

The background of the cover is a photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a calm lake reflects the surrounding landscape. The middle ground shows steep, forested mountainsides leading to a valley floor. In the distance, more mountain ranges are visible under a clear sky. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greens, and earthy tones.

ROADS TAKEN IN LIFE

**Rewarding
Routes Revealed**

By
Dr Ram Lakhan Prasad

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REVEALED**

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A close-up portrait of an elderly man with thinning grey hair, wearing gold-rimmed glasses, a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a framed picture partially visible on the left.

**ROADS
TAKEN
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Dr Ram Lakhan
Prasad

Life is worth slowing down in Old-Age

BOTINI



TO



BELLBOWRIE

ROADS TAKEN IN LIFE

REWARDING ROUTES REVEALED

By

Dr Ram Lakhan Prasad

September, 2019

Dr Ram Lakhan Prasad began his creative writing in 1952 while at High School and by 2019 he has written and published over fifty of his publications and these have included his novels, collections of essays, short stories and poems as well as a few invocations.

All of his publications can be read online.

Copyright Publication



Dr Ram Lakhan Prasad

August 2019

Published online www.freebooks.net.com

DEDICATION

We dedicate this publication to all our children and grandchildren

Praanesh & Ranitta
Praneeta & Shalendra
Harshita & Naresh
Rohitesh & Winnie
Jaya & Murli
Jay & Luta

Jaya, Meera, Hamish, Jayden, Anjali, Sonali, Elliot, Charlotte,
Nirav, Aayush, Emmanuel, Nishtha

Sometimes we love our children too much that we try to protect them from all the hurts in the world, including disappointment. We realized that this is often a disappointment in itself.



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I. FOREWORD

By Jagdeesh Ram Sahay
Former Principal of Dudley High School, Suva, Fiji.



The writer Dr Ram Lakhan Prasad, son of a rural farming community in Botini, Nadi, Fiji has travelled through a winding uphill road encountering myriads of pot holes on a dirt road, finally reaching the Motorways of Brisbane. He was destined to triumph and achieve Nirvana. Our proud son of Fiji has told many tales, none as gripping and profound as this one. With an ardent spirit within him our courageous fighter managed to overcome many adversities and has reached his goals.

My association with Dr Prasad goes back to Natabua High, a Select Government boarding school where we had inspiring teachers and great colleagues. We then joined the Teachers' College, a great place to mix and learn with our Indigenous Fijian students and go out to serve the community. Our first posting was in rural Labasa, the friendly north where we served and learned a lot to adjust our life.

Roads Taken In Life, his 50th publication is a gem. It presents reflections of a seasoned traveller who is kind enough to share his wealth of ideas and experiences, gathered in his search for the meaning and purpose of life. Dr Prasad shares knowledge and strategies acquired in a lifetime, empowering him and his readers to discover Truth, Love, Goodness and Peace.

He is forever grateful to God, his teachers, his family members, other people around him and

institutions he was associated with for providing him a supportive environment.

Every chapter dwells on a crucial element in the strategies used to work out solutions. All the way there are diyas (little lamps) illuminating the path to success, rekindling hopes and refuelling aspirations. The guiding principles are reinforced. The significance of other elements in this volume includes the power of silence and controlling anger. It is claimed that we can draw strength from within which will ignite the flame of motivation.

Chapter 8 examines how truth, beauty and goodness are the essence of our humanity. Ravindranath Tagore's ideas are analysed and show how important they are in making the right choices to take the right road in life.

Traveling with Dr Prasad we get to know him quite closely as he lets us in on his inner thoughts and goodwill towards all. The human values proclaimed, preached and practised by devotees of various Saints amply resonates the values in this book.

At the end of this journey the readers will be refreshed not exhausted but inspired to make resolutions to get into a positive mind set and awaken the humanity within us. We will appreciate the life we have and the opportunities to become better and do more for those in need.

Jagdeesh Ram Sahay.



II. PROLOGUE

MY LIFE HAS BEEN A 'CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS'



There have been a few moments in my life when I was sad, hurt, angry, mad and even disappointed but I had the courage and tenacity to put on a happy face and move on living my life knowing fully well that it was God's gift and was short. I knew and understood that many things in real life would hurt but I had the confidence that I will survive. For me almost all my disappointments were just God's way of saying "I have got something much better for you, my son. Be patient, live and love your life, have faith in Me and yourself and hope for the better."

So I began to develop faith and have hope but I never expected and even looked forward to have a pleasant life but never waited for it. I believed in the maxim - come what may. I had a wonderful family, many faithful friends but very early in life I learnt never to trust anyone who would let me down more than twice. I knew that such deceitful conduct for the first time was a warning and if that happened twice it became a lesson for me. However, anything more than that I realised was simply taking advantage of that valuable human institution of friendship.

There were a few moments when I was infested with pain and each pain I endured made me stronger, each betrayal enabled me to become more intelligent and of course each disappointment in life made me more skilful. They all became my good experiences that

went on to make me a little wiser, a bit better human being. There was never any rush for me to acquire success in life because I learnt to take life easy but with care and caution. This meant that I would not be disappointed because there was always a firm belief that I had not yet reached my full potential. I had many opportunities to try again within my life time.

Then there was a very solid notion that I developed mid-stream in life and that was that no matter how much love I had for my family, possession or people, in the end when love fades away or your loved one passes away or you lose your valuable possession you do get disappointed. That is the time to take stock of the situation and learn to overcome. Thus, even if I loved my family, my children and my possessions too much and tried my best to protect them from any hurt, downfall or loss and disappointments in this competitive world, I realised that this was often a disappointment itself. So gradually I became a careful and meticulous reader, thinker and researcher to prepare myself for a life full of shocking realities and disappointments.

Consequently I slowly and surely became my own sculptor to chisel away and to create the meaningful workings of my life rather than sit down in the corner brooding with disappointment when anything was not done properly and according to my liking. My whole life has been 'construction in progress' and I always realised and kept remembering myself and reminding myself that there was still a lot to do and create a better future for me.

In this publication that I have titled "ROADS TAKEN IN LIFE I have tried to reveal the rewarding part of my living and hope that the readers will not only enjoy this but try to appreciate some of my revelations.

As I said before if I did not read as much as I did, I would have had to prepare myself for a life full of shocking realities and disappointments. I thank my

teachers for giving me the tools to read and write. They enabled me to become my own sculptor to chisel away and create my life and I always remembered that our life is our own work in progress and definitely there is still a lot more to reveal and do a little better than I was able to do.

I first began blogging and writing things as the start of something new in my life. My ambitions were to finally compose my thoughts, share my passions and inspire my readers to revel in the beauty of each day. Thus I completed *A Slice Of Life* last year for my readers.

I did mention in almost all of my creations that each year-end has marked a new beginning for me and to keep my spirit and determination unshaken I always made it sure to establish and have the faith and the courage to achieve everything I often desired.

My parents told me that on the road to success the rule is always to look ahead with confidence. I began my journey of life a long time ago and have almost completed my destination. My journey has been rewarding and wonderful and I thank all my people for giving the opportunities, motivating me and putting the needed inspiration in my life.

Wishes have been an important part of my life for both giving and receiving them and even during this final publication I am tempted to wish all my family, friends and colleagues the very best of everything. I only hope and wish that all of my books are not only read and appreciated well but they leave some important messages for my loved ones to emulate and enjoy.



III. ROADS TAKEN IN LIFE



I was indeed very privileged to study the famous poem of Robert Frost titled *The Road Not Taken* * because it gave me opportunities to face many choices that I used to experience in my life. There were pathways in my life that were well trodden by experienced people however there also were other paths that were never used before and I had to inaugurate them myself as per my initiative and skills.

The paths that were already used and proved to be safer, easier and familiar by my

elders and wiser teachers were great to follow but all new paths were at most times harder, riskier and unknown but had to be taken in life for good, proper and useful living.

Although Frost regrets that he could not travel the both roads, I on the other hand was able to reverse many of my life's decisions in order to lead me to new destinations and further move on to the manageable paths. I now feel that had I not studied Robert Frost I may have agreed to keep following the roads that were already taken and had been proved to be safer.

Although the route of our life is sometime twisted and dominated by unexpected twists and turns, however at the end of each day we learn heaps from those ups and downs. In spite of often finding those roads difficult to cross, there is always a flame of enthusiasm and hope that ensure that we are never lost and so can carry one moving forward at our own pace.

These beliefs have been my flame of motivation that always adequately guided me with bright and strong ideas and advice because I came to know that as long as my hope, enthusiasm and personal motivation reigned within me I realized that there was nothing that could go wrong on all my roads that I have not yet taken.

Consequently, on every route of my life I tried to remain stronger because I had to be; I had to be smarter because I had to overcome my mistakes; I had to be a lot happier because of a few sad occasions that I came to know that sometimes bothered me and then above all I had to remain alert and wiser because I was out on a mission to learn the skills and knowledges that I urgently needed to keep moving ahead in life.

There never was a time that my strengths only came from my winning streaks because often I had to struggle to develop my strengths. Of course, I knew that when I was going through a few hardships in life I had no choice to surrender. Thus my personal strengths kept on developing and becoming useful to me. I always was ready and willing to take a chance and hope for the best in life.

I used to tell myself from an early age not to lose hope because when the sun went down every day, then either the moon or the stars came out. I was told by my elders never to give up just because you had a bad time or day, however, take all efforts to learn to forgive yourself and try your best to do a lot better the next day or tomorrow.

My life was full of love ever since I woke up to my duties and responsibilities so I never felt any lack of that human feeling and hope abound my life therefore I was in harmony

with everyone I was able to interact with. I have now completed my 80 years of human interaction and am in a good position to leave a few valuable words for all my those good and faithful friends who may wish to treasure them.

Firstly, I know that it is useless complaining about the rose bushes of our garden that they have thorns because we have an excellent alternative to rejoice that in that shrub all the thorns have pretty roses.

Secondly, I would advise my people not to rest when they grow old because by doing so one can become weak and incapable and may even become senile so I would rather be active after I have reached my retirement age than to rest and rust. If we do not properly use our muscles and lie down all the time then there is a possibility that our muscles cannot even adequately carry our weight. It would be difficult to stand, walk or do a lot of things that are necessary for us.

Even our brain is developed in the same way and if we do not use it well to think, read, create and speak then there is all likelihood that the brain would regress to make us senile. Let us remain proactive and active because these are the ways to manage our old age.

Thirdly, I have known and seen many tears in the eyes of my people as well as in my life. There were times when I saw people

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