

The Ballad of Stalingrad – Anna Bhau Sathe

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Anna Bhau Sathe, (1920-1969) the veteran Mumbai based prolific Indian author, celebrated poet, an activist, an actor, newspaper reporter and in a true sense a man of letter was an outstanding personality. But in reality he was never privileged enough to have schooling. Anna Bhau was discriminated and badly beaten by the teacher on the very first day of the school resulting which he could never attend school. But talent and creativity is not at the mercy of the four walls of any school. Considering the entire world an open school and his keen eyes his teacher this self-lettered-author further produced 104 most popular books in Marathi language. Due to the immense popularity and appealing themes, realistic depiction of pain of people through his mighty pen, Anna Bhau earned wide reputation. Humanism, love for nation, celebration of Indian history and culture, deeper reflections into human vices and virtues, morality are some of the prominent

themes of his writings. His love for Russia is evidently reflected through his ballads and profusely written literature on Russia. Anna Bhau had deep understanding of history, geography of contemporary Russia. His writings are centered around the spirit of Russian society and every Russian finds their reflection in his writings.

Impressed with Anna Bhau's valuable writing on India, Russia, Berlin, Germany, Indo-Soviet Cultural Society- Russia (ISCS) and the organizers of World Peace Conference Paris twice invited Anna Bhau Sathe to Russia. The magnitude of his 15 page long Ballad of Stalingrad, My Journey to Russia : A Travelogue and Ballad of Berlin and many others were highly appreciated.

His literature was translated onto various international languages including Russian, Czech, Polish, and many pan Indian languages.

Ray of hope for the downtrodden, Russia's darling,
Defender of Rostov and Kharkov, and protector of Moscow,
The staunch foe of the Nazis, General Semyon Timoshenko.
The witch of treachery arose in Berlin attacked Petain and Darla of France,
Crushed Norway and Quisling bowed before her.
Afraid were the capitalists of a revolution,
Hence bowed these idols in cowardice To the Nazi treachery
In an epitome of treason, Selling their freedom to the Nazis.
The ignoble nobles of France Cut these ingrate cold blooded
the Franciscan throat, and the communists hence went on rampage the Nazis.

Though with a huge invincible army at its disposal
These traitors sold out France
Joined hands with the Nazis
Trampled the popular front Sent many a patriot to gallows
Trampled down the communist party

Drilled the Franciscan tree like termite Thus
had a field day Hitler's henchmen The Nazis
invaded France

The valiant army ran forward to intervene But alas
the rotten nationalists
Gave an order for the army to retreat And not to
destroy the bridge on river Somme
These heinous acts helped ultimately A win
for the Nazis.

With an army well equipped with
arms and ammunition At an
order from Berlin Conquered
Paris
Invaded Europe, the
war mad Nazis
Trampled many a nation Bayonets
drenched in blood Rumania,
France, Bulgaria Took Serbia and
Zeck, Nordica Went up to Denmark

Created Lamentation in these lands
And bodies rotten with maggots Happy
is Hitler to see this all Thinks my
invincible army
Has made the Europe sick Now
certainly I will be
the Sovereign of these lands.

So now orders Hitler to Rudolf Hess Go to
Great Britain
Tell the mastermind We
stop the war here
But you agree to the wins so far. The
lands we have in Europe. You sit
and watch to a side
As we attack the Soviet Russia
And bury the Communist ghost.
Nodded his head Hess I
agree Mein Fuhrer
Goes Hess with the orders
From Adolf Hitler.

The fascist flew in order to
conspire against Soviet and
create anaxis
but crashed in Scotland
became a prisoner of the British the
people were angry to see him.
There was a public outcry
Calling him a thief
And to drag him to courts

And declare an enemy of Democracy And to
snuff out this Nazi.

The Nazis then planned Now
that Hess was gone To attack
the Soviets And to break the

redwall.

Crush the Soviet democracy And
conquer whole of Asia.
The year 1941 Saw a big movement
And a period of war
The Nazi army attacked
On the night of June twenty two
Breaking the non-aggression treaty
These bandits rushed suddenly, the
Ukraine province
They invaded Kiev the capital Many
a warrior fell in the battle On a front of
two thousand miles

The Nazis stood with their bayonets on, Were
ready these ten million robbers, with numerous
guns and armour.

The darkness engulfed the sun.
Roared Russia's lion Stalin And
his two generals Voroshilov and
Timoshenko The red army got
orders and it was as if
a storm roared over the
sea. The war drums beat in Moscow The
skies vibrated
And the whole of Russia Was
awakened to the resonance
The arms gripped the guns

And the country readied for the battle. Russia
was in the shadows of the Soviet It knew no
treachery in its whole lifetime. With abated
breath waited for the Nazis Then it heard the
call and got ready With arms at its waist
The one born in the socialist system How
can he be a mere onlooker
in turbulent times like this? They
rushed to the front

And challenged the Nazi onslaught.

The valiant red army rushed at the Nazis To burn
down this anti-revolution

And put it to dust.

They charged with a rage And put
to death many a Nazi

The enemy was large in numbers There
was a huge battle

The red army attacked repeatedly and
taught the bandits a lesson.

The Germans tried their best Their
soldiers entered many a village

Thousands of soldiers died
in the battles of Rostov and Kharkov the
next target for the Mercenaries was the

Fort of Sevastopol.

So they went and circled it But it
fought for eight months Giving
Russia a breather

So they could reinforce the front at the
Moscow city

Timoshenko built a fortress By
combining his armies.

Then they gave away to the
enemy The fort of Sevastopol
And got ready in the meanwhile To
defend Stalingrad.

Winning town after town The
Nazi ghosts atrocious
reached the lands of Stalingrad But
received a lot of bullets And
retreated at a run

But they regrouped and returned
They broke the front defence they

attacked then the suburbs now they
faced the red army And the battle
raged once more.

The cannons roared in the city gates The
walls crashed down
The fire raged in the city And
the Nazis smelt victory The red
army turned dejected
And was overcome with despair

Said Stalin to the red army On
the battle front
it will be a disgrace,
to the holy name of Lenin and to
this holy town of Leningrad; if the
enemy sets foot here.

This is the honour of the worker And
the glory of soviet labour These Nazi
bandits
are here to plunder and
to kill us to dust.

So vow now on the battle field, till
the enemy is here in Russia;
we will hold arms and nonstop fight And
beat the enemy to dust.

Till there's a last bullet in the gun and a
last drop of blood in the body let's keep
killing the enemy,
and save our motherland.

These words struck a chord in the
hearts of the valiant army.

They got into a rage so fierce like a
cloud burst struck the enemy They
charged with all their might
and took away the Nazi will to
engage in a battle again.

The Nazi then went to Moscow and
a huge battle raged there. The red
army struck very hard, and pushed
them back afar.

Two hundred miles away from the city They
sacrificed lives in hundreds and recaptured
Kharkov.

They finished six lack Nazis On
the borders of Rostov. It
created a heap of bodies;
Gobbles stood atop it
And told the world lies-- We've
conquered Rostov now the day
is not far when we finish
the soviets.

The Nazi army created havoc.

They burned the villages that
they conquered
and plundered the grain.
They cut throats of those
who dared resist,
got drunk on liquor, raped
the young women, cut the
hands of
youth accused as communists.

There was no justice against
rape and killings.
The defeated Russia became
of slave of the invader.

The Nazis heard the cries of reprisal saw
foes everywhere in the jungles.
Baulked them the bushes the
trees seemed to train their gun
at them,

and the soil mound a
fort full of foes, a
train got drunk,
and derailed off the track, the
bridge on the river exploded on
its own,
a rail-point shifted automatic and
Kharkov train went
to the red army.

Seeing these mishaps
Nazis lost sense.
Started reading letters
from bottom to top.
Their front had no faith
remaining in their rear.

Rivulets and streams,
jungles and trees, bushes
and mounds became foes
of Nazis.
They rushed the Nazi rear
decimated the force
at front Timoshenko's force under
a huge red banner and
shining armour
Gave a kick in the rear, at
the same time.
Thus was the Nazi
caught in a pincer.
The reds tricked them in
those days in Russia.

The Nazi hand checked
Russian wall of defence.
Thought it to be hollow but
couldn't find a flaw.
So they turned their attack when

they realized
the red army's strength.

Stalingrad lies
on the banks of the river Volga.

It curves around the town A
red flag ruffles on its top This
Tzaristin was the first it
became a crown
of Bolsheviks in
nineteen-o-seventeen
Von Hoth arrived
to snatch this diamond Had a
ten lack Nazi army at his
disposal.

He surrounded the town, on
all three sides
And what happened next
I tell you in a while!

Mechanized forces and
a strong army the time
tripped them
and had a heap of tanks.

The air force fought air force an
emergency occurred here came
the Germans
to attack Stalingrad.

Guns and bayonets abound
trained a thousand cannons
now will fight Stalingrad Staling
gave the orders.

People rise and fight Shed
blood for the sake of saving
our motherland Let's fight

every inch.

Cut the Nazi throats!

The city changed colours and got
a new shade
it became the war theatre;
largest in Asia
To kill the Nazis

It became a graveyard.

To save the city

the people built a rampart.

Covered three sides with a
trench and a wall.
Ran forward young and old
under Lenin's banner
to sacrifice their lives.

The red army then
was fully prepared.

The Nazis came to know the
plan to go to baku after
taking Stalingrad.

Marshal Timoshenko had a plan. He
took the industry to the rear; and
mounted an army of ten lacks to guard
the rear with care.

He stood a line of cannon, at the
doorstep in defence. He stood
guards all around, with guns at
their shoulders. And an armour
with a star befitting at
their breasts.

They stood at the city centre of
Rodimastev ready to fight.

Timoshenko stood in the north,
pointing his sword at the
flank of the Fascist.
On August the twenty-third attacked two
thousand Nazi planes.
They rained fire on the city and
destroyed its three-fourth. But the
valiant Soviet labour.
did not flinch at this even once, they
saw their homes burning.
But arose from the ashes, mounted
cannon on the broken houses,
and gave the Nazis a strong clapper.

On looking at the
burnt cityscape,
got Timoshenko angry he
became red in rage.
He mounted a counter-attack; full
of inspiration and energy. The
Germans also retaliated.
They had a fierce army. With
their arms raised the Nazis
rushed the city.
Then attacked the wall broke it
and invaded the city.
The Germans rushed from three sides but
the red army intervened.
Using the bayonets they
raised a heap of dead.
The cannons fired incessantly and it
was all smoke.
There was a battle cry.
Many had bullets in the chest, the dead
bodies cut to pieces.
The Germans re-grouped and attacked.

They crossed the bridge on Volga, and

trampling their own dead; they entered
the city.

Fascist army flood entered the city, and it
spread around like lightening. They
started attacking the civilians. But then
the resistance increased. A war raged on
street after street; and in house
after house;
lane after lane, even
each floor fought.
Resisting the Nazis,

at corners raged the cannon, the red
army took on the Nazis, they fought
arms with arms.

So many dead bodies filled the streets, and
there was blood all around.

Though many a red soldiers martyred, but
didn't lose patience, energy, vigour; on stairs
they slid in blood
but yet fired their bullets.

They contained the Nazis and
at that tried their best; to save
the city;

they sacrificed their lives; and
thus surprised the world.

But so strong was the Nazi force that
they lost rays of hope.

They wallowed in the darkness of despair;

The world said Stalingrad is
now in its last throws.

But then there was lightening in the north sky.
General Timoshenko gave a war cry.
He crossed Volga with his force
And gave Stalingrad another ray of hope.

He then attacked the Nazis, like
a force difficult to cope.

There was again a new energy, and for
Stalingrad a new ray of hope.
The city revived with a new vigour to
crush the Nazi invasion.
He attacked the Nazis again and the
war got to a new height.
All lost the sense of time

and the Nazis started falling like nine pins.
Many a Nazi fell down injured.
The enemy was routed.

And there was again a bath of blood. There
may have been in the world, many a
valiant women;
and there may be so many in future.

But the Russian women are without
a comparable example.
They took to guns hard and
were able to fire bullets.
They carried the guns at their waists and
charged in the raging battle.
To cut down the Nazi onslaught They
shone on the battle field in the
Soviet land of red.

The woman who was good in the fields was
also good on the horse,
and the same woman flew a plane and shot
the enemy armada.
She worked hard in the battle; shoulder to
shoulder with the red army.

The red army Comprising of the down trodden Worked for the world revolution
Really of flame of valour That
created a wall of people And
fought for democracy Their odes
sings here
The bard Shahir Anna Bhau

This beaten enslaved army
Again went to the front
To wage a war for freedom To
get back Stalingrad And then
to Iraq and Iran
Thereafter to India and Peshawar
Wherever the enemy attacked They all
were repelled
The Nazis got real angry. To
kill the Russian moral;
they hatched a treacherous plan; which
has no equal in the history.

The Nazis began a new game of treachery.
They gave their army the uniform of the red army.
They painted soviet insignia on their tanks.

And painted their planes Russian red; they lusted for
Stalingrad.

Like a moth flies at the flame they
jumped at Stalingrad. But many
of them fell dead, taking bullets in
the chest. Many were trodden
below, the roaring tank chains.
And still the mighty wall of people

remained invincible to the foe.

The Nazis released thousands of tanks, to help
them advance.

But the red army trained their guns which
fired their salvos from Stalingrad.
The tank walls were broken; and the
Germans hid behind them.
Thus raged the war much long, day and
night, and many months long.
There was no let-up in the battle but the
city survived the onslaught.
And then the winter came near,
Timoshenko the great;
the terror for the Fascists. He lit
the fires of valour.

He changed the tactics of war.
He bathed the Nazis in their own blood; in
this memorable war for Stalingrad.

The snow covered the whole battle field in white.
And the red flag fluttered high in the sky. Under its banner
gathered the valiant reds, the darlings of Russia;
to think the strategy further.

Like a sea has a storm or
the land has a hurricane
which uproots trees so large.

Similarly must we uproot the Nazi Satan, and
throw them out of Russian soil.
So they charged their cannon.

The balls roared with fire and fell
to break the Nazi tanks.
They roared to form yet another front, and to
wipe out the Nazi name from this earth.

The Volga was frozen to ice

On 20th November, the bugles trumpeted. And the

red army got marching orders, against the Nazis.

General Zukov, Major Rodimastev,
Marshal Voroshilov,

Stalin and Timoshenko of Russia Got
ready to fight a people's war And for
saving the mankind.

The Sixty-Second Russian Army moved
forward in a charge.

They took one post after another, from the
Nazi conqueror.

They destroyed the Nazis in attack.

The Nazis began retreating leaving
behind their ammunition and arms.
Red cannons met the Nazi artillery head-on.

Like winds and huge dark rain clouds brush
away the fallen leaves and dust, or like
unseasonal rains;
the Russian Pentagon fell on the Nazis.

To catch the German thieves;
Timoshenko created a pincer; Like
the jaws of a steel vice; he divided
the red army in two. And sent them
on two flanks. One crossed the
river Volga.

It retook Surovikino and rushed North. While the
right half ran like lightning.

It passed through Nikaniya, Virginia. It retook
Chirskaya and advanced fast.

The two met each other,

holding three lack Germans in their jaws.

They pushed the enemy back, they
retook Richkovisk
And won the Maksimovskiy railway station.

They drove out the Germans, out of
Redinov Bolsiya.
They trained their guns at the Darsika village, and
spread all around.

Surrounding the German tanks
the Germans ran away leaving behind, tank
fuel and arms.

The Russians advanced chasing the
Germans using their own tanks. They
took a huge cache of arms.

They drove back the Germans through
South East of Nal Chik.

They foiled German attacks

by driving a wedge in their defences.

Ahead of Stalingrad, there was a ring of red army.

They had started breaking, the backbone of the Nazis.

What happened next; I
narrate in this section.

The Red cannon was all around, firing
salvos hard to push the Germans.

The Germans were now in their last throws, and
were about to perish.

The Russian generals were
busy on the battle field.

They vowed to break the German moral, by
stopping their supplies
and attacking for a final kill.

He who had invaded Europe Had
broken the Versailles treaty Had

enslaved Abyssinia
And reinstated Franco in Spain Had
defeated France in seventeen days
Had threatened Chamberlain

Now he was surrounded by the red army. He was
on his knees under the red guns.
His supplies had stopped.

He couldn't get food or water. The
Aryan of Berlin was hungry. Started
eating dead horse meat.

He remembered his mother. And
then came a horse rider, he gave the
Nazis an message, and returned
back speedily.
General Paulus read the dispatch.

Surrender to the red army Drop
your arms
And leave them on the filed
We have encircled you and you are trapped.
We will give you food and medicines.
And help you survive; and
treat you fairly. This is an
ultimatum,
from the Red army strategy.

Read this message and answer.

The last date is the ninth.
Don't miss this deadline. Let
us know urgently.
If you don't answer We
will finish you for sure.

Reading this message

General Paulus felt faint He
lost his valour,
and could see the end in front. And
then Hitler said on radio; You are
all brave!
Do not surrender! to
the Bolsheviks!
We are sending you reinforcements.

You keep fighting.

The German army of three lack thirty-three thousand was
mighty,
and was goaded by Hitler's order.

They didn't reply to the Russian dispatch; and
that became the reason of their doom.

The time limit was over. The
bugles sounded.
The bells of Nazi end started ringing.
The whole red army
picked up their guns, to
end the Nazis.
They rushed forward
creating a wave of fear in
the enemy heart.
The red army was ready, to
crush the German army.
The valiant red army ran forward
like an arrow leaves the bow; to finish
the Nazi army.
It was as if a volcano burst; or a
mountain crashed.

The lion was fierce,
and attacked the German army.

There was a fierce battle.

And lots of cries.

A hundred dead fell down on the land.

The Nazis were also fighters. They
recovered and fought. There was a
fight of arms.

Many lost their limbs, and
many fell down dead. After a
long drawn battle, the Nazi
army was routed.

They retreated;
and lost their hopes and moral.
Their resistance went down
and the red army made the final attack.

The red hammers struck on all sides. The
ice was covered in dead bodies.
Paulus lost his battle fever.

Fascist men started deserting the battle field.
The mercenary Rumanian army, received
its fatal blow,
and surrendered to Russians.

All were captured as prisoners of war,
a chain of prisoners started walking to Stalingrad.

On January 20th

Laid Paulus down his arms.

He surrendered with his sixteen Generals. to the
mighty Russians.

The Nazis were trounced. The
Fascist cloud vanished. And the
moon of Stalingrad, shone again
bright.

The Stalingrad was liberated, from
the Nazis,
by giving them a hard punch, The
Soviets thrashed the Nazis; and their
three lack army.
The fighters of Russia,
ran forward speedily.
After thrashing the Nazis they
charged ahead forward; took
back the villages,
and reassured the villagers.

Thus they took their red charge,
to the doors of Rezev.

Breaking the Fascist wall, they
broke an opening.
The Russian guns rushed inside, and
the Nazi time-table collapsed.
Attacking Rezev, they
gave Berlin a shock.
The boast of winning—
Russia in a week was
proven wrong.
And also the myth

that the Nazi army is invincible; was
dispelled in a stroke,
by the red army.
Embracing death with a smile to
save their independence; the red
army deserves
a thousand kudos.

To maintain the flame of independence; and to
keep it burning;
you gave a people's fight,

in the framework of communism.

You defied death
to save your nation.

Looking at your sacrifices; the
whole world was motivated,
and was eager;

to follow your footsteps.

Ray of hope for the downtrodden, Russia's
darling,
Defender of Rostov and Kharkov, and
protector of Moscow,
The staunch foe of the Nazis,
General Semyon Timoshenko.
