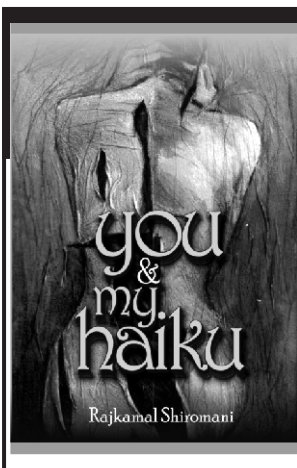


primeval scene spread out in all its splendor, before your startled eyes, up above you by a Grand Master few have seen. In *You and My Haiku* (2010), the restive observer in Rajkamal surfaces and succinctly expresses his sense of felt emotions, moods and thoughts on love, ageing, sex, money, togetherness, ideals and current century in a hallowed form, yet not fully imported here. But the versatile poet manages the discipline and demands of the traditional form very well. He seems to be like a bold Columbus-like adventurer, out to sail in uncharted sea for the sake of adventure, and finally to emerge as a winner. Rajkamal could have easily mastered a Shakespearean sonnet or a Wordsworthian lyric but he practised hard Haiku and showed to the rest of the stunned world that a soaring poetic spirit can find home in any conventional art form and compress a full age into restricted format, as long as it is genuine and sincere. His excellent varied Haikus in English for an Indian audience are like cultivated Bonsai that can acclimatize and grow in both tony Tokyo and Tollygunj. Although every second MA in English happens to be a poet of Indian English these days, you will hardly find a dozen talented masters writing the challenging Haiku that requires an emotion and a matching concrete image in 17 words. Rajkamal is one of those gifted ones, and, although in extreme minority, is doing very well in propagating this unique form and nativising it in his own way, much to the chagrin of the purists and classicists. If you want to find elegant ideas expressed in flowing three-line arrangements in one-breath poems called Haikus, please go and read Rajkamal. You will not be disappointed by the tight fusion of thoughts and objectified expression in appropriate images--- advocated so strongly by Eliot--- effortlessly achieved by this Indian master of a foreign literary form.



You and My Haiku

- Rajkamal Shiromani

ICLLC Publication, Patna & Wisconsin (USA)

First Edition (2010) | Pages: 72

...reading Shiromani's haiku makes one feel as if he's standing somewhere between the known and the unknown, between that which we all experience and that which at times we all feel or think but cannot be described through human means or words. Shiromani's haiku has a lot to say in a changing world.

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