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Last work of eminent Bengali poet to be available in USA

It was a dream that never came true for Dilip Bharati, the eminent Bengali poet, novelist and essayist who passed away on 9th January 2010 at the age of 75. ROMAN Books, a new Indian publisher, is going to posthumously publish Bharati's only poetical work written in English. For over forty years Bharati wrote in Bengali which made him one of the most popular writers of Bengali language. But his English collection of poetry will receive the readers' appreciation only after his death.

Muse in Exile, as Bharati wished the poetry collection to be named, will be published worldwide on 1st June. The publisher will make the book widely available in US and UK market through their new country-specific distributors. The collection accommodates some of Bharati's best English poems, which question the contemporary mode of writing poetry. For the last couple of decades critics of Bengali literature considered Bharati's appearance in Indian literary scene as a landmark. His debut novel in Bengali *Mahajibaner Gaan* [*Holistic Life*], first published in 1975, was appreciated by critics as "a remarkable and unique portrayal of pre-independent rural Bengal." Though his research on Rabindranath Tagore's Nobel Award was criticised by some Tagore scholars, it became one of the major sources of information for Tagore researchers after its publication in early nineties.

In more recent years Bharati started publishing a number of English poems in different periodicals and he was praised by *Calcutta Daily Journal* as "a poetic genius". Ranging from history to politics most of his published poems reveal his extensive study of Western philosophy and its association with Bengali myth and culture. Additionally in some poems Bharati finds interest in criticising the poetic tradition of postmodern world. *Muse in Exile* accommodates this theme at its centre. Bharati feels that the onslaught of *faux naïf* poets was too much for the inspirer of poetic imagination—the Muse—and she left disconsolate. Out of flux, the poet gropes for the Muse in exile. The pen scratches out words that remain a frantic search for a foothold that is mercurial. The poems on despair, love, and beauty are marked off by an exotic approach where Bharati used themes from Bengali and Indian epics and myths. Poems like 'Vivid Waiting', 'Nudity' and 'No-crazy' transport the readers to Bharati's own world of myth, reality and epic where the poetic voices are scattered here and there like scraps of paper. In one word, like Bharati's other works, *Muse in Exile* is also a landmark—but this time Bharati is global with his tremendous command over English language.

Publication Details:

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