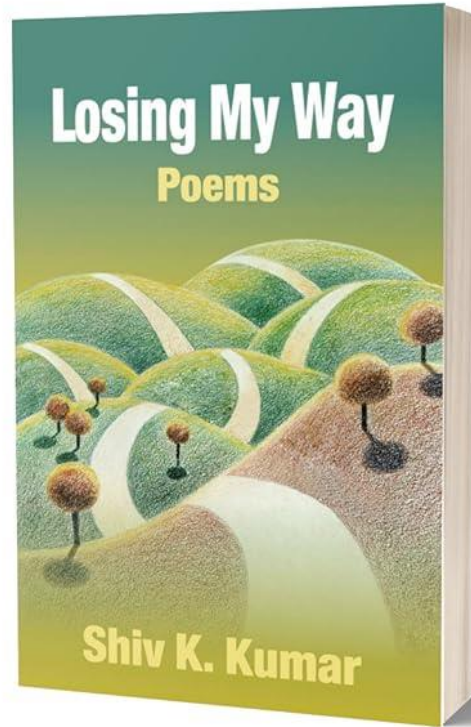


Evolving Poetic Maturity in the Themes of Shiv K. Kumar's Poesy

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Abstract

Amid the post-Independence poets writing in English, the endless contribution of Shiv K. Kumar with his free poeticism, clichés, archaism, and metrical concepts sets him as a post-modernist. His multifaceted contributions as a novelist, critic, translator, dramatist, and short-story writer ensured that he lived a profoundly creative existence within the world of literature. Kumar's extensive body of work ensures that he will be remembered as a luminous presence on the literary horizon for generations to come. There are kaleidoscopic cruxes in the poems of Kumar varying from geographical, cultural, linguistic, and religious to emotional, personal,

confessional, and many more. Kumar created vivid images in his poems about and on human emotions, situations, and consequences benignantly and sorrowfully making them apologies for humanity. The present paper attempts to research and re-evaluate the awe-inspiring themes of Kumar and their impacts and effects on contemporary society.

Keywords: Shiv K. Kumar, Poesy, Benignant, kaleidoscopic cruxes, apologies, motto, judicious.

Introduction

Give me lines or two,
in some local paper
even in the final print.

(Shiv K. Kumar, *Trapfalls in the Sky*, 1986:31)

Shiv K. Kumar is the kind of poet who does not want to pose any judicious or judgmental stance through his writings against the evils of society, but it becomes a natural essence in the writings of Kumar that gives away the obvious and rightful although they are most of the times blanketed with humor and irony.

Kumar's poetry embraces the intellectual presentations dealing with ordinary concepts of society that work as salt as well as sugar in an individual's day-to-day life. His poetry has been composed with the raw talent, skill, and impressions of great literary masters such as Bergson, Lawrence, and Eliot. The influences of these masters helped in shaping and donning Kumar's poetry in the form of intuition, instinct, reason, humor, logic, and conscience. Kumar confines the truth and nothing but the pure, crystal truth with the flavors of innocence, logic, and honest humor in his simply framed extraordinary writings. Kumar favors pure innocence and the natural nurturing of life in his poems. He embroiders his poetry with natural images, symbols, and themes in contexts of contemporary chaos and charismatic chores. His poetic works are embedded with an assurance that intuition is the key solution and motivation for humans when they have to deal with predicaments.

Kumar's sight of humanitarianism is ardent and sapient constructs his literary work as an expansion of an exclusive sound of liberty into a holy and salubrious pedestal of modern life and society. Kumar paints with entire megacosm as his easels of poetry instead of lionizing single couth, custom, dogma, or regional reign. Unlike many other great writers, for instance, Adil Jussawala, and Gauri Deshpande, who pitched 'Bombay' as their ground, or wonderful 'Malgudi' of R.K. Narayan, he chose to fly across continents, customs, and emotions and attain the high liberation of heavenly heights.

Kumar's irony comes with a feature of permanence and par excellence contained in his pitcher of literary writing with great effort. Kumar doesn't mask his works with the scenes that dawn with melancholy and are set with vacuity. The cohesion of ironic insight shapes only his poetic wonders along with providing a mature perception of personality.

The autobiographical elements and the confessions of Kumar with the alloy of his ironic tracks perform the real gravity of his works and their certain trends and trends. The literature of wide oceanic depth and vivacity of Kumar poses through some capital or supreme expression or themes in every piece of work:

Affection, Compassion, cooperation, and Amore or romance Carnal desires, partnership, reliability, loathing, loyalty, and disloyalty Camaraderie, Coherence, corporeality. Empathy, elegance, ardor, perpetuity, empathy, psychological conflicts, concepts.

Kumar had crushed the prolonged miserable silence *In Articulate Silences*, and *Cobwebs in the Sun*. He deciphers a bigger universe of experiences in these poem collections. In *Cobwebs in the Sun*, "Cobwebs" is meant for human mystification, perplexity, or incertitude. Its well-woven multi-fold junctures signify the nets ilk the exasperations, agonies, sobs, whimpers, and feebleness of modern society. Kumar incorporates genuine accomplishments as a poet of vibrant brilliancy in unco volumes such as *Trapfalls in the Sky* (1986), *Subterfuges* (1998), *Woolgathering* (1998), *Woodpeckers* (1979), *Thus Spake Lord Krishna* (2001) and *Losing my Way*.

Cobweb in the Sun (1974) brings the more refined self of Kumar, and the poem is composed with extraordinary compassion which invokes the pure muse of Kumar by evoking the

longing for the 'beautiful' in the composition. Kumar earns the wide, vast Pandora of language and visions of symbols and images commencing the beautiful bright morning dawn of creativity.

Discussion

Gradationally, Kumar sculpts an alcove with seven posterior volumes of poems for himself. Kumar established himself as a substantial contemporary poet of India by progressing with his rich texture and tune of poetic insight and delicacy which enacted in exploration and execution of human predicament to disclose the factual sensory and in present the pictorial communiqué of the cosmic euphoria and agony together in a perfect blend.

A growth pattern can be traced in terms of blooming maturity in his succeeding poems, though there are hardly any speckles of neophyte in his earlier poems. Intellectual and spiritual echoes echo frequently in Kumar's select brilliant theme, symbol, or imagery emancipating literary pieces. Kumar's perceptible erudition of primal poems bends from his primary engrossment to the musing of an educator and a teacher.

Kumar's every creation is the testimony of his life experiences, learning, consequences, outcomes, and pure observations. He writes whatever he sees, feels, and realizes in his every moment of life. Words seem to cloud and pour out of his heart and mind whenever he goes through some predicaments, dilemmas, empathy, sympathy, or any other experiences.

"Beyond the priest's monotone

a lamb bleats for the knife-edge.

a child clinging to famished

nipples will die anyway,

but your nectar is the blood

that jets from fresh arteries".

(Shiv K. Kumar *Subterfuges*, 1974: 34)

An artist needs to create and establish his own identity. Too much influence from other writers or philosophers can hamper the creativity of the writer. But a healthy appreciation and positive influences of other creators can be admirable. The philosophies and creativity of other philosophers' mend and somehow help Kumar in collecting and commanding his creative thoughts passionately.

Shiv K. Kumar is a brilliant translator as he maintains and accomplishes the great and deep responsibility of ideal and perfect translation following the compulsory and important necessities of the genre. Kumar keeps the essence of the original piece alive and adds the charm of his own in the piece making it mesmerizing and more catching. That is the reason why Kumar is considered the most terrific and perfect translator.

Kumar translated the works of Faiz Ahmed Faiz, one of his ideal poets, in two editions titled *Selected Poems of Faiz Ahmed Faiz (1995)*, and *The Best of Faiz (2000)*. Kumar's vibrant creativity and powerful talent are evident in his works of translation. For instance, lines from Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poem, *Tanhai*

“Phir koi aya dil-e-zar!

nahin koi nahin.

rah-rau hoga,

kahin aur chala jayega”

Translated by V.G. Kiernan in his poem titled *Poems by Faiz*, in *The Unicorn and the Dancing Girl* as-

Again someone has come, sad heart!

No, nobody.

It will be a traveler; he will be going somewhere else.

Again, translated by Daud Kamal in

There is someone at the
door, dear heart!

But no, there is none.

It might be a wanderer,
he will go hence, plodding
his weavy way.

And finally, Shiv K. Kumar's translation in his *Selected Poems of Faiz Ahmed Faiz* reads-

Is someone out there again,

O my aggrieved heart?

No, perhaps some passer-by, bound somewhere.

(Shiv K. Kumar, 1995: 23)

The autobiographical search exposes a few similarities and virtues that made Kumar the most desirable accurate and appreciated translator of Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poetry. Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Shiv K. Kumar share the same regional space and language. Both belong to Lahore and speak Punjabi. Secondly, though they are different in their way of creative performances they are unconditionally romantic and appreciate love poetry. Thirdly, both of them chose Irony as the device of their creative works and their treatment and adoption of the device is remarkable. Fourthly they are very determined in their observation, projection, and admiration for nature, love, and sorrow surface in their works with utter perfection. Fifthly, Faiz and Kumar show great influences of Eliot on their poetic graphs. There are resemblances and desperate yet sophisticated obedience of Eliot in both of their works which makes them compatible and helps Kumar to create a great harmony of translator.

Makarand Paranjape's taxonomies of contemporary poets titled, *Introduction to Indian Poetry in English* prudently emplaces Kumar in his main significance the rubric of those writers who compose "conventional" or "clear" balladry or poem and resists them who adopted language as "esoteric" or "obscure".

"Once I was ordinary.

I/Sat by my father's bean tree

Eating the fingers of wisdom".

(Sylvia Plath, *Maenad*, 1981: 32)

Sylvia Plath is highly influenced by her father whereas Kumar denies compromising and following along his father's beliefs of sagacity. But as a poet and literary creator, Kumar often discerns Sylvia Plath because between them there are uncountable compatibilities in incompatibilities.

Kumar took English as an intercontinental language, as the medium for his literary productions as the ambit and variance of his proficiencies are herculean. This approach aided Kumar in detaching himself from battered patches of credo or couth and his consummation of fiery spirit. It manifests why Kumar fills his poetry to the brim with elliptical articulation like "anonymity is a *chadar* that covers/ up pimples on the soul", "the moment of despair/ has no age/ no discretion", "perversion too is perception" etc.

The ingredients with which Kumar cooks and bakes his poetry are bold, firm always candid, the rein of imagination and fancy is calculative and limited. Kumar's poetry has genuine footing because they come from his real speculations, observations, and experiences and so there is no spiritual syrup or "rose-colored glass" to gaze through besmirched perspective. Valleys of experience, whether endured physically or initiated psychologically sprouts or grows as the poetry of Kumar, pursuing the audience to muse and connect concomitantly.

Research Methods

The *omnium gatherum* (Latin for "gathered together") of themes in the select poesy of Shiv K. Kumar provided earlier is a comprehensive compilation of recurring themes found in Kumar's poetry. This compilation was created based on an analysis of Shiv K. Kumar's body of work, including critical reviews, scholarly interpretations, and thematic patterns evident in his poetry collections.

The research methodology used to compile these themes likely involved:

Literary Analysis: Scholars and critics may have conducted in-depth literary analyses of Shiv K. Kumar's poetry collections to identify recurring themes, motifs, and symbols. This analysis involves close reading of the poems, and examining language, imagery, narrative structure, and thematic development.

Comparative Studies: Researchers may have compared Kumar's poetry with other works of Indian literature, poetry from different cultural traditions, or contemporary poetry to contextualize his thematic concerns and artistic style. Comparative studies help highlight unique aspects of Kumar's poetry and its contribution to the broader literary landscape.

Result

Shiv K. Kumar, an eminent Indian poet, has explored various themes in his poetry, reflecting upon the human condition, societal issues, and spiritual quests. Here's an omnium gatherum of some of the prevalent themes found in his select poesy:

Identity and Self-Exploration: Kumar's poetry often delves into questions of identity, exploring the nuances of personal and cultural identity, as well as the journey of self-discovery. Being of Indian origin and having lived through a period of significant cultural flux, Kumar's poetry grapples with questions of identity, belonging, and displacement. He explores the tensions between tradition and modernity, as well as the immigrant experience.

Spirituality and Mysticism: Themes of spirituality, mysticism, and philosophical inquiry are prevalent in Kumar's poetry, reflecting his exploration of metaphysical realms and the search for

deeper meaning in life. His poetry frequently explores spiritual and mystical dimensions, drawing inspiration from Hindu philosophy, Sufism, and other spiritual traditions. Themes of transcendence, enlightenment, and the search for ultimate truth are prevalent.

Love and Relationships: Kumar's poetry explores various facets of love and relationships, including romantic love, familial bonds, and friendships. He delves into the complexities of human emotions and connections. Kumar's poetry is imbued with themes of love, both romantic and platonic, as well as the yearning for connection and intimacy. He often explores the complexities of human relationships and the emotions they evoke.

Nature and the Landscape: The beauty of nature and the environment frequently appear as themes in Kumar's poetry. He celebrates the natural world and often uses vivid imagery to evoke the wonders of the landscape. The beauty of nature and the natural world often find resonance in Kumar's poetry. He portrays landscapes with vivid imagery, celebrating the harmony and majesty of the natural environment.

Social Commentary: Kumar's poetry offers insights into social issues and human experiences, including themes of inequality, injustice, and societal change. He sheds light on the struggles of marginalized communities and advocates for empathy and understanding. Kumar is known for his astute observations of society and culture. His poetry reflects on social injustices, political turmoil, and the struggles of marginalized communities, urging for empathy and social change.

Cultural Heritage and Tradition: Themes of cultural heritage, tradition, and folklore are woven throughout Kumar's poetry. He draws inspiration from Indian culture and mythology, as well as other cultural traditions, to explore universal themes and narratives.

Memory and Nostalgia: Kumar's poetry often reflects on memory and nostalgia, capturing the passage of time and the significance of past experiences. He evokes a sense of longing for bygone days and explores how memory shapes our understanding of the present. Kumar often reflects on the passage of time and the nostalgia associated with memories of the past. His poetry captures moments of reminiscence, reflecting on the bittersweet nature of memory and its role in shaping individual and collective identities

Language and Expression: As a poet, Kumar is deeply engaged with questions of language and poetic expression. He experiments with form, rhythm, and imagery, exploring the power of language to evoke emotion and convey meaning. As a poet, Kumar is deeply concerned with the power of language and the act of poetic expression. His verse explores the nuances of language, experimenting with form, rhythm, and imagery to evoke emotive responses in the reader

Existential Reflections: Kumar's poetry grapples with existential questions about life, death, and the nature of existence. He contemplates the human condition with philosophical insight, exploring themes of mortality, impermanence, and the search for transcendence. Kumar often delves into the existential quandaries of human existence, contemplating the meaning of life, the inevitability of death, and the transient nature of being. Kumar's poetry is infused with philosophical musings on the nature of reality, consciousness, and the human condition. He engages with existential questions and philosophical dilemmas, inviting readers to contemplate the deeper meanings of life and existence.

Hope and Resilience: Amidst the complexities of life, Kumar's poetry often conveys a sense of hope and resilience. He celebrates the human spirit and the capacity for growth, transformation, and renewal. Finally, Kumar's poetry often conveys a sense of hope and redemption, suggesting the possibility of transcendence beyond the limitations of earthly existence. He explores themes of enlightenment, salvation, and spiritual liberation, offering glimpses of transcendental experiences.

These themes collectively contribute to the richness and depth of Shiv K. Kumar's poetic oeuvre, showcasing his profound insight into the complexities of the human experience and the universe at large.

Shiv K. Kumar is acknowledged as a poet specifically for his extraordinary theme selection and brilliant poetic persona. Kumar's poesy consists of ordinary themes concerning human predicaments, their trials and tribulations, their treachery, and their conflicts and crises. The present research is a portrait of a descriptive study of Shiv K. Kumar's poetry collection and the incredible themes and concepts they are dealing with in detail to prove the hypothesis of the present research.

Conclusion

Kumar's consistent and successive writing belongs to his poetic tactics and talent to perceive reverie as a motif of feelings. The perfect scales of blissful scaling between 'wobbly contrivance' and 'foundry of the brain' or 'silky twine' and 'dour hues' also, project the etch poetry of Kumar. This harmonizing scale is a mass majestic regimen of aesthetic approaches remarked on by W.B. Yeats. Kumar's writing is always the epitome of inner emotional commotion in the idiosyncratic perception. They are never adjutant to societal doctrines or hypocrisy. Kumar sorts emotions that get conjugated to creativity. Intuitions and expressions are connected so warmly and intensely in the works of Kumar that they provide liberty to the readers leaving them with hammering hearts and compassionate minds.

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