



Lights
Vivek Chakraverty

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Introduction

I was searching for someone to write an introduction to this collection of my writings titled **Lights** till I realized that I myself was the fittest person to introduce this collection as I have the best insight about the motivation behind these works.

As a whole these writings reflect my journey through the maze of life by which I refer to the constant evolution of my thoughts, feelings and beliefs as they form and reform as a result of constant growth. This growth does not come in a day, nor should it ever stop. When it stops, a person stagnates.

Now, most of my writings are pessimistic, dark and even fatalistic. This is due to the fact that these were written in a period of great depression in my life. I was brought up, by and large, by my grandparents. They were people of high cultural and intellectual richness and imbibed in me the highest ideals of humanity as they saw it. But it was my inability to live according to those high ideals which created a great conflict within my self, which ultimately took many years to resolve. The greatest reason behind this feeling was violence which was induced and was aided by an unstable temperament and impulsiveness. But to be candid, I even as a child was difficult to deal with. From outwards I was aggressive, extrovert and hard but inside I was highly sensitive, soft and vulnerable. I had not reached the maturity of realizing the shallowness of the general standards as set down upon us by various forms of authority and portrayed myself according to those standards. I don't know whether my grandfather had foreseen the great conflict and crisis of conscience that would eventually result when he named me Vivek (it means conscience). With the coming of adolescence the situation worsened. I sought refuge in intoxicants to escape the depression that is inextricably linked with such a conflict, which further compounded the problems. I found solace in the preoccupation with evil as exemplified by Byron and Nietzsche. But whatever I did I could not escape my conscience and the moral anguish remained.

After a point in time the inevitable happened. The conflict between my conscience and my actions reached its highest point and fortunately for me my conscience prevailed. I renounced my former self and all that goes with it. Rousseau once said "Man is born free but everywhere he is in chains" which is interpreted by some to be testimony of the fact that society corrupts individual goodness. Empirically that too will be my conclusion. So, I name this collection Lights as it reflects the initial flickering of hope and light that I so desperately sought in the darkest days of my life to the present realization that happiness comes from within. The journey from Inferno through Chiaroscuro Purgatorio to Paradiso.

Black Rose

It blows in the air,
A lone face stands out in the fair.
It does not like its existence
Life has been nothing but a sarcastic scorn,
He curses the day he was born.
That's the black rose,
Got an addiction for overdose
Of pain
Everything's lost, nothing to gain.
"Bloody God", he says,
"Nothing is true",
Everything isn't what it appears to be
Nowhere to go to,
Black, cos' circumstances made him so.
Lost all hope
No one understood his love,
Betrayed and fooled by everyone he believed,
How long can he cope?
He loves no fun,
Somewhere in between lost his laughter,
Now he stands on the ledge,
Needs just one step further.

Dreams Broken, Hopes Shattered.

- Third Quarter,2000

Streets of Modern Age

You destroy yourself,
In search for power and pelf
This is insanity,
I cannot see
How this could be?
The fate of humanity.

Humans selling humanity
Without any second thoughts
All those men in vain they fought,
For false vanity.
God filled with rage
The human spirit sold in the streets
Of Modern Age.

Kings fight each other,
And the ordinary man suffers
Hate for sale
In the streets of
Modern Age.

Let us stop this madness,
Let us be what we should be,
Let us start afresh'
Before Homo sapiens breathes its last breath.

-Third Quarter,2000

Il Penserose(The Pensive Man)

Broken and shattered
I begin to write this letter
To whoever may care.
Every single day of torment
All these years of discontent
Every disappointment, every regret,
Every single smile I faked
What I've learnt in all these years
That made me queasy
Every single fear
To sum it all in a few lines is not easy.

I was rather fine
Seeing the world in rainbow colored glass
Then suddenly, destiny,
Pulled the glasses out
Blinded it was all black
In desperation,
Like a lunatic for help I shout
But no one answered
Now I'm locked in this impasse.

I searched for sense
In this senseless place
I searched for a known face.
I searched for a way to end violence
I searched for happiness
With dreams of an eternal resting place
I put myself in immure
I hurled myself in a ball of fire
At last! With fresh air came the morning sun
The end of the run
Every answer lies in the funeral pyre.
Now he has hope,
Il penserose.

No use in fighting destiny
What will, will always be,
Shedding my prestige and pelf
Finally discovering myself
Everything I now have
As I lie asleep in god's lap.

-First Quarter,2001

The Search

Surrounded by people, I stood lonesome
In search of an answer I left home
Left everything I ever had
Gibberish of a madman
Shrugged off everything secure in pursuit of someone.

I went from the frosted deserts of Alaska
To the golden burying grounds of the Sahara.
From the ancient pyramids
To the loneliest streets
From the Indus valley
Myself I carry
Left stranded
The deepest sea, I searched in vain
Returned empty handed.

What am I but a fool
In search of a sip of wisdom
In this sea of ocean.
In the streets of human sacrilege
I found the Lucifer's gleam
Among the inaudible screams.
Every time you hate
You resign yourself to fate
The world began to crumble,
I stood standing, while others for shelter they scramble
But this time I did not fumble:
I changed destiny
As I confined, myself in this self created alternate reality.

At! I saw light
In the blinding darkness of a no-moon night
Him at last I find
In an uncharted territory of my mind.
I tell him my tale of woe
My dear, alter ego.

-First Quarter,2001

The Fallen Prince

Sitting in a dark room
He wastes wasted himself,
Engulfed with smoky gloom
With his eroded self,
Feels a rainbow of emotions,
As he closes in on doom
A little too soon;
An unanswered SOS
And a metropolitan loneliness,
Alone stands against the raging storm
Perhaps an indication of his inner form.

"Is truth itself a lie?"
Lost in this world of
Contradictions, paradoxes and metaphor ,
Is his disillusion, an illusion?
He wonders,
Tired of all this blood and gore
In this world of misery and pain
No one's really well,
"Who can say that heaven
Is not hell?"

A diamond in the rough
Drowns himself in poison puff.
"What is life?
Some stinking chemicals,
Or a quest for satisfaction spiritual?
Is reality real?
Is hate fear."
AH! To see life from the rear.
In the abysmal depths of an altered state
He realizes what it is but fate.
In an exit less maze,
Slowly he decays,
As hopeless as the ant flying towards its death
At long last! He's out of breath.
All the water of this world
Can wash his sins
The fallen prince.

-Second Quarter,2001

First Anti-Christ

In the calm valleys coated with green fur
With the wind blowing softly, the world serene,
Recollects the chosen emperor
In blur,
The scene,
Betrayed only by a child taking his first step to manhood
Segregated, sits alone in quarantine,
His turbulent smoky eyes thinking what should not or should
An Olympian in the making.
Ten flickerings of the eye have come since
Has found the answers or so he thinks,
Unites the quarrelsome family
As he lays down the foundation stone of the land of the free
Before realizes he,
That all these time his eyes had been the absentee
That his family consists of entire humanity,
That he will unite
The infinite, small factions
Even if he has to fight, He made it his mission
That he would eradicate centuries of ceaseless suffering
He would make the world one,
Before humanity is as guilty as sin
He would stop it before it all begun.
After another ten moments of failing
Though his body ailing,
His soul again smiles one last time,
He pleads the father
To forgive the creatures,
For their unknowingness
Then he vanishes into nothingness,
As close as a man will get to be divine
As he unites with sunshine.
Man made a deal with the devil
And condemned god evil,
And the priests enlist,
The Almighty as Anti-Christ.

-9th June, 2001

Lord of the Unknown

In the dark alleys of an unknown street
In the limitless vacuum of eternity,
Stands in discreet
In the forbidden hell of inner city.
Wait for the fatal kiss,
From the prince,
Who stands in front of the tombstone
Hear the chilling baritone,
Of the Lord of the Unknown.
Close your eyes, and open your mind
Then only can you hope to find,
He who hides the roots of the plants he has sown
The mysterious Lord of the Unknown.

Break open the door,
One cannot afford to ignore,
The hidden truth; the deep yes anymore.
Realize our nescience,
And dare to cross the fence,
Into the middle of the sixth sense.

The faceless man you must face,
And the form of the formless you embrace
To immortalize yourself in this fabric of time and space.

-21st July,2001

The Decision

Dark clouds loom over the horizon today,
And the road goes on and on without an end;
The descent before we ascend
And my heart, runaway
A ticket to nowhere, one way.
Might be broken, but will not buckle or bend,
Will see this through till the bitter end
Before I go far and away.

I will just go out there and do what I do best,
Run over the tightrope;
Shine, when the times are adverse
The last fight before in peace I rest.
A pie of wisdom and a penny of hope,
Richer than the richest man's purse.

-9th September, 2001

Utopia

A world of unity and strength-
Driven by Liberty seeking Equality
Of free thoughts and tolerance, Passionate about fraternity.
May the buds develop into beautiful flowers,
The spell-binding beauty of the garden;hear the call
Cared for by nature watered by showers,
A dream of One World.
Let the states develop in harmony,
The national replace factional:
The less developed ones should develop similarly
To achieve the goal of International.
This dream I want to share
A mere dream? Nay inevitable reality:
I announce to all those who care-
An honest and ideal polity.

-23.09.2003

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