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Sahitya Akademi

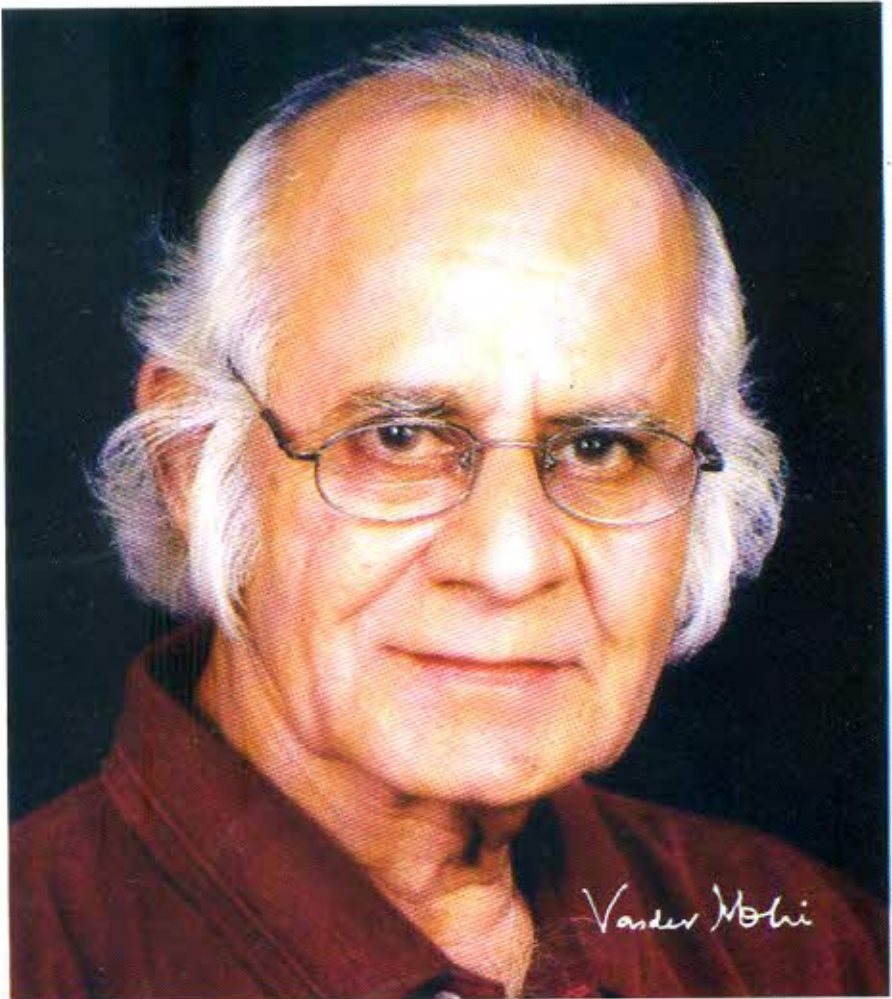


Rang Karam Theatre
Ahmedabad

invite you to

meet the author

Vasdev Mohi





Vasdev Mohi is an eminent Sindhi poet and short story writer. He has enriched Sindhi poetry with sheer clarity of expression, lucidity of diction, and profundity of thought.

Vasdev Mohi was born at Mirpur Khas, Sindh (now in Pakistan). His full name is Vasdev Vensimal Sidhmani.

Having acquired his Masters degree in English literature from Gujarat University, he joined the Central Government but after a short stint he joined the academic profession to teach English in Indian High School, Dubai, from where he retired as Head of English department.

Vasdev Mohi emerged as an icon of first generation of modern Sindhi poetry, with sharpness of content and perspicuity of elocution, which is a rare combination in poetics of any language. Mohi has a

powerful grip on all genres and forms of poetry - be it traditional prosodic treatise or modern sensibility of new poetry (Naeen Kavita), which is far from pedantry.

In new poetry his poignant imagery, coupled with a distinct diction and vocabulary has uplifted Mohi to the stature of a pinnacle of modern Sindhi poetry.

With his very first collection of poems *Tazad* (Contradiction) Mohi made a mark in Sindhi literary world on both sides of the border. After that he has walked steadfastly on the thorny path of literature in all the genres of poetry, prose, playwriting and creative criticism - and of late successfully tried his hand at short story - with a collection of absorbing short stories, titled *Chequebook*.

In Mohi's poetry an elocution of satirical approach and sarcastic observations on socio-political topics resulted into the emergence of the mind pouring out in the shape of verses, which could simultaneously move a lay reader as much as these could stir an intellectual reader with their impact and intensity.

Tazad was followed by yet another collection of Mohi's sensitive poems *Subah Kithe Ahe*



With Gitanjali Chatterji, Pratibha Nanda Kumar, C. Mrinalini and Chinese writers

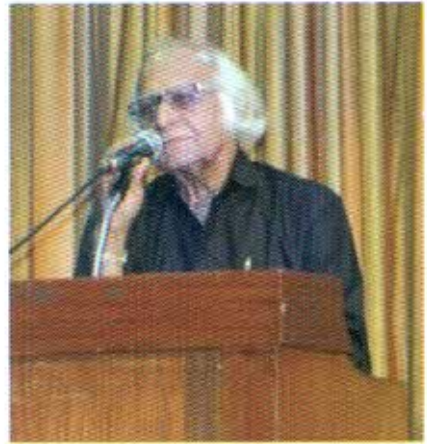
(Where is the Morning?). Here the word 'where' is marked with interrogation. Intrepid nature of poems included in this collection is noted for their intrinsic meanings and intonation of lyrical language.

Another distinct feature of Mohi's literary creativity is his usage of appropriate diction required for satirical expression with brevity of words, he attempts at portraying confrontations with harsh realities of modern life and anguish with which today's humanity is enmassed.

Mohi's writings can not be labelled as inspired by any particular ideology or ism. He rather tries to search realities through his probing of deeper layers of experiences and happenings.

Vasdev Mohi's poetry leaves a lasting impact and impression on the readers' mind. Through all the details of his poetic imagery there runs a deep current of human values, which overpasses all the tangles and transcends the barriers of 'Time and Space' in the instant of time. This leads us to a poet, who has emerged as an icon of modern poetry in view of sharpness of content. It is a rare combination of lyricism of thought and lucidity of diction.

Mohi has evolved a new form of Poetry 'Mankoo' (a rustic genre of poetry) for which he stands quite distinct from his contemporaries. This form of rustic poetry in patois language



is altogether different from any other traditional as well as modern forms of poetry. The illustrative format and lines noted in poems create a peculiar imagery, situations and moments.

Mankoo's characterization depicts the agony and anguish of rustic rural class of the society. This class, though physically has emigrated to urban cities is still emotionally and mentally living through sufferance of alienation, caused by uprooting from their soil. This form of poetry has been termed as a whiff of fresh air in Indian poetry, which touches the readers' heart.

Another major contribution of Vasdev Mohi is the introduction of Hyku Ghazal, which is the rare combination of Japanese HyKu transformed into traditional Ghazal.

Of late, Mohi has successfully tried his hand at short story and collection of his short stories *Chequebook* has been well



With Mohan Gehani, Gope Kamal,
Abida Parveen



With wife Janki



With Bhagwan Nirdosh, Gope Kamal, Arjan Hasid, Jetho Lalwani, Prem Prakash-1

received by literary fraternity. He has also written critical essays and papers for many literary seminars, besides compiling and editing Handbook of Sindhi Ghazal and Anthology of Post-partition Sindhi Poetry. Earlier, he had edited a collection of new poetry.

Mohi has translated Tanizaki's Japanese novel, Sahitya Akademi's publication Antara and a monograph on Namakal Pillai into Sindhi.

Mohi is recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award for collection of poems, besides, a variety of other literary Awards, including

Lifetime Achievement Awards from National Council for Promotion of Sindhi language (NCPSL) and Sindhi Academy, Delhi.

Mohi was a member of Executive Board of Sahitya Akademi and Convener of Sindhi Advisory Board from 2008 to 2012, in which capacity he led a delegation of Indian writers to China in 2011.

During his tenure as Convener, he gave impetus to a variety of literary activities, including convening Indo-Pak Sindhi writers' Seminar in New Delhi.



With Narendra Sadhwani, Gurnani, Janki, Asha Chand, Vandana, Geeta, Gope Kamal in Dubai



With a Chinese writer in Shanghai, China

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Poetry

<i>Tazaad</i> (Contradictions)	1976
<i>Subuh Kithe Aahe?</i> (Where is Morn?)	1983
<i>Mankoo</i> (Poems Related to one rustic character)	1992
<i>Barf Jo Thahyal</i> (Made of Snow)	1996
<i>Mankoo</i> (Gujarati) Tr Jayant Relwani	1997
<i>Mankoo</i> (Hindi) Tr Bhanwar Singh Panwar	2001
<i>Chuhinb Mein Kakhu</i> (Straw in the Beak)	2001
<i>Rail Ji Patri Meri</i> (Dust on Rail Tracks)	2009

Criticism

<i>Gaalh Shairee-a-jee</i> (Talk of Poetry)	2007
<i>Virhange Khanpoi Sindhi Ghazal jo Handbook</i> (A Handbook of Post-Partition Sindhi Ghazal)	2008

Story

<i>Chequebook</i> -Short Story Collection:	2012
<i>Daawat</i> Stories in Hindi translated by Bhagwan Atlani	2014

Translations

<i>Sutal Atma...</i> Tanizaki's Japanese Novel <i>The Key</i>	1976
Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai- Sahitya Akademi's Monograph	1996
<i>Antaral</i> - Sahitya Akademi's End Century Meditations (All from English)	2006

Editorial Works

<i>Vijood Jo Khandahar</i> (Ruins of Existence)	
Anthology of Poems	1976
<i>Jadeed Sindhi Shairee a jo Intekhab-</i> 1950-2010 (Anthology of Poems)	2011
<i>Aadhunik Bharatiya Kavita Sanchayan-</i> Sindhi 1950-2010	2012
<i>Azadi-a khanpoi Ghairafsanvi Sindhi Adab</i> (Post Independence Non Fiction Sindhi Literature)	2013

<i>An Anthology of Modern Indian Poetry-Sindhi 1950-2010</i>	2014
(In Press) Co-edited literary magazines Chholiyoon, Kavita & Rachna between	1974 1990

Besides

*Mahak Jee Dhun (Tune of Fragrance) Cassettes/CD's of Ghazals composed and sung by famous singer Pawan Kumar	2003
*'Ain Poi...' (And Then...) Cassettes/CD's of Ghazals composed and sung by acknowledged singer Ghanshyam Vaswani	2004
*Literary Digest Koonj's Special Vasdev Mohi issue (On person & literary works edited by Dr Prem Prakash)	2006
*Baaqee Vasdev Mohi (On person & literary works edited by Dr Prem Prakash)	2007
*Foreign Visits : Thailand, Singapore, UAE, Malaysia, Kuwait, China between	1979 & 2009

A CHRONOLOGY

1944	Born on 2 nd March in Mirpur Khas, Sindh, Pakistan
1947	Family migrated to Jodhpur
1950	Family shifted to Ahmedabad
1962	November, First publication direct in an Anthology of Ghazals
1964	29 th November married to Janki
1965	June, employed as a teacher in Adarsh High School, Ahmedabad
1966	September, joined LIC of India
1973	June, Post Graduated from Gujarat University, Ahmedabad
1976	March, first collection of poems-Tazaad
1979	January, participated in Symposium of Poetry, AIR
1986	March, Resigned from LIC of India
1987	October, joined Indan High School, Dubai (UAE)
1995	Gujarat Sahitya Academy award on Mankoo
1997	Naryan Shyam Award by BEST on Barfjo Thahyal
1999	Sahitya Akademi Award on Barfjo Thahyal
2004	March, retired from IHS, Dubai as Lecturer, Head of Dept (Eng)
2005	January, participated in Symposium of Poetry, AIR
2008	January, became executive member of Sahitya Akademi
2009	August, led a literary delegation to China
2010	January, Gujarat Sahitya Academy translation prize on Antara
2010	March, Sahitkar Sanman Lifetime Achievement Award by NCPSL (HRD Ministry)
2011	February, Priyadarshini Academy Literary Award
2011	November, Lifetime Achievement Award by Sindhi Academy, Delhi
2013	May, member Council for Promotion of Indian Languages
2014	January, Gangadhar National Award for poetry for 2012