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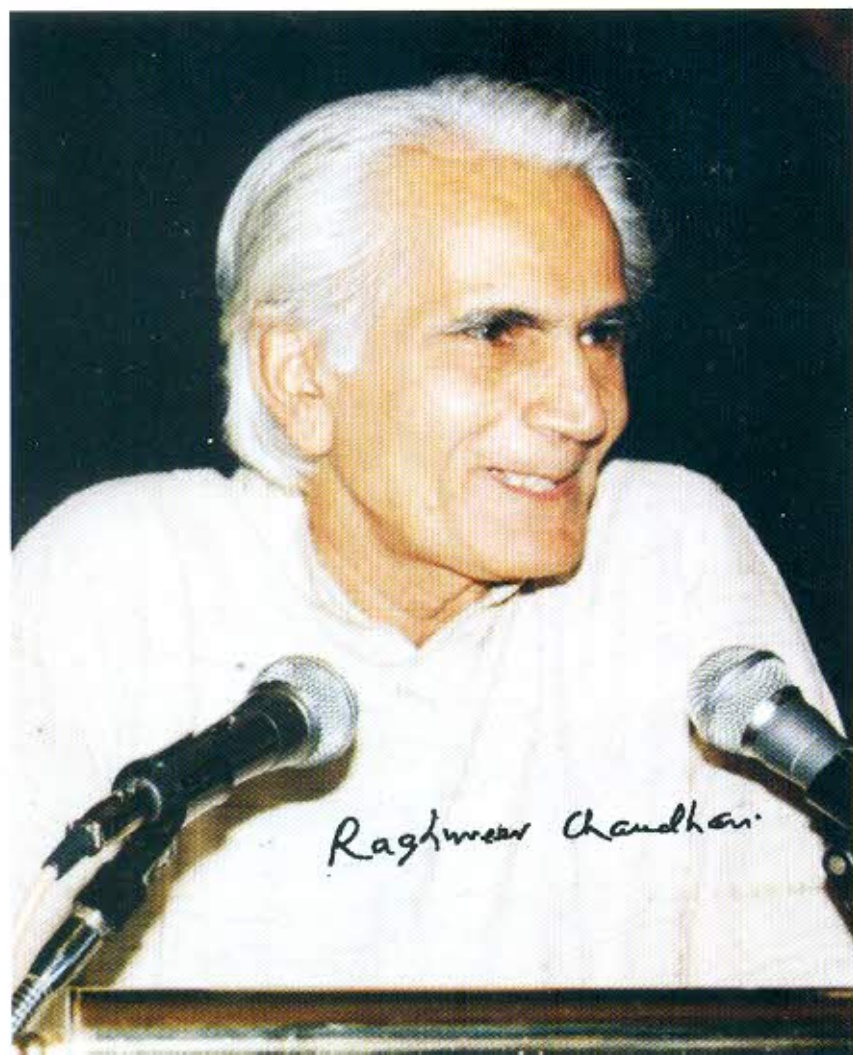


India International Centre

invite you to

meet the author

Raghuveer Chaudhari



Raghuveer Chaudhari, a novelist, poet and critic and a prominent figure on the contemporary Gujarati literary scene was born in 1938 in Bapupura near Mansa in North Gujarat. He did his M.A. in Hindi language and literature from Gujarat University in 1962 and later obtained his Ph.D. from the same University in 1979.

Raghuveer Chaudhari has worked for adult-education in his village and also constructed a small library and a theatre for his school there. During vacations he used to work with social workers and later was active in 'Navanirman Andolan' — an anti-corruption movement — against the State Government of Gujarat. Born and brought up in a strong religious family of farmers and his acquaintance with some devoted Gandhian friends nourished deep sense of a social responsibility in him. This is the reason why his concept of modernism is

different from those of his contemporaries.

Raghuveer's talent was nurtured by the prose writings of Govardhanram Tripathi, Kaka Kalelkar, Suresh Joshi, Niranjan Bhagat and Priyakant Maniyar. He owes his early training to his friend Bholabhai Patel, a well-known scholar in Gujarati. Later Raghuveer developed an interest in Hindi and Sanskrit studies. Prof. Ramdarash Mishra and Prof. G. N. Dickey were among those who led him to cultivate an abiding interest in this field. Kalidasa, Rabindranath Tagore and T.S. Eliot have been Raghuveer's favourite writers. Dr. Harivallabh Bhayani, a profound scholar and a specialist in historical linguistics has also been a continuing influence on him.

Raghuveer's poetry is particularly remarkable for its profundity of thought and the meaningful use of images and symbols. Though poetry writing



With Darshak in UK, 1984

has remained his first love, the form he has consistently explored, is the novel. Most of his novels are rewritten at one stage or the other. His faith in the functional aspect of human life has progressively strengthened. It is voiced through *Amrita*, *Venu Vatsala* and *Uparvas* trilogy. His style of writing has also attained maturity and depth instead of repartee and satire abound in his earlier works. *Rudra Mahalaya* is a landmark in Gujarati historical novel writing. Through this novel the writer affirms the need for self-realization for creating a work of art.

Raghuveer's well-known short stories, *Purn Satya* (Complete Truth), *Chitra* (Fire), *Pakshaghat* (Paralysis), *Ud Gaye Fulwa Rah Bas* (The Fragrance Remains, the Flowers are Flown) reflect his concern for the present man.

Among his plays, *Dim Light* is a successful street play. *Zulata Minara* (The Shaking Towers) is a remarkable effort at depicting the scenes of relatedness of the past and present. In his collection of character sketches *Saharani Bhavyat* (The Grandeur of Sahara) he attempts the portrayals of various creative personalities of Gujarat. In his essays on literary writings, there is a combination of the microscopic observations concerning the art of creative writing and a vivid presentation of the thought content. His style



With his wife Paru and daughter-in-law Sunita

of writing tinged with creativity, adds to the readability of these essays.

Raghuveer is a man of co-existence, but he knows that co-existence is impossible without inner life. It has been a continuous search of Raghuveer's life and literature to attain a realistic ground for human dignity, which would strengthen the faith in humanity by way of attaining a deeper understanding of life through combining truth and beauty. He believes in a democracy acknowledging the basic freedom of a human being and at the same time tries to prepare a mental ground for the development of a humanitarian society.

Raghuveer's literary works have received a wide response. He was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel *Uparvas* in 1977. He has won numerous prizes awarded annually by the Gujarat State during 1965 to 1970, the Kumar

Medal for poems in 1965, Uma-Sneharashmi prize and Ranjeetram Gold Medal for creative writing in 1975. Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan awarded him with Sauhard Sanman in 1990 for his contribution to the Hindi language and literature. He received Abhivadan Trust Award and Anart award also.

Raghuveer Chaudhuri has also been active as a popular

columnist, and has contributed to numerous dailies as well as weeklies, including, *Sandesh*, *Janmabhoomi* and *Nirikshaka*. He has been associated with various literary organizations and is at present the Trustee of the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad.

After his retirement, Raghuveer spends his time in his native village actively involved in his literary/creative work.

A Select Bibliography

In Gujarati

Novels

Purvarag-Parspar-Premansh,
Amrita.Aavaran, *Ekalavya*,
Tedagar, *Venu Vatsala*,
Uparvas-Sahavas-Antarvas,
Lagani, *Shravan Rate*, *Rudra*
Malahaya, *Conductor*, *Panch*
Puran, *Baki Jindagi*, *Vachalun*
Faliun, *Gokul-Mathura-*
Dwaraka, *Manorath*, *Antar*,

Ichchhavar, *Lavanya*, *Shyam*
Suhagi, *Je Ghar Nar*
Sulakshana, *Sathi Sangathi*,
Kalpalata, *Be Kantha Vachhe*,
Kacha Sutarne Tatanne,
Somtirth

Short Stories

Akasmik Sparsh, *Gersamaj*,
Atithigrih, *Raghuveerni*
Shreshtha Vartao, *Virahini*
Ganika



With his children Sanjay, Surata, Kirti and Drasti

Plays

Ashokvan, Zulata Minara, Sikandar Sani, One-act Plays : Dim Light, Trijo Purush

Poems

Tamsa, Vahetan Vriksha Pavanman, Divalithi Devdivali, Footpath Ane Shedho

Travelogue

Barimanthi Britain, Tirthbhumi Gujarat

Sketches

Saharani Bhavyata, Ek Ananun Attar, Tilak Kare Raghuveer

Literary Criticism

Adyatan Kavitya, Vartavishesh, Gujarati Navalkatha (Co-Writer Radheshyam), Darshakna Deshaman, Jayanti Dalal, Pannalal Patel

Essay

Punervichar, Mudda ni Vat, Bhrugu Lanchhan

Edited Works

Swaminarayan Sant-sahitya, Narsinh Mehta: Asvad ane swadhayay, Melo (Literature of Jnanpith award winner Sri Pannalal Patel), Premras Pane Tu (Literature of Sri Manubhai Pancholi "Darshak"), Uttar Gujarat Nu Anokhu Moti-Motibhai Chaudhari (appreciating the contribution of Sri Motibhai Chaidhari to the development of North Gujarat)

Co-edited Works

Swami Anand Adhyayan



With Pannalal Patel, at the marriage of his daughter

Granth, Yug Drashrata Umashankar, Pannalanun Pradan, Bholabhai Patel: Sarjak ane Vivechak

In Hindi

Hindi-Gujarati Dhatukosh

Criticism

Anchalic aur Adhunik

Edited Works

Rangbhar Sunder Shyam Rame (Swaminarayan Sant Kavita) Gunje Soor Bansurike (Short stories of Sri Pannalal Patel)

Translation

Poems of Sri Umashankar Joshi from Gujarati into Hindi, with Sri Bholabhai Patel Novel Manavini Bhavai by Pannalal Patel from Gujarati into Hindi

His own novels : Amrita, Uparvas Kathatrayi, Avaran, Lagani, Ichhavar into Hindi

Chronology

1938	Born in Bapupura, North Gujarat	1992	Visiting Fellow at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
1962	Took his M.A. (Hindi-Sanskrit) from Gujarat University	1996	Received Govardhan Ram Award
1965	Received Kumar Medal for his poems	1997-98	Received K.K. Munshi Gold Medal by Gujarat Sahitya Akademy for contribution to Gujarati novel
1975	Won Uma-Sneharashmi Prize and Ranjutram Gold Medal for creative writing	1998	Retired as Professor and Head, Department of Hindi, Gujarat University
1977	Received Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel <i>Uparvas Kathatrayi</i>	1998-2002	Member General Council and Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi
1979	Took his Ph.D. from Gujarat University	2002	Awarded Gaurav Puraskar by Gujarat Sahitya Akademy
1990	Received Sauhard Sanman from U.P. Hindi Sansthan		



With Hari Vallabha Bhayani, Umashankar Joshi, Harindra Dave and Bharat Dave