का हल  
तू न होती तो क्या होता  
है न माँ?

महसूस किया है मैंने  
तेरा वो निस्वार्थ प्यार करना  
मेरी नादानियों पर दरगुज़र करना  
मेरे तीखे बोल पर सब्र करना  
सही कहा? है न माँ?

**Author is an ardent reader,  
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writer. She also loves  
Literature, Sketching and Arts.**



मेरी हर जिद को पूरा किया तूने  
मेरी हर ख्वाहिश को अपना मकसद बनाया तूने  
खुद की हसरते तो बस पीछे रह गई  
मेरे पीछे तो तेरी ज़िन्दगी निकल गई  
है न माँ?

मैंने तुझे बिना वजह परेशान किया  
कभी हसाया कभी रुलाया  
तूने फिर भी सब कुछ भुलाकर माफ़ किया  
क्युकी मैं जानती हू  
कि माँ का दिल तो बस माँ का दिल होता है !!!  
है न माँ?

तेरी बस एक फ़ूक से ज़ख्म मिट जाते हैं  
तेरे प्यार से गले लगाने पर सारे ज़ख्म फ़ना हो जाते हैं  
तेरे होने से मैं खुद को मुकम्मल मानती हू  
मेरे रब के बाद में बस तुझे जानती हू  
तेरे बिना मैं अधूरी हू  
है ना माँ?



# "बचपन रुत"

by DRajpal

क्या दिन थे वो जब बस्ता भी माँ जमाती थी,  
क्या वक्त था जब रोज़ खाना वो मेरी पसन्द का बनाती थी।  
कुछ नया जब रोज़ मैं कर के, घर आ के बतलाती थी  
तब बिना किसी साहित्य ज्ञान, मैं कथाकार कहलाती थी।

जब परीक्षा के लिए मैं पढ़ते-पढ़ते हो आती थी रone को  
तब हाथ फेर कर सर पे मेरे कहती थी वो सोने को।  
जब मैं कॉलेज के दोस्तों के साथ घूमने बेफ़िक्र निकल पड़ती थी  
तब चिंता में मेरी वो हर घंटे मुझे फोन करती थी।

कल हॉस्टल में जब बुखार से तड़प रही थी मैं, वो याद आई बहुत,  
तब खयाल आया बड़ी हो गई मैं, और झर गई "बचपन रुत",  
सबने देखा ,सबने पूछा, पर इतना अकेला कभी किया न महसूस  
माँ मैं बन जाऊँ वो बदमाश और तू फिर से बन ना मेरी जासूस।

फिर से खेलें आँख मिचौली, फिर से चुराऊँ मै आचार  
माँ चल फिर से करूँ शैतानी, और खाऊँ तेरे हाथों की मार।  
इस बार खुशी मुझे होगी, तू कर न शिकायत मेरी  
इक बार मना मुझे, हलवा बना, और सुला दे बाँहों मे तेरी।



**Divya is a CA, CS aspirant. She is also a creative and academic writer, who loves teaching.**



# तू ही हैं माँ

जब मैंने इस दुनिया में आँखे खोली थी,  
पहली बार कोयल सी बोली बोली थी,  
तेरी छाया में जब सोयी थी,  
तुझे अपने पास ना पाकर रोई थी,  
तब जिसने मुझे संभाला था,  
वो तू ही थी माँ। हाँ तू ही थी।

जब नन्हे कदमों ने लड़खड़ाना सीखा था,  
तेरी ऊँगली पकड़ इठलाना सिखा था,  
फिर जिसने मुझे ममता से सराहा था,  
वो तू ही थी माँ। हाँ तू ही थी।

जो मुझे बिना देखे भी समझ जाती हैं,  
मेरे मन में छुपे अनकहे भावों को भी आंक जाती है,  
मेरी छोटी-छोटी मुश्किलों को भी आसान कर जाती है,  
मुझ में खुद को रम जाती है  
वो तू ही है माँ। हाँ तू ही है।

दुनिया करती है "माँ" की ममता को एक दिवस अर्पण  
पर मेरे लिए हर एक दिन ही "ममता का दिवस" है,  
क्योंकि तुझ बिन मैं ही नहीं, पूरी दुनिया ही सूनी है  
तुझ बिन सबकी जिंदगानी ही अधूरी है,  
हम सबकी परिभाषा ही तू है "माँ",  
हाँ माँ, भगवान् का दूसरा रूप है तू  
सब तू ही है माँ। हाँ तू ही है माँ।



**JYOTI  
BHARTI**

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# माँ तुम बहुत याद आती हो

- DEEPALI CHOURASIA

जब भी मन मेरा कुंठित हो या पृथक पृथक आवंटित हो  
जब बैठी हूँ अकेले में या हूँ दुनिया के मेले में  
माँ तुम बहुत याद आती हो।

ये मन उद्विग्न जब होता है, तब कण-कण में तुम दिखती हो  
सूरज की किरणों में भी तुम, हर ओंस में, तृण में दिखती हो  
माँ तुम मेरा दर्पण हो, तुम पर ये जीवन अर्पण हो  
हो काया से तुम दूर भले, तुम रक्तबूंद में हर क्षण हो।

सबसे पहले तुमने ही अन्न दिया, तुम मेरा पहला घर हो माँ  
मेरा पहला प्रेम हो तुम, तुम ममता का सागर हो माँ  
तुमने पग धरना सिखलाया, चलना बढ़ना सिखलाया  
दिशाहीन, विचलित क्षण में, नई सीढ़ी चढ़ना सिखलाया।

तुम्हारी गोद में सर रखने से स्वर्ग का भान होता है  
तुम्हारे हाथ का पानी भी माँ, अमृत समान होता है  
भगवन ने मुझे कृतज्ञ किया, माँ तुमसे ये जीवन-यज्ञ दिया  
जैसे मरू को शीतल जल व एक नवीन अस्तित्व दिया।

तुम्हारे आँचल की नरमी को, जब जब महसूस में करती हूँ  
अपने तन को मन को धन को, सर्वस्व महफूज़ समझती हूँ  
जब होती हूँ खाली निःशब्द, तुम्हारा रस्ता तकती हूँ  
फिर मैं खुद को माँ, तुम्हारे ममत्व से भरती हूँ।

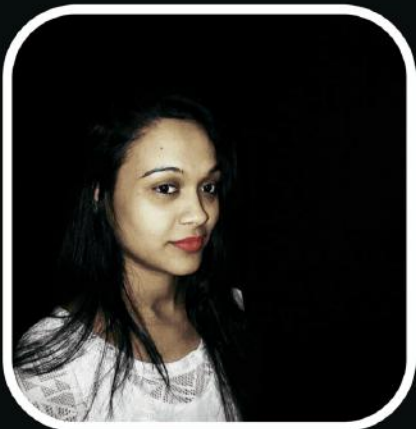


आंसू आने से पहले माँ, पलकों की नमी को जान लिया  
आंखों में मेरी झांककर, हर झूठ को पहचान लिया  
पीड़ा देखकर मेरी माँ, हर बार तुम्हें भी दर्द हुआ  
कैसे उपकार चुकाउंगी, अब जन्मों का ये कर्ज़ हुआ।

रजनीगंधा की खुशबू तुम हो, नीरज का रंग तुम  
श्रावण-भादों की वर्षा तुम, तितली की रंगबिरंग तुम  
मेरी तो वीणा-पाणी तुम, मेरी तो धड़कन, वाणी तुम  
माँ तुमसे है संसार मेरा, मेरी बगिया का पानी तुम।

माँ क्यों तुम मेरे पास नहीं, तुम बिन तो जब तब साँस नहीं  
तुम इस मोती की सीपी हो, तुम बिन जीवन की आस नहीं  
मैं तुममे हूँ तुम मुझमे हो, तुम जल, अवनि, अम्बुज में हो  
अब ये जीवन परिपूर्ण हुआ, माँ तुम मेरे सब कुछ में हो।

अपनी मूढ़ता को प्रमाणित कर दिया मैंने  
माँ तुम्हें चंद शब्दों में परिभाषित कर दिया मैंने।।



*Author is a voracious reader and postgraduate in English Literature. Currently she is working as a technical analyst with a financial service provider.*



सब कुछ देकर के अपना, बदले में जो कुछ भी न चाहती है  
कायनात में उसका कोई जवाब नहीं माँ तो आखिर.....माँ ही होती है

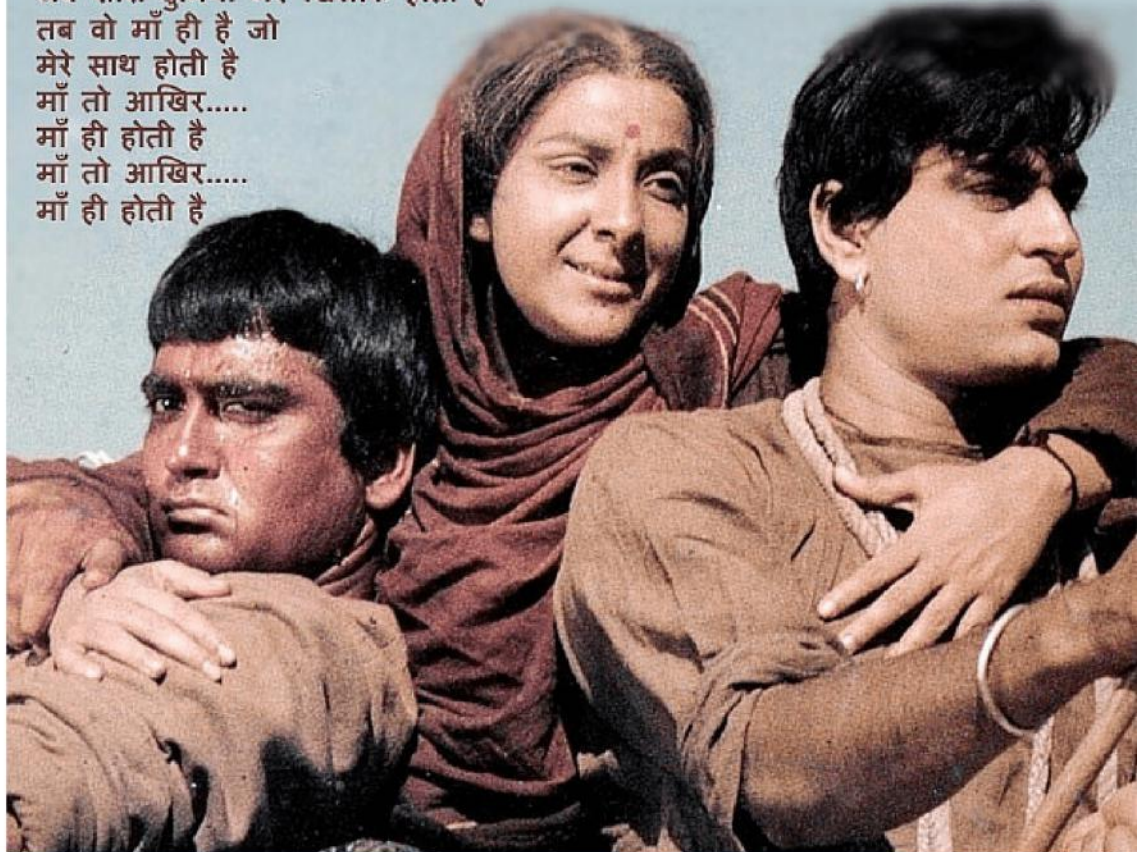
डर लगता है जब मुझे तो वो मेरा ढाँढस बंधाती है  
कोई मुझे भला-बुरा कहे, तो उससे वो लड़ जाती है  
जब दुनिया मेरी कोशिशों को नज़र अंदाज़ करती है  
तब वो माँ ही है जो मेरी पीठ थपथपा कर मुझे शाबाश कहती है  
माँ तो आखिर.....माँ ही होती है

मेरी काबिलियत पर भरोसा है उसे, वो मेरी बहुत परवाह करती है  
मुझे कमज़ोर नहीं होने देती कभी और मुश्किलों में मुझे रास्ता दिखाती है  
बीमारी ने जब घेरा हो मुझे तो रात भर जागकर वो बेहिसाब रोती है  
माँ तो आखिर.....माँ ही होती है

सात समंदर पार से जब मैं फोन मिलाऊँ, तो वो खुश हो जाती है  
पड़ोस में जब मेरा ज़िक्क होता है तो फक्र से अपना सर उठाती है  
न कहते हुए भी मेरी परेशानी को वो भांप लेती है  
माँ तो आखिर.....माँ ही होती है

ऊँचाइयाँ जब छू लूँ मैं तो मुझ पर वो नाज़ करती है  
सीना चौड़ा कर के मुझे अपने दिल का टुकड़ा बताती है  
ट्राफी लेकर जब मैं घर आऊँ तो वो खुलके नाच उठती है  
माँ तो आखिर.....माँ ही होती है

जब सब गलत ठहराते हैं मुझे तब भी माँ के लिए मैं सही हूँ  
जब ज़माने के सवालों के जवाब देना होते हैं मुझे  
तब माँ उन्हें मेरी आँखों में पढ़ लेती है  
जब सारी दुनिया मेरे खिलाफ होती है  
तब वो माँ ही है जो  
मेरे साथ होती है  
माँ तो आखिर.....  
माँ ही होती है  
माँ तो आखिर.....  
माँ ही होती है



**-MANJUSHA JAIN**

Author is a voracious reader and a passionate writer. She loves to write poetries and short stories.



# MOTHERS DAY

## SPECIAL

### संभलना ज़रा

घर से जब निकली थी मैं,  
तो माँ का था ये कहना..  
उस नए शहर में बेटी,  
ज़रा संभलकर रहना....

संभलना ज़रा कि वहाँ सड़के बहुत है,  
पर यहाँ तो सड़कों से ज्यादा डरावनी गलियों की रूत है...  
संभलना ज़रा कि वहाँ होते अजनबी बहुत है,  
पर यहाँ तो अनजानों से ज्यादा बुरी अपनो की नियत हैं...  
संभलना ज़रा कि वहाँ घर भी बहुत है,  
पर यहाँ तो बस खोखली दीवारों पर छत हैं..  
संभलना ज़रा बेटा कि ये ज़माना खराब बहुत है,  
पर माँ यहाँ तो ज़माने से भी ज्यादा बिगडी इंसानों की गत हैं...

-किरण गोस्वामी

### माँ

माँ,  
एक ऐसा अमर शब्द,  
जो कभी मर नहीं सकता,  
जो मरने वाले को ज़िंदा कर देता है,  
अपनी दुआओं से |

माँ,  
जो अपना दर्द किसी के सामने नहीं दिखातीं,  
बच्चे के रोने का दर्द अकेले में सहती,  
बच्चे को दिल से लगाती और,  
उसे तहे दिल से चाहती |

माँ,  
जो अपने बच्चे को अपने आँचल में छुपा लेती है,  
इस डर से की कोई उससे हानि न पहुँचाये |

माँ,  
जब एक निवाला भी घर में बनता है तो,  
अपने बच्चे को खुशी-खुशी खिलाती है,  
और अपना पेट अपने बच्चे की खुशी से,  
भर लेती है |

माँ,  
एक भेजा हुआ रूप है,  
भगवान का,  
जो जन्म से मृत्यु तक साथ देता है,  
सलाम है उन सब माँओं को हमारा,  
जो सिर्फ माँ ही नहीं भगवान है |

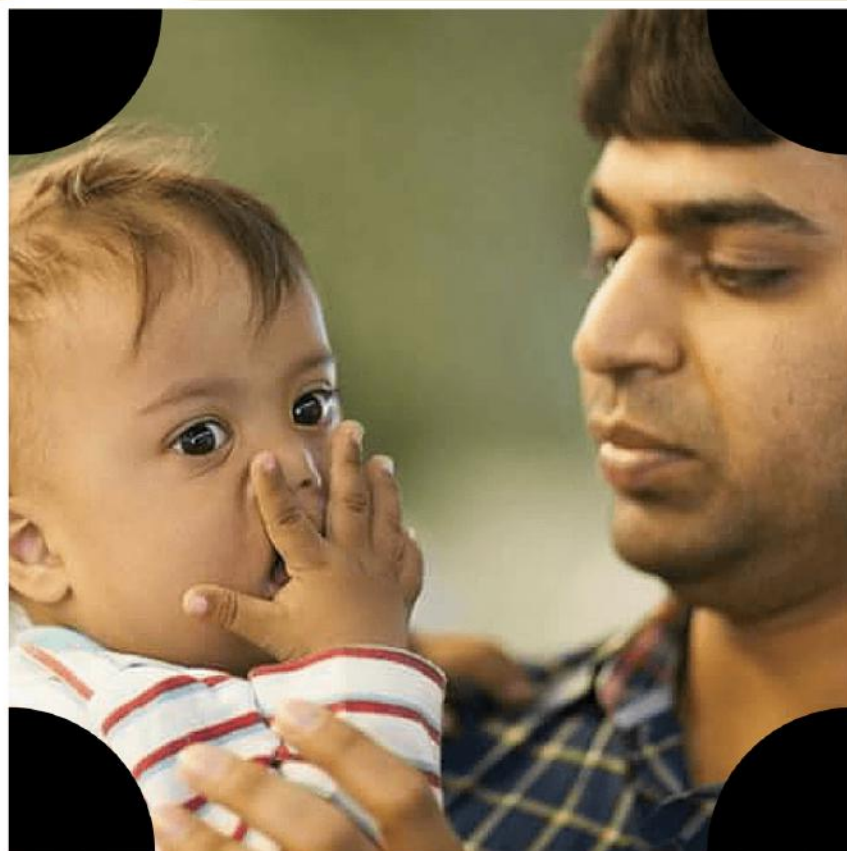
-Vedanti Agale



INTERVIEW

# ADITYA TIWARI

By Isha Maharana



**1. In the technology-driven and competitive world we live in, where everybody is running to win both a race and a marathon, how did you find a moment of solace and what exactly struck your cord? When did you realize that you want to and are ready to become a father, that too in the most unconventional way possible?**

**A:** All my life I have seen my parents trying to help others with whatever resources they have. They always have been my inspiration and the thought of adopting a child was always there in some nook and corner of my heart so you can say that it is like a dream come true for me.

**2. It is said that everything happens for a reason and nothing in this world can be called a coincidence. Do you feel the same? Do you think there is a reason behind you choosing vi as your son or perhaps the other way round? Did you feel the connection with him the first time you met?**

**A:** Well, I do believe that not all but most of the things happen for a reason. Nothing is a coincidence. I visited the orphanage on my father's birthday, every single kid was cute and adorable but when I saw Binny I felt like he is trying to say something to me. I inquired about him from the authorities and found that he is considered 'mad' by many which clearly depicts the mentality of our society. It is difficult to explain to them that a differently able kid is not mad but just different. Not only this, Binny is also born with a hole in his heart and eye defects which made him unpopular with those parents who wants to adopt a child. It was very obvious; everybody wanted a healthy pretty baby. I wanted to adopt the child then and there but when I discussed this with my parents they suggested me to take care of the child financially as I was single and working in Pune. It would have been difficult. The orphanage people agreed to this. Along with supporting Binny financially I made sure that I meet him at least twice a month. I used to come to Indore from Pune on weekends. Binny became an integral part of my life.

# COVER STORY



**3. Parenthood has the capability to change a parent from inside out. This must have happened with you too perhaps. Can you summarize in a single line the difference in life before Avi and after he came in your life?**

**A:** Yes, that's true. Everything has changed from the moment he came into my life. The journey from a single working guy to a single parent has been difficult but it is beautiful. I feel complete with him. Every moment is full of joy when he is around me.

**4. Can you please share with us the hurdles you crossed and the troubles you faced in this journey of yours?**

**A:** The fight with the corrupt system and the hurdles I had to face were very tiring and emotionally disturbing. I used to come to Indore to meet him but after some time he was shifted to Bhopal and so my weekend journey used to start from Pune, stop in Indore and ended on Bhopal. It was tiring but it was worth it. I was mentally prepared that I am going to adopt him someday, as soon as I turn thirty but things turned upside down when one day I visited Bhopal and they very rudely said to me that Binny has been transferred to Delhi and I cannot meet him from now on. Everybody knew how close we are and still they chose to do this without my consent and their logic was that I had no legal authority over him. I tried to contact the Delhi branch and came to know that no kid has been transferred. This was fishy and from there started my actual journey. Thousands of letters and emails later I finally got help from the right people, Mrs. Menaka Gandhi and CARA assured me that they will look into the matter. Although as per the adoption rules I was not eligible to adopt the baby before I turn thirty but that was my secondary concern at that time. The only thing I was concerned about was Binny's safety and along with him all the other kids who were suffering at the hands of corrupt system. It turned out that more than 40 kids from that one single agency were unregistered, nobody knew that they existed. It was horrific. I started receiving threat calls from unknown numbers asking me to back out. It was a scam and thankfully everything turned out to be fine. It was tough, very tough but it was worth it!

**5. After the scam was caught, did it become easy for you to adopt your son?**

**A:** No, there were still some loopholes in our system. The law said that I couldn't adopt a child before I turned thirty and I was not ready to wait that long. I wanted my son to come home with me. I appealed to the court and to my astonishment I found that this law was already in the process of amendment. Our case triggered the speed. It was difficult for me to understand that when we are considered matured enough to marry at the



age of 18 and 21 then why I was not being allowed to adopt a kid when I am 27! People were now saying to me that don't try to imitate celebrities, it is easier for Sushmita sen to adopt a child but you are not her. In fact when everything was solved, both of my homes at Indore and Pune were checked by the authorities and I was called to complete the final proceedings, the people involved were trying to convince me not to adopt him as it would make my life very difficult and no girl would be ready to marry me. One of them even asked me to bring the girl I would marry in future, that isn't even possible!

**6. If you are asked to share just one particular moment with your son which brought you closer, one moment you will never forget what would it be?**

**A:** The day I went to Matruchaya, where he was after the scam was discovered, he was sleeping when I reached. I collected his stuffs and all, completed all the formalities and when they picked him up and gave him to me he started crying profusely. All the people who were around started saying that perhaps he doesn't want to leave this place, he wants to stay there and that was the moment when he started crying and wrapped his tiny hands around my neck, looked at me and kept his head on my shoulders. That was the moment I knew that we were always meant to be together.





**7. What was your family's reaction to your decision and how is their relationship with your son?**

**A:** They were reluctant at first because they knew that raising a kid alone would be a difficult job but when they saw my dedication and love towards him they understood that nothing and nobody can stop me. Since then they have been a huge support. Avnish cannot speak much at this point of time; he just says some words like Papa, Dada and Dadi. Their face radiates with joy when Avnish calls out to them.

**8. What was the most shocking revelation in this whole scenario?**

**A:** When I came to know about that Avnish's parents have left him because he was not born "normal" I thought that perhaps they were not economically stable and that's why they couldn't take care of him but when I met them I was shocked. Not only they are financially stable but they are also very well educated. His biological mother is a teacher! When I requested them to take their child back as he needed a family, they bluntly said that I am free to do whatever I want to do with this child. He is dead to them and they are ashamed that a kid like this took birth in their family.

**9. Every parent has got a dream for his kid, what are your dreams for him?**

**A:** I just want him to live his life the way he wants. I want him to feel loved and content. I want him to be happy, that's it. I have named him Avnish, which is another name for Lord Ganesha. I have prayed to lord Ganesha for him, for his well being all the time and that's what I want for him for the rest of his life.

**10. Mother's are considered the primary guardian of a kid in our society, what do you think about this notion? Mother's are known to play both a mother's and a fathers role in her kids life in his absence, do you think that the vice versa is also true?**

**A:** One day, a lady called me. She is mother of one differently able kid and what she said gave me immense happiness. She said that she was facing a really tough time raising her son and somewhere she was devastated that why this happened to her but when she came to know about my story she called me and said that I am an inspiration to her, she was blaming her destiny before she heard about us but then she realized that I chose this destiny for myself and when I can do this happily why can't she. You just need to love your kid with all your heart, gender doesn't matter.

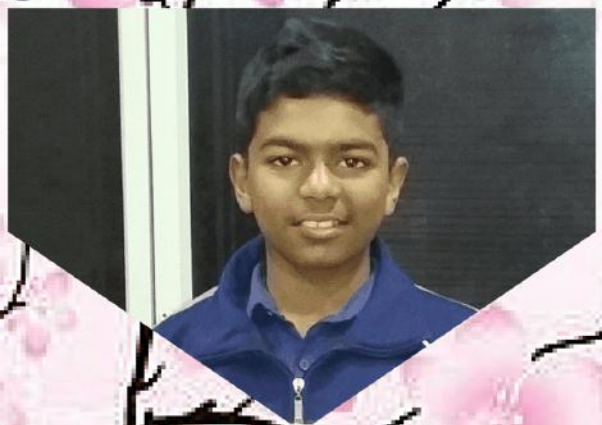


**II. Message for the readers**

**A:** I would just like to say that lets stop discriminating our kids under the categories of normal and special. Everybody is special in their own ways. Let's not put the burden of our dreams on their shoulders. We should let them live their life the way they want with all the love and support from our side. Making them feel loved and protected is the best thing we can do for them.



# ART} WORKS

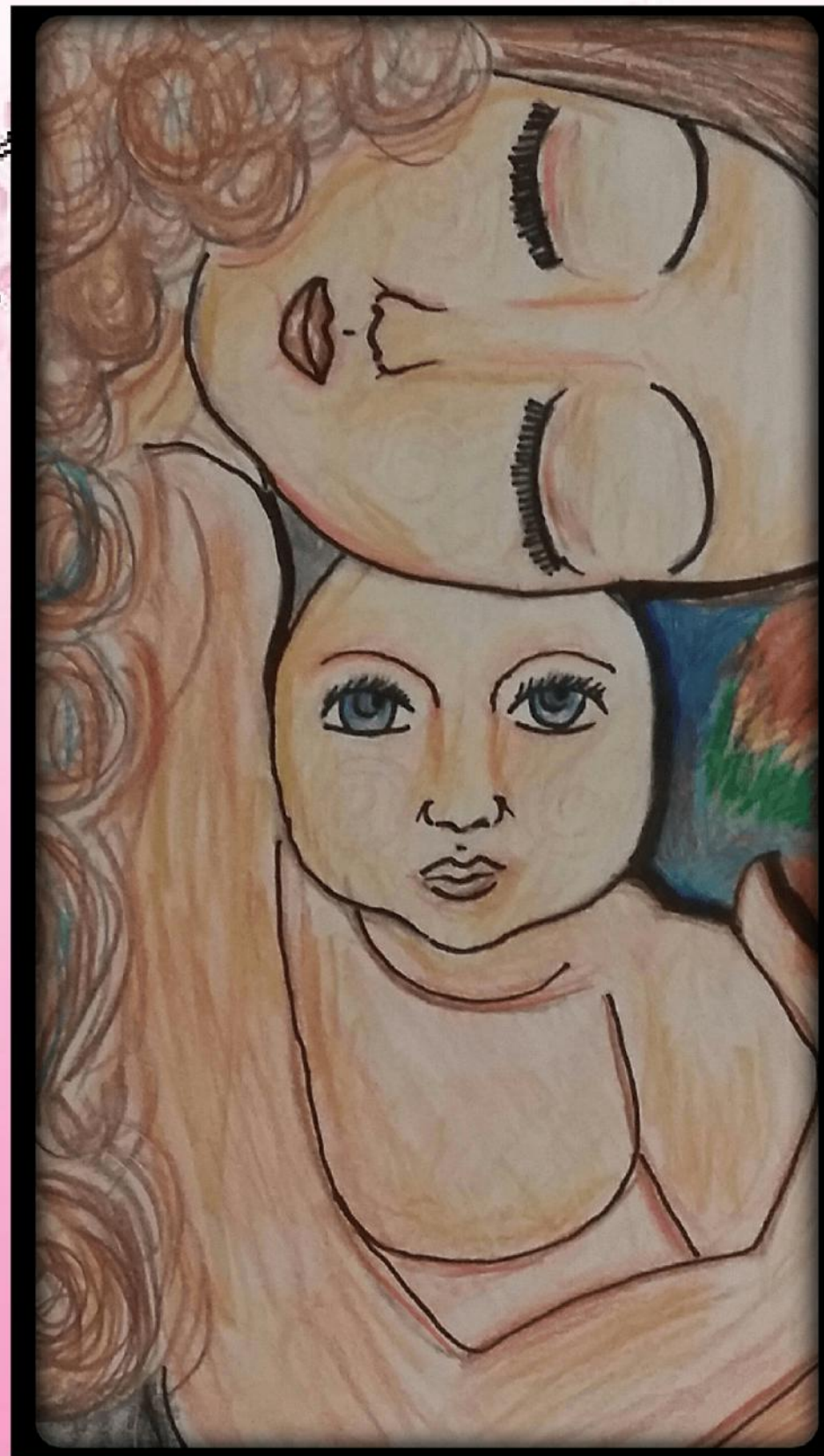


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DIVY JAJODIA

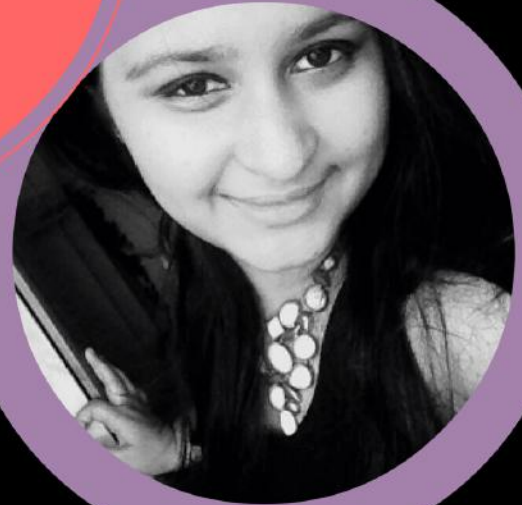
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Soft-spoken and a silent observer, Divy believes in goal setting and chasing the same with an utmost dedication. He has been acknowledged often for his beautiful artworks.

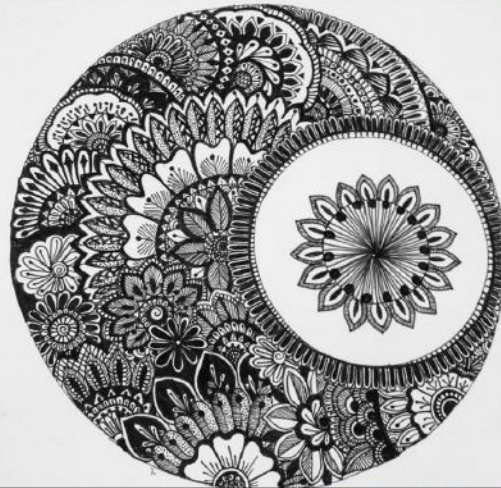


# The Doodly Stories

Mrigya hails from Ahemdabad. She has recently graduated from Mount Carmel high school. She expresses her creativity through doodling.



**MRIGYA SETH**



## What Did God Do When He Realized That He Cannot Be Everywhere?



# WIT SHITS

- by Shivraj Jadhav

Every time someone says "God cannot be everywhere so he created mothers", a mother dies in some other part of the world. You're probably thinking "This guy is nuts", without knowing the actual meaning of nuts which is in fact, testicles and therefore of course I am nuts and if you are a man and you think you are not nuts, you're obviously a twat (translation: vagina. Seriously, stop reading the outdated books of Charlotte and Emily). And whether you are nuts or twat, if you're still wondering how does a mother die when you compare her to God, here's the logic: Every moment some or the other person dies in some part of the world anyway and there are fairly good chances that it might

be a woman who is someone's mother because there are a lot of mothers in the world. So it doesn't really matter whether you say "God cannot be everywhere so he created mothers" or "Ptsu obanga dibba dibba" which really means nothing in any language of the world, there are fair chances that a mother is going to die somewhere. But let's keep the morbid thoughts for some other issue of the magazine which Irfan would probably name "Maut ki Ghadi, Paas aa Khadi" or something very smart like that.

What I really wanted to say was, every time someone says "God cannot be everywhere so he created mothers", it makes me cringe. That is pretty much like saying "Oh we are out of cigarettes, never mind I have a pack of bidis on the rack." Know what I am saying? That line makes mothers look like a substitution to God and if that's true, apart from much love for you and long list of instructions about how to behave with strangers, God must also have massive mammary glands (euphemism. Read 'boobs') for feeding all the children of the world, and according to the ideology, since he cannot achieve that phenomenon, he created mothers. If you are a feminist you would be easily offended and say "Hey feeding the child isn't the only thing mothers do" which is a right kind of argument. Further if you are one of those eggheads on Quora, you are probably thinking "He has got the idea wrong. That sentence actually means mothers care for us and love us like God. I should probably write my properly formatted explanation to it which would be twice the size of this original article, bullet-points included." But again I understand all that. I understand it very well and yet I would say comparing mothers to God is plain stupid.

Both of them love you in different manners which is why if you ask God to pack your lunch for school, he'd say "Fuck off, I am busy creating another planet" and which is exactly why your mom would say something similar if you ask her to get you a Triumph Rocket. I Know what I'm saying? Stop comparing mothers to God because apart from the fact that Kim Kardashian is also a mother which is why it would be a major insult of God, mothers are wonderful in their places and God is in His.

God can be fucking everywhere which is why He is God in the first place. If there is any reason why He created mothers, it would be because he wanted every person in the world to have different beliefs, different fears and different ways of looking at life - and all this can be brought about only if there are mothers. In Psycho, its Norman Bates' mother who makes him Norman Bates, in Sons and Lovers, its Paul Morel's mother who makes him the complex lover and shy person that he is and its probably your mother who has influenced your thoughts and her influence is going to decide what kind of person you become. They basically mould you into who you are when God is busy planning the next volcanic eruption in Japan. There cannot be a comparison between the two.

As for the question in the title, the honest and revised version of the answer would be, 'God cannot be everywhere which is why He created genitals and then said "Reproduction bitches".'



*A 23 year old. A man with Voice, some banter and quite an amount of sensibility. Or atleast, that's what many say. Look for yourself.*



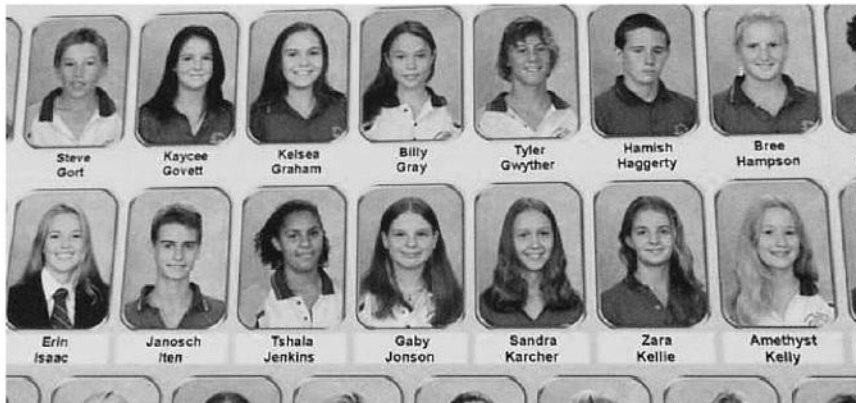
# A BEAUTIFUL MIND

## CAN 'SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE' HELP YOU PREDICT SOMEONE'S FUTURE?

-By Sandeep Atre

Can 'Social intelligence' help you predict someone's future? Well! Though not in the 'tarot-card or astrology' sense, the fact is that... It CAN! Let me explain...

You will be surprised to know that just by looking at someone's photograph in the school yearbook or college brochure, one can predict the person's future married-life or chances of divorce.



For this, the secret code is in one's SMILE!

Smile is surely the simplest and most easily recognized of all human expressions. Simplest because, it at best involves only two muscles, and most easily recognized because not only does it come on a child's face as early as at the age of three weeks, but is also distinguishable from other emotions even when seen from a distance of up to 45 meters.

While the origin of the now-omnipresent yellow 'Smiley face' can be traced back to artist Harvey Ball in 1960s, the real human-smile's origin has been a subject of debate. Researchers like Desmond Morris propose that its origin is in the primate's grimace or fear grin, which was a way to suggest that one is quite harmless and thus friendly. In that manner, smile is considered to be inherently a submissive signal which is employed to please someone.

But you know what... although smile seems to be everyone's favorite expression; in reality it is not as well-understood as it should be. Yes! It is much more complicated than people realize. And the reason is that eighteen different types of smiles have been identified by researchers. And while only one of them expresses truly 'positive emotions', rest of them express many different ones.

And that ONE genuine smile holds a BIG secret...

Researchers\* have consistently found a strong correlation between the 'genuineness and intensity' of smiles in those photographs and people's eventual success in their married-life. Well! To state clearly, it all boils down to two facial muscles. And if in a smile, both the muscles are involved then this vouches for its 'genuineness and intensity'.



## First is Zygomatic Major



## And second is Orbicularis Oculi



The first muscle pulls away the lips and creates the stretch on the face. And second raises the cheeks, creates the small cringes around nose and eyes (crow-feet). And if a smile only involves the first muscle and not the second one, its 'genuineness and intensity' is questionable.

French neurologist Guillaume Duchenne was the first person to identify this factor while conducting research on the physiology of facial expressions in the mid-19th century. Resultantly, the genuine smile, with all its ingredients, is also called 'Duchenne smile'.

And those people whose smiles (even in photographs) are Non-Duchenne ones i.e. lack 'genuineness and intensity' have much higher rate of marital problems and divorces.

On the other hand, people with genuine smiles are more open to social connections, are more capable of handling sporadic negative emotions, are more likely to seek out partners who are higher in positive emotionality themselves, are more prone to show readiness to reach out to their partner, and are expected to evoke more positive circumstances in life. And all these qualities are important to create an emotional contagion required to have a successful long-term relationship.



So... through social intelligence – which is about observing nonverbal behavior and understanding emotions – you can learn to differentiate between genuine and fake smile, and then can have a pretty scientific estimation of someone's emotional disposition, and even the chances of marital success.

And yes! For your own relationship, choose someone whose smile reaches his/her eyes.

\*Researches conducted at University of California, Berkeley and DePauw University, Greencastle US

*Author is an entrepreneur and a trainer in the domains of soft skills & management development. Also he is founding Director of Socialigence ([www.socialigence.net](http://www.socialigence.net))*



# Not-So-Trivial

-By Vivek Tiwari

## Beyond Sanskrit in IIT's

The MHRD comes up with yet another decision that shall want all of us to choose on which side of line we want to be. The decision is to teach Sanskrit in IITs

Let's see what goes in and out:

1. A new language is now being introduced to the students. The institute that garners the mindset of getting a job and nothing else. A major faction of these has failed to show interest in learning languages like English, which is perhaps the most needed by their recruiters. I don't know how will these guys give a damn to the language that isn't economically viable.
2. The institute has already been teaching languages like German. German is needed by most students because Germany provides world-class higher education and employment prospectus, that too for free, provided you know German.  
If one thinks that this shouldn't be allowed, you are planning to trigger another North Korea like stupidity.
3. I seriously don't know why this has been imposed only on IITs and not any other institute. They didn't chose NLIU where most of the work is in English itself and please, they are working over the constitution itself. They won't work an inch over courts to push to Hindi, you want us to develop things for you using Sanskrit. Had they chose Sanskrit as compulsory language till class 12th, more students would have got exposed to it.
4. I respect my tradition. I respect my culture. I strongly believe that technology is independent of language and China, Japan and Germany has proved it time and again. But, we ignore how it happened. We need to develop an infrastructure for these things. You need to pump in money for researches in Natural Language Processing. You need to make students from grass-root level so that they are as comfortable with the language as their mother tongue or English by the time they admit to university.
5. The decision may be good or bad but lack of alternative will make the movement like Civil Disobedience of Mahatma Gandhi. Boycott all, but then what? We need to create ours before we plan to dismantle others'



The Author is B.Tech(CS) student from NIT Bhopal. He has keen interest in sharing his views on current events.



## MYTH या?

*Neha Thakur*

या देवी सर्वभूतेषु मातृरूपेण संस्थिता, नमस्तस्यै नमस्तस्यै नमस्तस्यै नमो नमः

जब किसी माता के बारे में लिखने के लिए कहा जाता है तो कदाचित हम माताओं को प्रेम की अप्रतिम मूर्ति एवं उनके शक्ति स्वरूप का वर्णन करते हैं। परन्तु आज मैं आप सभी को एक ऐसी कहानी बताने जा रही हूँ जो शायद ही कोई बतलाता होगा। ऋषि व्यास जी ने भी इस करुणापूर्ण एवं दर्द से औत प्रोत कहानी का वर्णन नहीं किया। कहानी है गांधारी की। जी हाँ गांधारी की, विस्मयचकित ना होए क्युकी महाभारत के पात्र व्यक्ति के अपेक्षा इतने अधिक मिथकीय हो गए है की उनमे केवल एक युग का यथार्त नहीं परन्तु अनेको युगों का यथार्त समन्वय होता है। "गांधारी" एक ऐसा विशिष्ठ पात्र है जो अनेक भावात्मक संभावनाओं को अपने व्यक्तित्व में समाहित किये हुए है। वैसे तो अंधायुग में धर्मवीर भारती ने बहुत ही उम्दा तरीके से महाभारत युद्ध और उसके बाद की समस्याओं और मानवीय महात्वाकांक्षा को प्रस्तुत किया है। पाठको से निवेदन है की इसे जीवन में एक बार अवश्य पड़े। हाँ, तो हम बात कर रहे थे गांधारी की, लगभग जैसे ही मैंने उनका नाम वर्णन किया तो एक छवि आपके मनपटल मैं अंकित हुई होगी एक स्त्री जिसने आँखों पर पट्टी बाँध रखी है। अंधे पति की सच्ची अर्थ में सहधर्मिणी बनने की चेष्टा में अपने ही आँखों पर पट्टी बाँध ली। आप सोच रहे होंगे की क्या बड़ा काम किया औरतें तो शायद त्याग की ही मूर्ति होती है।

गांधारी को एक पतिव्रता, पुत्रवत्सला नारी के रूप में वर्णन किया है। उनमें निरीहता एवं विवेक दोनों का ही गुण दार्शनिक है। निरीहता इसलिए की वह विवाह को न चाहते हुए भी स्वीकार करती है साथ में अपने विवेक से काम लेकर वो दो देशो के युद्ध को टालने के लिए परस्पर विवाह सिर्फ स्वीकार ही नहीं किया अपितु पति का साथ देने हेतु आँखों पर पट्टी बाँधी। परन्तु उनकी अंतरदृष्टि खुली थी और इसी कारण पुत्र मोह एवं राजमद में डूबे हुए धृतराष्ट्र की बुद्धि को निरन्तर झकझोरती थी और अन्धकार पूर्ण भविष्य की और सावधान करती रही। यही नहीं दुर्योधन जब अपनी माँ से युद्ध के लिए आशीर्वाद लेने आता है तब वह आशीर्वाद नहीं देकर कहती है की जीत उसकी होगी जो धर्म के मार्ग पर चलेगा। वह बोलती है की अब भी समय शेष है बेटा यह अधर्म का युद्ध इसे रोक दे वरना नर संहार अकारण ही होगा।

मुझे तो उनका चरित्र बहुत ही प्रेरणादायक एवं ममस्पर्शी लगता है। वह भगवान कृष्ण से प्रश्न करती है और क्रोध मैं श्राप भी देती है जिसको भगवन स्वीकार करते है। युद्ध के उपरान्त वह युद्धभूमि को छोड़ने से मना कर देती है। वह सभी को वहां से जाने के लिए बोलती है, बोलती है घर जाओ और मुझे मेरे पुत्रों के साथ अकेला छोड़ दो, मुझे इनके साथ ही अच्छा लगता है। और वह सब उन्हें वही छोड़कर वहां से चले जाते है। बूढ़ी और कमजोर होने के बावजूद वह वहाँ पर नज़र जमाये गिद्धों एवं भेड़ियों को लकड़ी से भगाती है। कृष्णा भी उनसे याचना करते है की "माता ये सब अब मर गए है, तुम अब भी इनके शरीरों को क्यू नहीं छोड़ देती हो।" गांधारी बोलती है "तुम एक माँ का दर्द नहीं समझोगे, क्या समझोगे उसका दर्द जिसने अपने जिन्दा रहते अपने सभी पुत्रों एवं पौत्रों को खो दिया हो"। कृष्णा बोलते है की "एक दर्द तभी तक रहता है जब तक कोई और दर्द उसकी जगह न ले"। गांधारी उत्तर देती है "यह दर्द कभी नहीं जाएगा, यह एक माँ का दर्द है"। रात होती है और भूखे भेड़िये उनके वहाँ से जाने की राह देखते है। गांधारी दृढ़ निश्चय के साथ उनको वहाँ से भगाती रहती है।

तभी उन्हें बहुत ज़ोरो से भूख लगती है। ऐसी भूख जैसी उन्हें कभी नहीं लगी। भूख के कारणवर्ष वह ना ही कुछ सोचने की क्षमता रखता है ना ही कुछ महसूस कर पाती है। वह सिर्फ खाने के बारे में सोचती है और आम की महक से उनकी खाने की इच्छा तीव्र हो जाती है। वह आम को तोड़ने की कोशिश करती है पर वह उनकी पहुंच से दूर थे। वह एक पत्थर के उपर दूसरे पत्थर

को रखकर उस तक पहुंचने की कोशिश करती है, खूब प्रयासों के बाद वह आम तक पहुंच जाती है। वह आम जैसी कोई और वस्तु शायद ही उन्हें इतनी मीठी कभी लगी हो, वह आम के छिलके तक को खा जाती है और अपनी अँगुलियों को चाटती हुई अपनी भूख शांत करती है।

जब उनकी भूख चली जाती है तो उन्हें फिर दर्द महसूस होता है - उनके पुत्रों की मौत का दर्द। एक ग्लानिभाव से वह अपने आप को झकझोरती है की वह क्या कर रही है अपने बच्चों के मरणोपरांत वह आम खा रही है। वह देखती है की वह कहाँ बैठी है जिन्हे उन्होंने पत्थर समझे थे वह वास्तविक मैं उनके पुत्रों की लाशें थी। वह सोचती है की मैं ऐसा कैसे कर सकती हूँ। अपने ही मरे हुए पुत्रों की लाशो पर बैठकर आम कैसे खा सकती हूँ।

तब उन्हें कृष्ण के वचन याद आते है "एक दर्द तभी तक रहता है जब तक कोई और दर्द उसकी जगह न ले"। वह समझ जाती है की कृष्ण ने उन्हें बतलाया है की भले ही उनका दर्द कितना ही गहरा और मान्य क्यू नहीं हो, परन्तु सभी दर्द सिर्फ स्थायी होते है। उन्होंने बड़ी निर्ममता से उन्हें यह सबक सिखलाया था और वह गुस्से मैं उन्हें श्राप देती है " भगवान हो पर तुम भी खुद अपने पुत्र एवं पौत्रों की मौत देखोगे। परन्तु तुम कृष्णा जंगल मैं अकेले ही मरोगे किसी शिकार की तरह।







## GARIMA BEHAL

The author is a bibliophile. She is a graduate from SRCC, DU.

### What I Learned from my Mother

-Julia Kasdorf

*I learned from my mother how to love the living, to have plenty of vases on hand in case you have to rush to the hospital with peonies cut from the lawn, black ants still stuck to the buds. I learned to save jars large enough to hold fruit salad for a whole grieving household, to cube home-canned pears and peaches, to slice through maroon grape skins and flick out the sexual seeds with a knife point. I learned to attend viewings even if I didn't know the deceased, to press the moist hands of the living, to look in their eyes and offer sympathy, as though I understood loss even then. I learned that whatever we say means nothing, what anyone will remember is that we came. I learned to believe I had the power to ease awful pains materially like an angel. Like a doctor, I learned to create from another's suffering my own usefulness, and once you know how to do this, you can never refuse. To every house you enter, you must offer healing: a chocolate cake you baked yourself, the blessing of your voice, your chaste touch.*

The month of May brings us a day when we recognize and acknowledge all that our mothers do for us, and thank them for their heavenly presence in our lives. The first Sunday of May, celebrated world wide as Mother's Day, helped me choose the poem for this month's column. As I went through poems rightly extolling the virtues of mothers, I zeroed in on this haunting piece and decided to share it with you all.

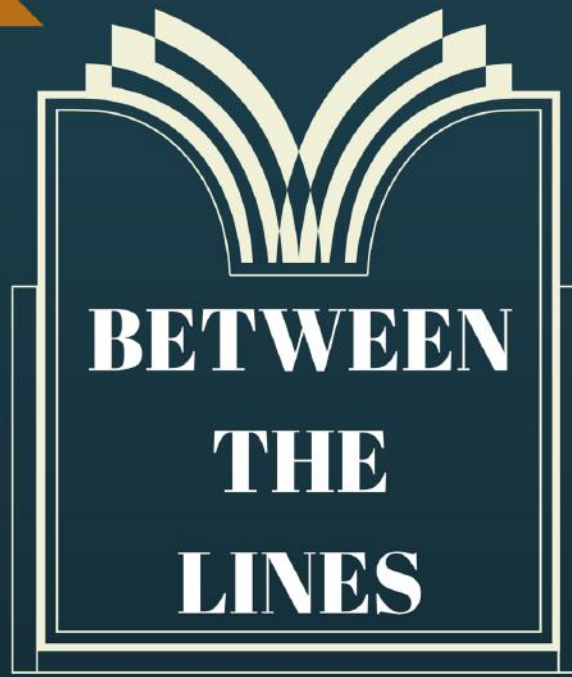
This poem is from one of the three published collections of the poet. The collection, 'Sleeping Preacher,' won the poet the 1991 Agnes Lynch Starret Prize. Here, I try to distil into words what the poem means to me on a personal level.

### The Themes

The poet presents a multiplicity of themes within the lyric, stitched together with the same thread.

There is the dominant allusion to a string of specific behaviors which she learned from her mother. And, then there is the underlying reference to human compassion, the ability to empathize with others in their moments of need. What she tries to bring out, is the beauty of the maternal instinct. Mothers are inherently blessed with the selflessness it takes to care for, protect and nurture their young ones. The world would be a beautiful place if we could all learn this altruism from our mothers, and offer support to people in times of need and grief, when they need it most.






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GARIMA BEHAL

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### My Takeaway

Like millions of other children, including the poet, most of what I have learned in life is what I have learned from my mother. She taught me to be gentle and understanding. She taught me to be helpful, even if it means going out of my way to make someone else's day.

Today, while many of us do not find time even for our own selves, this could be tough, indeed.

But, the poet talks about offering whatever little you can- a voice, a touch, a smile. That is the essence of being human. Not all of us can be as devoted to caring for others as mothers are to their children, but even a little effort goes a long way.

'Pay it Forward', a book by Catherine Ryan Hyde, highlights the very same idea. Anonymous, random acts of kindness can inspire others to do the same, thus creating a chain of such acts, which multiply and in no time, free a lot of persons from their problems. Though Utopian, I find the premise very promising.

Imagine if a stranger smiled at you when you had given up on yourself; if someone helped you with money in a foreign country where you had lost your wallet. If the blood you donated helped a thalassemic child survive; if people showed goodwill and benevolence all the time.

Perfect, wouldn't our world be?

So, take a cue from your mom, from everything she did for you in her capacity, and reciprocate the same tenderness towards all your fellow beings. I believe we can all learn that from our mothers.

What was your take-away from the poem?

Write to me here: [garimab19@gmail.com](mailto:garimab19@gmail.com)

I would love to know your views.

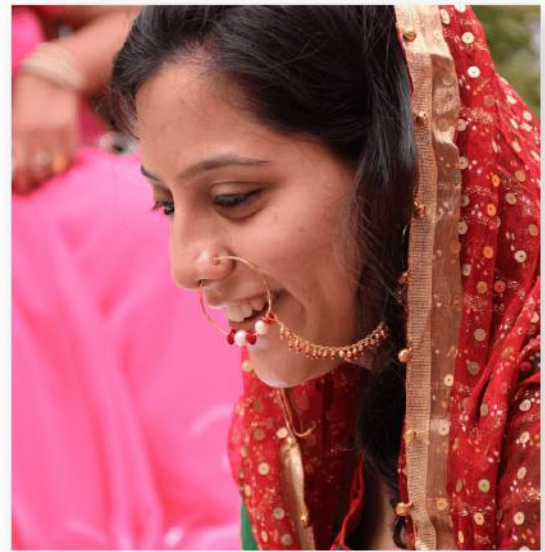


# Book Review *Crucible*

By Enakshi Johri

★ Book: Trapped in  
Want and Wander ★

● Author: Roswitha Joshi ●  
Publisher: Frog Books  
(Leadstart Publishing)  
Rating: 4.8 /5



The Author is a freelance content writer and avid blogger. She is also an acclaimed book reviewer.

### Summary:

“As long as greed is stronger than compassion, there will always be suffering.” ~Rusty Eric

‘Trapped in Want and Wander’ is a potboiler that offers an insight into the world that has a darker side to it. The story revolves around a couple- Dora and Dev, who strive in their respective fields and have the hunger to reach the summit. But what all do they lose in the way?

Dev opts for a new assignment and that when the tables are turned. What happens to their blossoming relationship? What odds are in store for Dev and Dora?

Read this book to know more.

### My Opinion:

“Trapped in Want and Wander” is a story that lures you into the dream world of Dev and Dora. The plotting is so fabulous that it leaves a lasting impression. The author has executed each scene with perfection. The cover of the book is catchy and apt. It matches perfectly with what is in store inside the book. The blurb is so precisely written. With no author introduction on the back cover, the space is utilized completely and aptly. The font (style, size) is perfect. The editing and proof reading has been done with perfection.

The first three chapter gave me a feeling of going through ‘Mills and Boons’, not because of the romance that the latter is known for but for the type of conversation two people engage in. With lucid narration and exceptional vocabulary, the authoress has won my heart completely. After long time I have come across a book that has been tuned to perfection.

The story moves at a comfortable pace and twists and turns have been placed at the right time. The introduction to the personality of different characters, especially Dora and Emma, is amazing. The emotional turmoil amidst the hunger for more, is very well evident. Overall, a must read for the ones who are looking for a great literary feat!

## Tête-à- Tête With A Burmese Family

**Location: Tamu, Sagaing, Myanmar**

A gentle knock. A slight peep. A momentary glance. Exchange of smiles. Followed by a welcome gesture. Sufficient for him to remove his shoes and enter inside the traditional Burmese teak wood home.

He: I Am Prakash from India.

She: (Smiles) Thumbs Up sign. What makes you come over here?

He: Exploration. May be stories.

She: Great. All alone?

He: Yes, solo travel. Who is she (pointing to the lady in one corner)?

She: Aunty. Btw - he is my husband. And this boy is my son.

He: Hmm. Is that you (pointing to the girl's picture behind her)?

She: Ohh! She is my daughter - currently working in Singapore.

He: Nice. Can I have a glass of hot water?

She: What do you want?

He: Takes out the cork of the empty bottle and turns it upside down over his mouth signaling water.

She: By now, she understands he wants water and so gets a bottle full of it.

He: Thanks. But, I want hot water, not this normal one!

She:?

He: Goes into the open kitchen near the gas burner. Lights it and puts a bowl of water over it.

She: (Smiles). Ohh, hot water! Gets a flask full of hot water and offers it to him.

He: Can I charge my mobile? Shows the charger to her.

She: Takes the mobile from him and plugs it into a 3 pin socket.

He: (Thinks, she is quite smart)

She: Had lunch (pointing the fingers towards her mouth)?

He: No. Please note, I am a vegetarian!

She: Luckily, puts rice, dal and boiled spinach onto a plate and duly offers it to him.

He: Happily savors whatever was offered. How many years of marriage?

She: Around 25 years.

He: What is your husband up to?

She: Some local chores.

## PrakashVaani

By Prakash Jha



**Author is a Awara Banjara who has hitchhiked as a solo backpacker, covering 50,000+ kms across 100+ cities/500+ destinations, meeting 100+ personalities whilst covering all of the 29 states and 5 of the Union Territories of India.**

He: Are you happy?

She: (Smiles) Yes and No

He: Hmm. You can be a good diplomat. Anyways, can we have a family snap together?

She: Yes, why not. Instructs her son to duly click it.

((He now sits with the family and the picture (as in this update) is clicked))

He: Time now to leave. Need to be there at the border gate by 3 PM. Thanks for all of the courtesies. More so for welcoming a stranger into your abode. Bye. Tc.

She: (Smiles) all the best for your travels. God bless. Take care.

**PS:** Well, the truth is this entire conversation between him and her was a disjoint one and akin to a one way discourse. For, he spoke in English and she spoke in Burmese - neither of them could understand the other's language. Her replies to him have been approximated on the lines of a general one. The meaning of water, chai and lunch was arrived at only through signs and actions. And, strangely, her husband kept mum all throughout - may be he was the only one silently understanding every bit of it of the conversation Most importantly, it is stories like this which makes exploratory travel interesting and memorable!



## FASHION BITES

### MOM KNOWS FASHION: Fashion tips for new moms

How you dress yourself is important, whether you're a teenager or a mom! As the number of working mothers is increasing day by day, it is important to take into consideration the importance of fashion in a mom's life. It's high time you hide your ignorance about fashion behind your baby's cuteness. It's all right to feel comfortable in the maternity clothes that you wore when you were three to four months pregnant, but after a couple of months when you are neither what you used to be nor what you want to be, you really need to rethink fashion. Let us tell you how to look the most gorgeous new mom around!

#### \* Wear the right clothes-

Choose clothes that are easy to wear, easy to breathe and easy to wash! You can't afford to pick up delicate and wrinkle prone fabrics like silk or rayon. Pick up tops and shirts in cotton with three fourth sleeves to feel cooler and hide any bulge on the arms. Go for V necklines as they will make your neck and upper body look elongated. Don't go for hoodies and closed necklines however cool they seem. Look for high waist jeans, a slim fit one would be an absolute yes!

At this time, you'll have to be really smart when you shop. Don't wear way too loose clothes as they might create a broad visual and also, don't wear too skinny ones as you definitely don't want to show off the unwanted curves. Go for jackets in medium length as it would hide your bulge under its structure and will also help your bum look smaller. For the first few months, buy clothes which will let you breastfeed your baby discreetly. Tops and kurtis with zip-ups or button-downs would be the smartest choice.

For the party look, put on a loose tank dress or a medium fit top with a pair of skinny jeans and pair it up with smart sandals or boots. You can also try high

waist skirts as they will make your waist look smaller and your legs longer.

Also, choose smaller and delicate prints instead of bold and bigger so that you don't look wide. Go monochromatic whenever possible as it will make you look longer.

#### \*Accessories-

When it comes to accessorizing your dress, remember 'less is more' Well, in your case 'a lot more!'

Instead of loading yourself with piles of accessories, choose one or two that would spruce things up for you.

First of all, for heaven's sake, get rid of the typical diaper bags as you are the one carrying those supremely cartoonish bags and not your baby! Opt for smart and mature dump bags as you would during your pre pregnancy period.

Don't wear delicate and sharp accessories that might get dangerous for the baby. Instead, go for non-edgy flat accessories. Wear large and bold rings to make your hands look smaller and wear statement earrings that pull most of the attention. Use scarves as they would definitely brighten up a dull dress and will elongate your torso.



### POOJA NARANG

Author is a fashion designer and specializes in Indian and Western dresses. She runs a boutique, "Jazz and Jassi"





**FASHION BITES**

POOJA NARANG



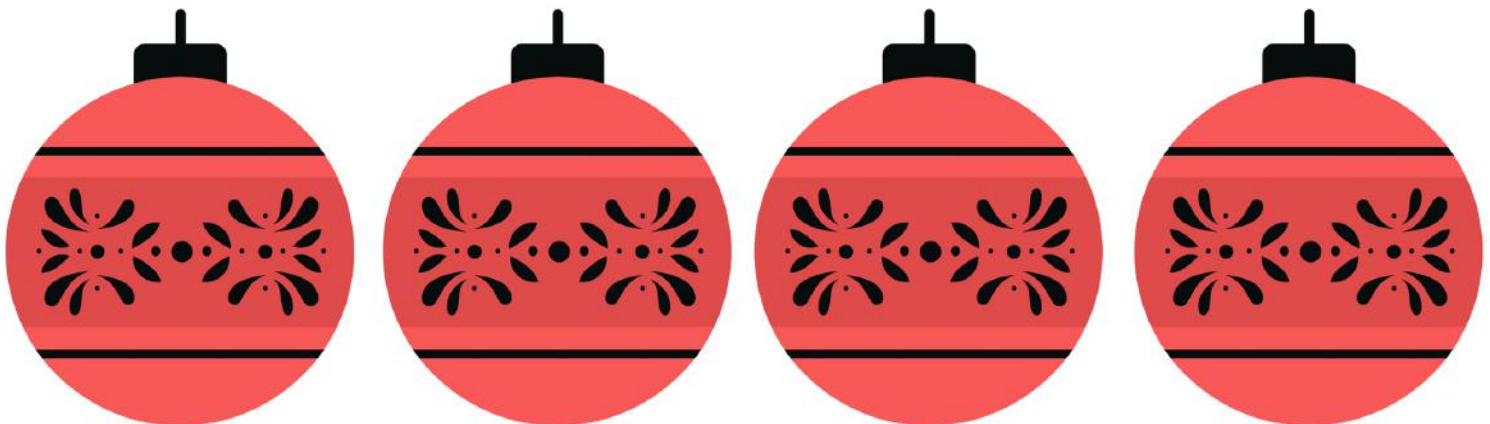
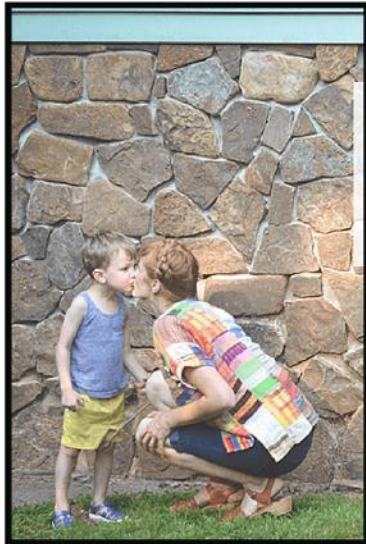
Wear sandals with a cork sole and slight heels that are comfortable and also give you that needed feminine vibe.

The hottest and trendiest sunglasses is a must for you as it is the most harmless accessory and will hide the dark circles occurring due to all those sleepless nights.

**\*Makeup-**

The 'less is more theory' would be applicable in almost all the spheres of fashion right now! Although you might go for a little contouring so as to give your face a little structure, also make sure to go for tinted moisturizers, bb creams or light weight concealers instead of heavy foundations. Do apply a little color on your cheeks and eyes, but remember, very little. Go for a long lasting and kiss proof lipstick so that you can kiss your baby as many times as you want and it would neither harm the baby nor your lipstick would smudge or fade. But make sure to put on a lipstick as it brightens up the entire face. For your hair, now is the time to learn all those stylish buns and ponies you have been browsing on the internet as you don't want your hair to fall on your face and over your shoulders with your baby in your arms.

***Hope you found the information helpful! And now that you are a mom, be a stylish one!***



# CHARACTER ♥ ANALYSIS



## Hey guys!

Usually this place is reserved for a famous character, various aspects of looking at it and opinions about it. And honestly today I sat down to study about another one of them, only when suddenly a figure came in front of me, shoved a bottle in my hand and commanded--"Are you camel? It's so hot outside! Drink some water!" and I politely obliged.

Well yes; the most elusive, the most famous and possibly the weirdest personality one can ever face in their life...Mother!

According to Wikipedia, 'Mother' is a female who inhabits or performs the role of bearing some relation to their off-springs in giving them birth, raising the child or supplying ovum for fertilization or combination of these.

## So who exactly is Mother?

**Mother (noun):** A person with the ability to detect a lie, hear the smallest noises (except when they are meant to hear) and see out the even from the back of their head. When I took up this topic, I must say it seemed impossible to achieve! Because the foremost feature of a mother is - SHE IS A WOMAN FIRST! - FOREMOST! – hence, beyond anybody's limited boundaries of sensibility!

Next she can actually (yes, I actually mean by my word actually), read your thoughts and secrets before you say it. And oh yes, she fights over smallest things in the world! And oh no, she does not get along well with anyone, especially not the vegetable vendors! She is definitely dangerously hard working and addicted to house chores. But tell her once about improving her own fitness and she will beat you at all levels of giving excuses! Unless she is already fitness freak by herself and is now after you and your entire band of friends for yoga!

Another very common feature that one can observe is that she is a living matrimonial site. First of all she is informed in detail about every other person's marriage and possibilities of marriage in the locality. Next moment she is obviously after you about the same topic! She is apparently very trusting and takes people on their face value. But just poke her once and she will provide you with a long tutorial about, "How to be judgmental?" She is loud...very loud...especially on the most embarrassing topics! And a small idea, give her a chance and you will find no person more adventurous than her! Okay she feeds with unlimited amount of food...but feeding people till they feel like a balloon needs to be banned and that she would never understand, for sure!

She is usually tensed, stressed & freaked and that is very evident on her face. But please don't ask for the reason...you will never get a logical answer to that one, trust me! But the most important feature of a mother is probably the capability to own you up, to impose her rights and reserves on you the way no one can ever do. Therefore she can be your best friend or even fighting antagonist that too both at the same time! And last but not the least she is definitely undoubtedly the most beautiful woman you will see in your entire life. This, my friends is a short summary on what a mother's nature is like & as a saying rightly goes about her, "Mommies are just big little girls"!

**Oh indeed, they would never accept so but they are!**



## ANTARA BANDYOPADHYAY

The author hails from Kolkatta. She is trying to find her ability in placing words at right place.

*The Story Is You*

# JACHO

Beautiful like never before

## BALANCING MOTHERHOOD AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

An Indian girl from a small town at an age of 23 years with a job in an MNC as a software engineer is considered to have entered at a right age for marriage. Shefali's parents were very keen to get her married but she had some other ideas running in her mind. It is a truth universally acknowledged in India that a software engineer in possession of a job looks for an MBA to move beyond pure technical. This time it was little different as Shefali decided and convinced her parents that she will pursue her MBA not from India but from abroad, like a "Queen" bollywood movie she wanted to once live her life independently outside India.

Shefali, at the age of 25 years went to pursue her MBA from Uvic Canada and did her last semester from India's premier B School IIM B in the exchange program and eventually got married at the age of 27 years. In 7 years post MBA, Shefali performed various leadership roles as a Business Unit head, Marketing head and International Business Manager in different industries including Hospitality, Contracting, Trading, Construction and IT in 7 different countries including Canada, South Korea, China, UAE, Kuwait, Oman and India.

So what brings her back to India and reason to take this big transition in her career to an entrepreneurship?

Every woman has a beautiful but challenging time when she becomes a mother, you want to balance your career while at the same time provide the best care to your baby. So, at this point of my career I was searching for inspiration and trying to identify channel to utilize my energy and may be engage myself and utilize skills. The growing entrepreneurship in the country was the right inspiration but was I prepared to take that plunge? Frankly, I did not



spend lot of time in choosing this path, instead of waiting for an idea to happen, I actually thought an idea is just the beginning rather than an end. So this wave started when we were still in Muscat, Oman and we decided to come to India and take this idea forward. I always felt that India is a place where our heart really is, this is a place where we grew up, we have friends, we have family and many relatives, we know challenges and more than anything this is our own country and we just love it.

So as we landed in India, I started working on the Idea. First thing was to create a team, I had a great partner in my hubby, who is a graduate from IIM Kozhikode and worked in Private Equity, who not only helped in setting up the company, but also got down to setup a working website, before a full time CTO joined the company. We decided that most of the companies are active in large metropolitan cities but there are several tier-2 cities which have huge potential too. The smart phone penetration in tier-2 cities is also very good and increasing rapidly, although we are not a mobile/internet company it is just a mode of connecting. Our endeavor is to be people's choice for beauty services and we leave the mode of connecting with us to them. We are also driving huge change in the way services are delivered, this is where we have been immensely supported by Ms. Jaswinder Kaur, who carries 15 years of experience in beauty industry. Jaswinder is a self driven Beauty consultant and an innate teacher who ensures a perfect communication. As the team started building we started gaining confidence.





JACHO

# THE STORY IS YOURS



Beautiful like never before

We started with Patiala where we had huge support from my parents and where I could feel comfortable leaving my baby during work. We then added Chandigarh as it was not far too. Then we came to Indore, where we were equally supported by my in-laws. Being a technology company we were very cautious about having a right IT partner and as a start up finding right people was the toughest job.

We approached some friends and then came across a childhood friend who also tried his venture in IT in Patiala itself. It was such a natural and smooth association. Hardeep is a genius and a great friend. With a strong business acumen and hold on technology, he has been able to deliver and integrate the solution so seamlessly. Also above all the whole family is extremely supportive. Many things are still managed in house. My father is a great administrator, my sister and sister in laws although sitting far off have written beautiful write-ups and blogs to help us promote from everywhere.

We have plans to add more cities at a much faster rate now. We are facing our share of challenges from our partners i.e. beauticians and salons who are new to the concept and our consumers who are cautious. But it is heartening to know that consumers have appreciated the difference which was the biggest test for us. The professionals working for Jacho are now very happy as they can spend more time with families and are able to earn much more. Overall the platform promotes democratization of the beauty services supports women entrepreneurship. People in smaller cities are welcoming such a beauty platform which is currently only available in Metro cities in India.

JACHO.IN which is driven by technology aims to breach the barriers and provide a level playing field to the creative and hardworking beauty professionals to realize their goals. The idea of quality, entrepreneurship, time management and self-respect for the Professionals delivering beauty services remains at the heart of Jacho.in. Several quality salons across three cities have signed up with Jacho which has further increased our confidence.

But this is just the beginning, going forward we hope to tell more about it to people and make some meaningful difference in the lives of people associated with us. Doing something for greater good is a very big motivator which keeps us moving every day without realizing we had no weekends and no holidays.

[mom-pruh-nur]

A multi-tasking woman who can balance both the stresses of running a business as an entrepreneur, and the time-consuming duties of motherhood at the same time.



**Cast:** Fawad Khan, Sidharth Malhotra, Alia Bhatt, Rishi Kapoor, Rajat Kapoor, Ratna Pathak Shah

**Director:** Shakun Batra

**Producer:** Karan Johar

**Genre:** Drama

**Synopsis:**



A story revolving around a dysfunctional family of 2 brothers who visit their family and discover that their parent's marriage is on the verge of collapse, the family is undergoing a financial crunch and much more as the drama gradually unfolds.

**Review:**

Honestly - despite a very predictable plot and a genre I never liked, I loved this movie.

The story features a completely real-world family, and Director Shakun Batra did a fantastic job in making the predictable story interesting and bringing out the best from each character!

Movie starts with Rishi Kapoor practising his 'death' in front of his son Harsh & Daughter-in-law Sarita, both the roles are brilliantly portrayed by Rajat Kapoor & Ratna Pathak Shah. Rishi Kapoor portrayed as the "Dadu" of, Rahul - the perfect baccha (Fawad Khan) & Arjun - the struggling son (Siddharth Malhotra). Tia (Alia Bhatt) is another interesting character in the equation, presenting romantic moments with both the brothers!

Dadu experiences a heart attack and calls a family reunion which results in bringing out the uncomfortable secrets and sets the drama into motion! Rishi Kapoor brings a smile on your face every time he comes on screen, with his witty jokes and live-like-a child attitude. The heartthrob Fawad Khan was at his best, his 'small kiss' scene with Alia was adorable, filled with pure emotions without any sexuality at all. Siddharth Malhotra is improving his acting and touched a high in Kapoor and Sons. The way he expresses his pain and vulnerability throughout the movie, it perfectly connects with today's youth. Alia was again the same she was already doing great in Bollywood, a cute and loveable giggly-girl character.

**A MUST WATCH**

## Kapoor & Sons

**By Kalpit Tiwari**



**Author is a full time technology enthusiast & loves to spent time with internet!**

The story sets internal conflicts between husband-wife, brother-brother, parents-children and lovers as well! Director Shakun Batra presented the reasons behind the family conflicts with such an ease that they never felt made up and were presented in a way that each family can connect to easily. The screenplay was great and keeps the viewers glued to the story till the end.

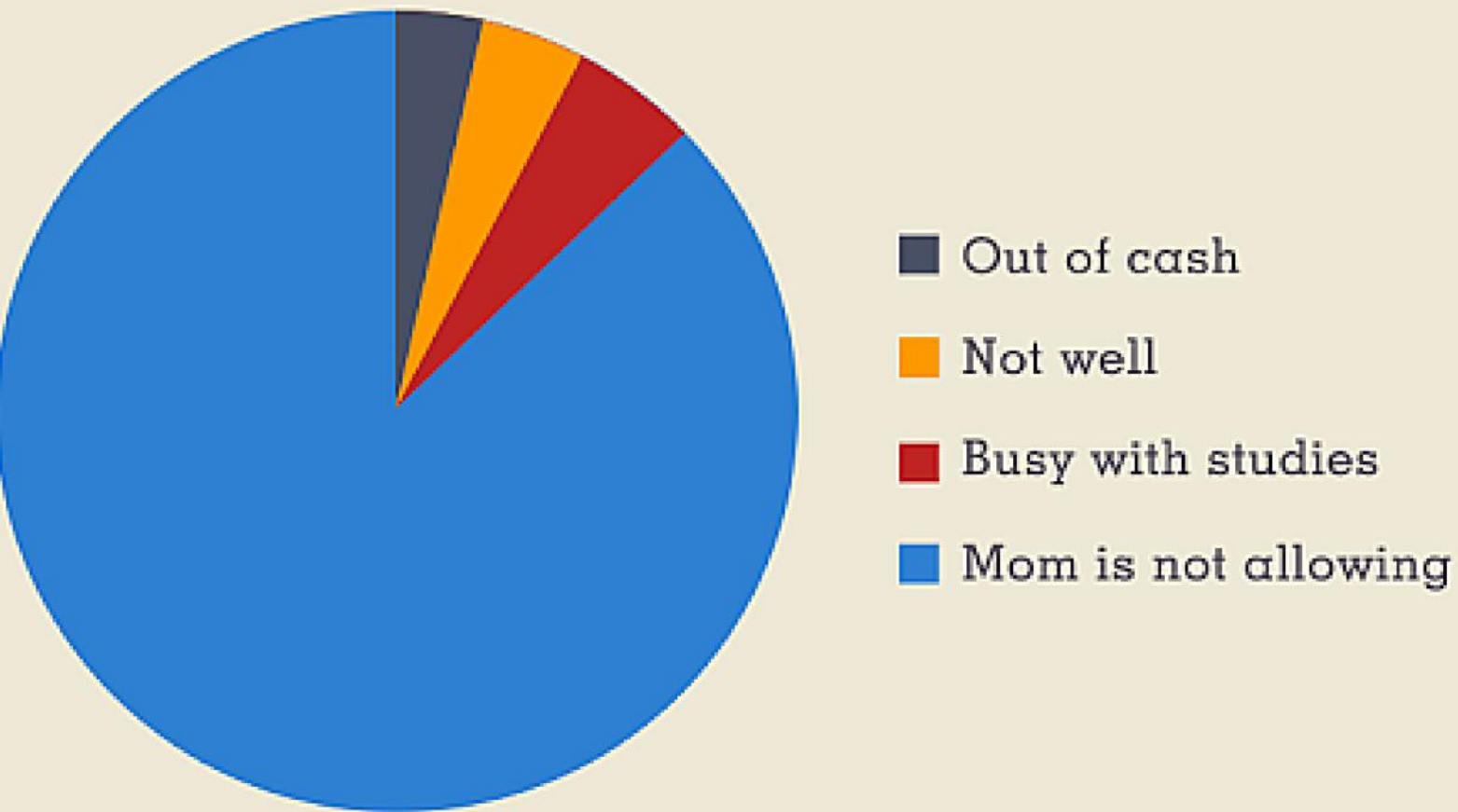
There is drama, there is humor, there is lovely romance, and there are some very emotionally intense moments, which bring out our tears. On the other side, there are also some very dull moments that are elaborated more than required but we can forgive Shakun for that as it is only his second movie as a director in Bollywood.

The music score of this film is also remarkable and contextually perfect with beautiful songs like 'Bolna' and our next party anthem 'Kar Gayi Chull'!

It is a perfect modern age Indian family drama, bringing a breath of fresh air in Bollywood and thereby resulting in a must watch movie!



# REASONS FOR NOT HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS



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# RESURGAM

THE STORY IS YOU

