



QUINTESSENCE

of

EXPERIENCE

Dr. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan



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BY
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FOREWORD

The authority of Suryya Kumar Bhuyan among men of genius especially among historians and lovers of culture of North-East India does not diminish nor is it brought to a standstill by time. It ever grows. Familiarity with his word neither stales our delight in it nor reduces our wonder at its variety. That is as it should be. The mind of a man of genius is not immediately comprehended, but must be approached many times before its fullness is seen. A hill is more easily surveyed than a mountain whose entire height, indeed, may never be visible to us at any time or all the time. So it is with Suryya Kumar Bhuyan, we cannot take him in our stride, observing all his points after a swift look, but must remain with him until we have learnt his high features, when we will be content to stay forever in his company because of the multitude of little pleasant corners in his work which is revealed to us only after such patient exploration. This man of genius reveals himself, as all men of genius do, in a succession of amazements, so that his authority over our minds and love rises from respect to submission. Even when his head is hidden from us by some wisp of cloud, we are aware that there is more to be seen especially in this collection of his proverbs entitled **Quintessence of Experience** we are deluded into the belief that we have seen all that there is to see. Other men of genius from our region may have greater command over individual minds, but few of them have so much command over a multitude of minds ; but each of them is more liable than Suryya Kumar Bhuyan is to be taken for granted and to dwindle into temporary obscurity. This marvel can hardly be explained, but it is apparent. In the few decade; that have passed since S. K. Bhuyan was born, his appeal to the imagination of readers has steadily increased. Nor has the response to it been made without considered judgement. The deliberate decision of the richest and the simplest

minds, after much enquiry and some detraction, is this, that S. K. Bhuyan, in some extraordinary and even inexplicable manner, nourishes the imagination and exacts the spirit more generally and more lastingly than do many of his equals.

His works stand as an embodiment of the cultural Unity of the diverse people living in North-Eastern India, the region which Dr. Bhuyan loved and which he devoted his service all through his life time. Not only that, his mind transcends all natural boundaries and all barriers of caste, creed, religion and race. That is why he is held in high esteem.

In particular, his love for the Khasi Highlands is intense with noble thoughts and high idealism. In his book – **MEN I HAVE MET**, he particularly mentions his close association with some of the Khasi intellectuals of his time like the great poet Soso Tham, the great philosopher Professor R. R. Thomas, the noted physician Dr. Homiwell Lyngdoh and the devoted teacher Kongor Wilson Reade. During the twenties he contributed series of articles in a Khasi periodical known as “U Lurshai” on the relations between the Assamese people and the people of the Khasi Highlands. His preface to “Ki poetry Khasi” of Soso Tham clearly indicates his clear understanding of the Khasi minds and thoughts. Above all, his dream to have a University in Shillong has been materialised. Therefore, beside being a genius he was also a prophet.

When I read his book entitled **QUINTESSENCE OF EXPERIENCE** I feel as if I were reading the Proverbs of King Solomon. These words of wisdom perhaps sum up the total philosophy of life of S.K. Bhuyan. To me personally this book is not merely a collection of proverbs but it is a Book of Wisdom.

Mr. Bharat Chandra Das and Mr. P.K. Bhuyan must be congratulated for having made this book available to the general readers and scholars alike.

R.S. Lyngdoh

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