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Sahitya Akademi

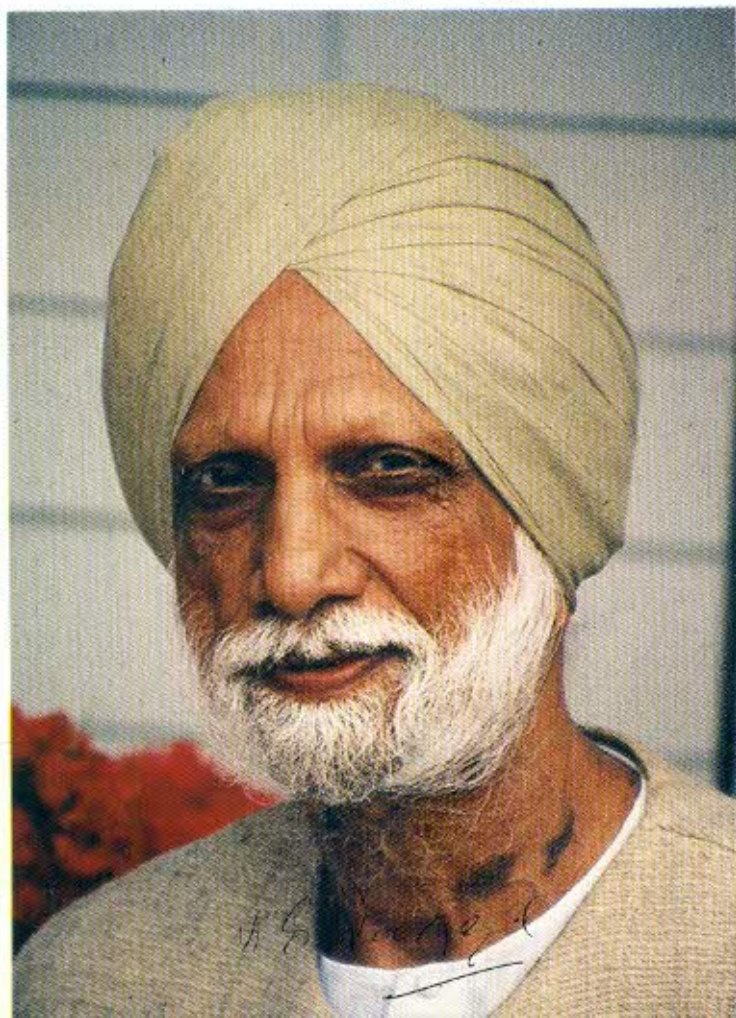


India International Centre

invite you to

meet the author

Kartar Singh Duggal



“Writing has been my first love. For me writing is my creed. I go to it with the humility of a devotee”, says Kartar Singh Duggal. Author of more than 500 short stories in 24 volumes, 10 novels, 2 collections of poetry, 7 plays, over 50 short plays, a biography in 3 volumes and several works of literary criticism, Duggal is a versatile and prolific writer who writes with equal ease in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and English.

Born in 1917, Duggal took his Master's degree from Punjab University. Duggal married a Lady Hardinge medical graduate Ayesha in 1948 when the hatred and misunderstanding between Hindus and Muslims were at its peak. Duggal wrote his first short in 1934 and got it published after three years in a well-known journal, *Likari*. Inspired by his uncle's manuscripts, young Duggal's creativity found expression first in the form of songs and soon as short stories. Consummate artistry and psychological insight mark his short stories.

His first novel *Andran* published in 1948 centres around his life in

Pothor, mainly in Rawalpindi district. His next novel *Nahun te Mas* (later merged into *Ab Na Bason Eh Gaon*) is one of his most important works – it is a story of Muslim-Sikh amity laid in the strife-torn period in Pakistan. The first part of the trilogy entitled *Haal Muridan Da*, autobiographical in essence, depicts the boyhood, youth and years of maturity of a sensitive soul; *Ma Pio Jaye* (later titled as *Ab Na Bason Eh Gaon*) tells the story of refugees and their rehabilitation culminating in the liberation of Bangla Desh; the third part of this trilogy *Jal Ki Pyas Na Jaye* is an attempt in depicting the New India with waves of foreign force influencing it. His *Man Pardesi* is the story of the agony of the Muslims in India divided after Partition.

In his writings, Duggal depicts the warmth of human relationships quite effectively. He lays stress on healthy values of life throughout his writings. Most of Duggal's writings are directly or indirectly influenced by the Freudian concept of 'libido' and have a wide range of appeal. Sahitya Akademi award-winning short story collection *Ik*



Receiving Soviet Land Nehru Award



Premendra Mitra presenting the Bharatya Bhasha Parishad Award

Chhit Chanan di portrays the sufferings and joys, particularly of the middle class. Duggal's main narrative mode is psychological realism. One can share Duggal's deep interest in the psychological problems of his characters once we read his stories. Besides their immense cognitive and artistic values, these stories have their wide range of appeal. "I know society needs reforms but I am interested deeply in psychological problems," says Duggal.

His novel *Sharad Purnian Di Raat* is based upon his well-known short story "Chanani Raat da ik Dukhant". It is a story of a mother who spells disaster for her daughter on account of her own wrongdoing. Through this novel, Duggal has conveyed the idea that sometimes the sins of parents visit their offspring.

His *Phulan Da Saath* is a tender love story laid in the strife-torn Punjab of the eighties. Among his recent novels, *Nanak Naam Chardi Kala*, *Tere Bhane* and *Sarbat Da Bhala*, Duggal tells the story of the Sikhs in search of their identity.

As a fiction writer Duggal feels that his aim is to portray the pains and pleasures of life and to

interweave the story in such a way as to present a true picture of the individual and the society. He cares for his readers more and is seldom worried about his critics. To those who object to his passionate descriptions of encounters in all its details, Duggal says, "any one with an aesthetic sense and a sense of responsibility never goes astray." Duggal insists on discipline in the personal life of a creative writer. With his wife and children around him, he finds his "ideal solitude of a creative artist."

Duggal's works have been widely translated. Always in search of the ideal reader, Duggal translates his own stories into Hindi, Urdu and English.

Duggal's writings are of universal appeal. His is one of the major voices in Indian literature. He says, "Indian literature is a reality and not a myth – our problems being the same we express them more or less in a like manner."

An active person in many spheres, he has served in several literary and social welfare organisations as chairman, president, advisor, member, etc. Duggal is the recipient of several

awards and honours. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award for short story, Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award for his novels, Ghalib Award for drama, Bhai Mohan Singh Vaid Award for his autobiography, the Soviet Land Nehru Award for his total creative writings and his contribution to world peace and the Sarva Saresht Sahitkar Award. The President of India has honoured Duggal with the Padma Bhushan for his contribution to Indian literature. The Punjab University conferred on him the D. Litt (*honoris causa*).

He is at present nominated Member of Parliament for Rajya Sabha and is the Convener for the Punjabi Advisory Board of the Sahitya Akademi.



With his wife and grandchildren

Duggal calls for "undivided attention and utter surrender to one's profession" from young writers.

A Select Bibliography

In Punjabi

Short Story Collections

Saver Sar, 1970

Danger, 1953

Ag Khan Wale, 1948

Ladayi Nahin, 1952

Karamat Te Hor Kahaniyan, 1957

Ik Chhit Chanan Di, 1963

Doya Hoya Buha, 1978

Tarkalan Vele, 1983

Hamma Aadmi, 1986

Paingee Vain Doonge, 1983

Novels

Andran, 1953.

Haal Muridan Da, 1962

Maa Pio Jaye, 1974.



Receiving Padmabhushan by the President of India, 1988

Sarad Punian Di Raat, 1970
Man Pardesi, 1981
Phullan Da Saath, 1986
Jal Ki Pyas Na Jaye, 1988
Nanak Naam Chardi Kala, 1989
Tere Bhane, 1991
Sarbat Da Bhala, 1992.

Plays

Ik Sifer Sifer, 1943
Puranian Botlan, 1954
Sat Natak, 1955
Buddham Sharanam Gachchhami,
1957
Kohkan, 1958
Ik Akh Ik Nazar, 1980

Autobiography

Kis peh kholon Ganthri, 1985
Dileep Duggal Vartalap, 1997

Literary Criticism

Dharam Nirpekh Dharam, 1983
Yug Kavi Mohan Singh, 1984

In Urdu

Diya Bujh Gaya (Play), 1952
Ek Kiran Chandani Ki (Short
Stories), 1968
Upar Ki Manzil (One Act Plays),
1968
Chandani Raat Ka Sitam (Stories)
1994

In Hindi

Short Story Collections

Ab Chithi Nahi Aayegi, 1992

Nanhe Nanhe Gunah, 1994
Chandani Raat Ka Dukhant, 1994
Posh Ke Thithurte Jade Mein,
1996
Ek Nagme Ki Maut, 1996
Bhagwan Hai Ki Nahin, 1996

Plays

Kahani Kaise Bani, 1951
Purani Botlein, 1974
Ek Aankh Ek Nazar, 1966

Novels

Choli Daman, 1967
Sarad Punian Ki Raat, 1980
Man Pardesi, 1982
Haal Muridon Ka, 1994
Ab Na Bason Eh Gaon, 1996
Jal Ki Piyas Na Jaye, 1996.

In English

Short Story Collections

Birth of a Song, 1991
The Night of the Full Moon, 1992
The Masters and Other Stories,
1996

Novels

Twice Born Twice Dead, 1978
The Alien Heart, 1990

Play

To Each a Window, 1981

Miscellaneous Works

The Sikh Gurus, 1979
The Punjab Folk Romances, 1979



Dr Radhakrishnan presenting the Sahitya Akademi Award

Literary Encounters, 1980
Book Publishing in India, 1980
What Ails Indian Broadcasting,
 1980
Broadcasting Media, 1980
A Secular Sikh Sovereign:
Maharaja Ranjit Singh, 1982

Understanding the Sikh Psyche,
 1992
A History of Punjabi Literature,
 (co-author), 1992
Select Sikh Scriptures Vol I-II,
 1996
The Mystic Muse, 1996

A Chronology

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|---------------|--|------|--|
| 1917 | Born in Dhamial
(Rawalpindi) | 1976 | Ghalib Award for Urdu
Drama |
| 1934 | First short story published | 1981 | Soviet Land Nehru Award |
| 1940 | Took his M.A. (English
Literature) from Punjab
University | 1983 | Fellowship by Punjabi
Sahitya Academy |
| 1942–
1966 | Served in AIR in various
capacities | 1985 | Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad
Award |
| 1948 | Marriage: First novel
<i>Andran</i> published | 1988 | Padma Bhushan by
President of India |
| 1962 | Honoured by the Govt. of
Punjab as an eminent
man-of-letters | 1993 | Parman Patra presented by
Chief Minister of Punjab;
Ganga Sharan Award of
Hindi Sansthan |
| 1965 | Sahitya Akademi Award
for <i>Ik Chhit Chanan Di</i>
(Short-Story collection) | 1994 | Conferred D. Litt by the
Punjab University: Sarva
Saresht Sahitkar Award
by Punjabi Academy |
| 1966 | Director, National Book
Trust | 1997 | Nominated Member of
Parliament (Rajya Sabha) |
| 1973–
1976 | Advisor, Ministry of
Information & Broadcasting | | |



Receiving the Gyansharan Hindi Sansthan Award