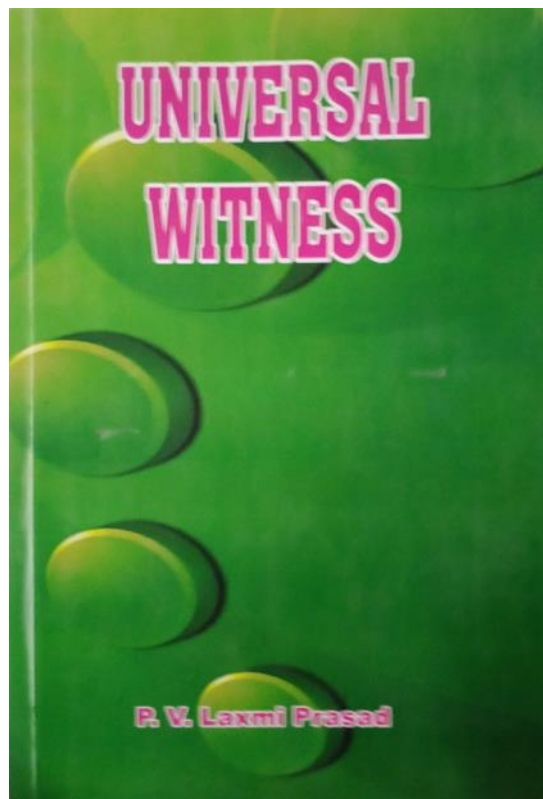


**Universal Witness –A Study of Prophetic Vision by P.V. Laxmiprasad,
Thematic Publication PVT. Ltd., Latur, Maharashtra, India, 2012, Pp 116,
Price 125/-**

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P. V. Laxmiprasad is a well-known and widely anthologized poet in his graph of 120 poems, 75 research articles and 55 book reviews, besides 42 books, speak volumes. His poems bear fruit of love –love for humanity and the nation he belongs to. It is an asset of his poetry that the readers acknowledge it acclaim him. It offers a chest to have a lover on its snowy hill to extend all heavenly comfort. His poems may bring change in the attitude and thoughts of the people to enlighten them. His poetry emanates hope to overcome evils spread in society and the nation for the betterment of human beings. His 80 poems in his book *Universal Witness* exhibit the talent of his poetic art and skill.



There is a flow of his thoughts knitted with the element of truth. A kind of feeling that turns into light wrapped into the ray of hope and spread its song wing on the pages of *Universal Witness*. His creative imagination encompasses all walks of life except a few from the universe and his own nation.

Laxmiprasad is an eminent poet whose voice startles and attracts the attention of contemporary people. His book *Universal Witness* contains 80 poems. Prasad's feeling of his heart is a feeling that blesses his wing. The words of his poetry are simple, familiar, affectionate, fragrant and lofty, which is like dose for the readers to take and invigorate themselves for the sake of human beings to please God. Surely, it will enable cultivating a humanistic atmosphere for leading

lives in calm and tranquility, disciplined and cultured as a human being –with the motto: “live and let live –serve the purpose of creation”.

He is blessed with a natural elegance in his admirable behavior, sweet tongue, and powerful pen. Universal Witness reflects his great abilities, learning and virtue. Laxmiprasad is an Indian poet and winner of numerous accolades. His endeavour through poetry will definitely cure hatred, bribe, corruption, scandal, regionalism, communalism, and prejudice that prevailed in our country.

His poems such as “A Moving Writer”, “A Son Speaks”, “Human Life”, “Human Mind”, “In the Shadows of Life”, “Is This World At All”, “Journalist”, “Mask of Terror”, “Soul of Poetry”, “My India”, “Salute to Nation-Builders”, “What is Poetry” and “Universal Witness” are to be read, re-read, discussed, analyzed and its essence should be applied in the daily lives.

Prasad’s poem “A Moving Writer” moves the mind and heart of the readers and writers as well. Each and every line of this poem contains a message. It awakens slumber spirit. “A Moving pen at My Hand/ the stuff encased in paper/ the colour of writing/ it radiates/ An awakening, a jerk/ it pulls off”. The poem does not end here, although the poet puts his questions before the poets as to how long responsibility has to be carried on. Prasad categorically states that the writers do not to awaken others alone, but their writings also arouse the writers. “How long to carry on / A moment to breathe last / a capability to finish off / a continuous evocative of mind/ a friend that awakes me and you, too”.

“A Son Speaks” is a devotional poem. Prasad has immense reverence for his mother for her pain, pleasure, nursing, nourishing, nurturing, sleepless nights, consoling, feeling, feeding comforting, and affectionate pat. The poet has learned all the frontiers of life to perfection by her mother. He became a flawless character because of her mother. His nobility and humanity is on the lips of everybody. He finds himself in the true spirit of his mother. He says that his mother is no burden for him as he would have witnessed in his social life that after marriage, a man inclines towards a woman and forgets his responsibility towards her mother when she needs her son’s care. A son indulges in negligence merely to please his wife for bodily pleasure or a woman gets his course changed by her nagging attitude: “I am thy body and spirit / When I was no burden / How can you be burdensome? / I touch thy Holy feet / In reverence, my dear parents”. The poet has vast experience of life as he displays in his poem “Human Life”. A man is just like a tourist of the world and the world is an inn. As the poet forms his thought, man’s life is not invariably a bed of roses. However, it is an amalgam of blessing and curse – a reality.

But as a matter of fact life is half revealed and half concealed, “A play, a myth, a dream”. But virtually the readers share view of the poet that human life a blending of ‘joy’ and ‘sorrow’ and ‘pleasure’ and ‘pain’. Nobody can deny it. Ultimately, man perishes with time: “For, man to perish in / the vicinity of time”.

Almighty God has blessed the precious thing to human beings is the mind. It controls the uncontrolled boundaries and tames the ferocious animal like lion. Man could land on the moon, fathom the depth of the seas, walk into space, launch satellites and cured several fatal diseases. Sometimes, the mind becomes poisonous and spreads hatred and kills millions of innocent people in the name of weapons of mass destruction, war on terror, and establishing peace and the mind of the poets' world over do not compose poems with the theme –criticism and condemnation for the superpower –either in fear or greed of award of reward –thus the mind blunders –wrath of God is imminent. Human mind is not always perfect –leads to perfection. Readers must study and analyze “Human Mind” of Prasad, “To maketh bipolar / of hell and heaven / In fraction of seconds / By thought wild, distant unrestrained / To be caught nowhere / of whatabouts, whereabouts, / Most difficult core / To give in / To shape and formth, / Poisonous preying / crossing, slipping / killing sides of self”. “In the Shadows of Life” is a multi-dimensional and multi-layered poem that unfolds meaning of man one after another for man to understand other men because the truth is eternal and crystal clear which can easily be viewed. If you read a book, it may not give you information about the condition of man. One must read and view the world with one’s own eyes to know man. Lord Buddha was enlightened under the Bodhi tree, but it is not applicable and fruitful for all men who live under the Sun. According to the poet, man searches for knowledge lights in the world. Prasad empirically exemplary that search in man where inundates tearful deluge. Man is like a tree which provides shade and shelter to men, birds and animals. But man has lost the significance that he stands for: “Read not books that / Decorate man outwardly / Read world minutely / that stretches, expands / Like burning rods / Look not for ‘Bodhi’ tree / For knowledge –lights, / Search for world that / Inundates tearful deluges / under the shadow of great tree –Man”.

“Is This World At All?” is an irony of world’s progress and prosperity. A neo-cultural cobra is biting on the customs of life. As we observe in our daily lives, the growing youth bud are bereft of canon of life, and by far all life is passing into fearfully panic-stricken depths of darkness. The poet is disgusted with the prevailing conditions, such as vulgarity, bribery, corruption, rape, riot, murder and blood-soaked human life. Gone are the days when

nightingales used to sing song in the garden which spread fragrance to make environment pleasant and soothing. The following lines tell the present situation of the world. One may also become a witness after reading these lines. “A Koel is a forgotten song now / It is fear gripping life / That haunts people across / All highways become stained / with blood of memories / all passable roads remain/ buried with landmines / Human bombs pierce thro crowded streets / Handshakes of toxicity engaged in the war of / atrocities / Figures of causalities / The topic reads of news bulletins / All wetting in the blood-soaked / Human life”. Poem “Journalist” describes the features of a journalist. A journalist is a sculptor of everyday creativity, always restless for writing. His writing moves the globe, making the false true and falsifying the truth with the power of wealth extended by government machinery. As we see today in India, most of the journalists, irrespective of Hindi, English and other regional languages, have already sold their souls to Mossad, an agency of Israel, to propagate the disinformation of Israel and America.

We know that a journalist is engaged in a great sanctified mission, cracking, exposing, and unmasking issues, men, news and views – a unique touchstone of the profession. Time plays a significant role –time and space move the Earth. Honesty and integrity take the journalist to the horizon of fame and familiarity. Eyes are ever watchful, and the pen moves at his command. Undoubtedly, a journalist invests weapons of words in electrifying the air of love or hatred. He is always searching for hidden stories and issues to break or report first. He is indeed called a ‘watchdog’. Prasad portrays a journalist in his poem “Journalist”. Some readers will agree to his view while others are not, “Surgeon of Scrupulous wording /to target readership selective / round the clock vigilant / to scan men, matters accurate / with him does the world / wake up to surface realities”. Now the roles or function of a journalist has radically changed due to lust, fear and favour. What the statesmen, ministers, politicians, elites, capitalists and industrialists speak, journalists listen, record, and without distil pass on to the public for their consumption. Journalists do not play roles of watchdogs, moderators, or analysts; editors instead become representatives or commission agents of them. Here it is pertinent to mention that poetry is a voice of God for the voiceless and a promoter of human voice and issues. Poets do not fear, lust, favour and propagate the agenda of any nation, community, or party. Journalists have already lost accuracy, balance and credibility. Poets must maintain the universality, sanctity and credibility of poetry so that readers trust in poets and poetry; otherwise, poets will lose faith. Remember the difference between a poet and journalist. A journalist is an employee and a poet serves human beings through poetry without lust, monetary gain and favour.

Everybody will agree with Prasad that knowledge is flower, perfume, honey-bees, illuminating Sun-god and shining moon etc. We get precious jewels in the poem “Knowledge”. Knowledge flourishes the brains, ignite the minds, dispels the darkness, and it is a cherished wealth to build up nation’s treasures and it makes the persons and nations unconcerned of global sanctions. Like the poet, let us propagate knowledge to overcome ignorance from our society and through knowledge be capable of judging virtues and evils, who are misleading the world in the name of terror, terrorists, weapons of mass destruction, establishing peace, and who are arms manufacturers, arms dealers, who are destroying Asian countries, our nation and feeble countries –Israel and America are the Great Satan. These two countries are the worst enemies of human beings on earth.

The most discussed, dangerous and misunderstood word is “Terror” and we should understand through the poem of Prasad “Mask of Terror”. The most discussed word ‘terror’ because we read in the newspapers, magazines, and journals, listened to the radios and watched in the television. The most dangerous word ‘terror’ because it kills human beings every day. The word ‘terror’ is misunderstood because writers, poets, politicians, journalists, and socialites are not making it clear to the common people and to their own friends, relatives, and communities where they can influence and trying with their words to other people.

Words ‘ Discussed’ and ‘ Dangerous’ are obvious because we feel, see and hear but we do not understand ‘misunderstood’ simply because we are biased, partial and blindfold of religions and communities. And the most dangerous is the mastermind (architect) of terror.

Prasad describes the deplorable condition of the country in his poem “My India”. Millions of problems and issues – hard times, sharp tongue, lackadaisical policies, the politicization of governances, deteriorating faith in the legal system, criminalization of politics, privatization of thoughts and ideas, modern terrorism, riots, rapes, unemployment, class-divided society, inflation, uncontrolled population, vendettas, prejudice, communalism, fake encounter, zero-tolerance, corruption, bribery, red-tapism, babudom, scams, scandals, nepotism, favoritism. Finally, he prays to God “Get rid of it and lift our spirit”.

We will have to make the world friendly if we want to get pleasure, peace, and all our trouble to release. The prose of life takes the lilt of rhyme when we solemnize, A song to sing; a road to walk; and a goal to win; a vale to cross; a hill to climb since the world is made of friend.

Many of the poems have different rhyme schemes, and variations of lines within stanzas. He speaks as if it is his feeling and experience, but as the progress in content made it attains universality. In the world of a predominantly commercial atmosphere, surrounded by a materialistic approach and deeply rooted self-centred apprehension environment wherein Prasad's heart and head work because of his philanthropic vivacity.

He makes readers feel his feeling, the feeling of human beings. Poetry deals with the universe so quickly through the vehicle of thought that his sight reaches every level of human relationship. The feeling that arises in his heart, thoughts that shape the mind, work together and acquires a higher potency and value. The readers will agree that poetry is life and that a poet's greatness depends upon the greatness of his/ her subject matter. How can we imagine poetry without peace, vision, truth and love and affection, life, fraternity, and humanity?

Laxmiprasad's poetry tells the truth. It believes it takes one at the top of the idea where one's thought can't fly, sweet as honey, as lofty as the seventh sky. His poetry reveals the men's movement and shows light like the Sun. When it runs Sans Peur, it has the miraculous power to join million hearts and heads together. How can we resolve to abide by in all weather?

His verse is marked by the virility of thought, decency of tone, precision of language and stirring feeling. His creation has elegance, touches conscience and provides provision to vision. Readers will look at Universal Witness as a torch bearer and saviour because of his prophetic vision, and the mission that it contains, he carries it as a saint for human beings. He deserves a berth in the front row in poetry.