S. L. Peeran. *Eternal Quest*. Bangalore: A Bizz Buzz Publication, 2014. Price: ₹ 150.00. ISBN: 978-81-88699-26-5.

Reviewed by
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The book, *Eternal Quest* by S.L. Peeran consists of 93 beautiful poems, 71 striking quatrains and 27 remarkable haikus, and 111 pages, covers a broad range of themes, serious and light hearted. Others are cultural, social, emotional and philosophical. The book beautifully displays the sensitivity and intelligence of the writer as a poet and his involvement with the art of writing poetry. The poet takes the readers on a voyage of joy with his verses.

The poems of *Eternal Quest* achieve fabulous heights. Equally the poet shows his pain and anguish to the readers in his love to his homeland 'India our land', …..

> Chinese attack, loss of Tibet
> Pakis invasion of Kashmir.

Here poet almost cries to see his bleeding nation. Equally they set out to show the readers his concern inner peace, with such poems, 'Whither Solace?', 'Whither Harmony?', 'How to reach inner Peace?' etc..

> The inner light that cherishes the soul
> Is a celestial gift for a fortunate few.

Each poem is a carefully woven story and is left in no confusion about its meaning. Each poem will mean a new thing to new readers but all display without doubt, the excellent ability of the poet and a fabulous imagination of pen that has created this delightful collection of verses. The titles are very simple and meaningful.

The poems change in rhyme, scheme or meter but this does not stop the flow of ideas. Comparisons and similes have been used very sensibly and are highly relevant to the flow of ideas.

> Our children are like cool streams
> To parching land and gardens.
> Warm Sun shine on a wintry day.
> Full Moon and shining Stars on a dark night.
> ('Our Children', p. 84)

The poet displays a very deep understanding of sensitive emotions such as grief, poverty, struggle, religion, patriotism, humanism, mysticism and what not. The poet has been highly successful to deliver a very clear message with very well selected words. The verses clearly develop emotions in the reader; some happy, some sad. Many are written in questioning style. 'What Colossal Change?' (49-50).

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The poem 'Nirvana, Moksha' (p. 72), talks about reality into a mythical world in a very fine way. "How to attain 'Moksha', Nirvana", (p. 79), - the readers now wish to go in that world to see if they can enjoy or experience that joy. The poem 'What Dignified Pure Life?' talks with love and affection of an ancestral home in need of repair and of grandmother now unable to carry out these repairs herself. Readers can identify themselves with these situations.

The poems seem to have been written the events connected with life, 'Laughter the best medicine' (p. 63), and others possibly written after some personal experience motivated to be written, 'Senseless Power' (p. 23). An enjoyment of the family life seems evident from the poems. A lovely poem, 'Lost in City's din' paints a beautiful family scene. The passion of the poet is clear when he writes about his love in 'Love Betrayed'. It evokes comfort in the reader as the emotions are conveyed through his words. Possibly family, close friends and students would be the reader for this collection of poems. These poems would offer something to them all. For those readers who are unfamiliar with the Indian language, Sanskrit, or Indian values may lose some beauty and pleasure.

> One free himself from these forces,
> To attain 'moksha' and 'nirvana'.
> (How to attain 'moksha', nirvana? p. 79)

The punctuation and grammar in the book are good. It is however unusual to see a sentence starting with 'And' or 'But'; even more so when followed by comma.

Poetry is the manifestation by the poet. Like painted art there is nothing right or wrong but all is art.

> Nature in our self
> Stars, moon, sun, celestial signs
> Unite knots of time. (p. 108)

So it is difficult to find flaws with the poet and suggest improvement. Verses are believable and very finely written. The design of the poems is well organized. The book is readable because there is a variety of solid subject matter and a wonderful glow of ideas. It is good to see reference to current issues as well as more traditional ones.

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