

Book Review of Eswar Anandan's *Seasons* by Vinod Khanna

"No man is poor who has a Godly mother."

— Abraham Lincoln

Yes, Lincoln is right. You are the richest fellow on earth if you have a living mother. Loss of a mother renders one poorest of the poor, for it is a loss that nothing, absolutely nothing in this world can ever compensate. God can be against you, Angels can ignore you, stars can try to decimate you, but a mother will always hide you in her bosom where none can harm you.

Yes, Eswar Anandan has gone through the ordeal of losing his mother and in 'Seasons' he has tried to articulate the feelings that arise from suffering such an incalculable loss.

In 'If only I can relive those days ... again' the emotions of having lost something forever make the reader sit up and think about the importance of loving while living, because tomorrow will be another day and one may lose this opportunity for ever. How beautifully Eswar expresses this emotion in the poem 'Mother'

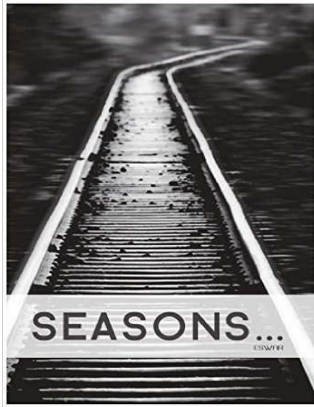
'Memories of moments spent
Often bring tears...
Thoughts of you
Have always created
Enchanting notes of music
Realizing ... it's all I have now...'

The poet, at other times, in other verses, is fully alive to his surroundings. He uses realistic imagery in his poems like 'Compartment' and 'Onam Memories'. The festivities are described such that it gives a photographic portrayal of what he observes. These are true word pictures and delight the reader. He has a keen observation of day-to-day life as it goes on. The smile of an unknown hapless woman, the scene of people crowding around in trains, are the everyday happenings that one can immediately identify with because of the mastery of the writer in describing what he observes. In 'Talking with nature' the poet establishes an intimate relationship with Mother Nature and revels in her bliss like he cherishes his own mother.

The very impressive message of 'Seasons' is that though dejected, the poet refuses to buckle down under the weight of his grief and starts a campaign to eradicate cancer, which claimed his mother.

"We CAN CERTAINLY fight CANCER together" is an optimistic statement and expresses a resolve to reduce agony by throwing a challenge to fight this malady.

It is hoped that Eswar Anandan, while fighting with the problem of cancer, and while dividing his time with his other obsession to see a free Tibet, does not let his poetic sensibility suffer and produces more such volumes.



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