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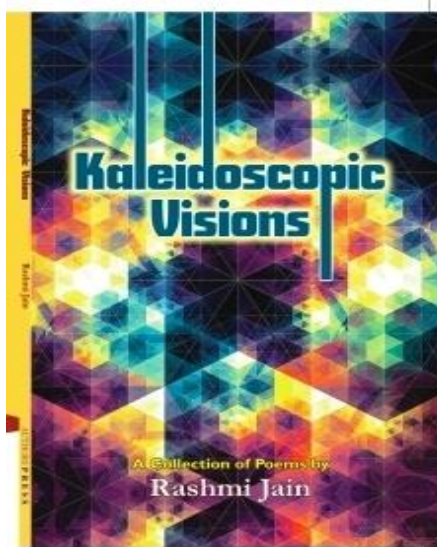
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Rashmi Jain, *Kaleidoscopic Visions: A Collection of Poems.*

Reviewed by: Nishtha Mishra

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Kaleidoscopic Visions: A collection of Poems justify its title most aptly. We view through a kaleidoscope and marvel at the aura of the coloured patterns that appear. But just with a turn of the tube a completely new combination of coloured patterns are available to us to delight our sight and we are often confused between the numerous pattern as to decide which one we liked the most. Similarly as we turn the pages of the book *Kaleidoscopic Visions*, we find ourselves marvelling at the beauty and expression of thoughts in each poem. Each of the poems appears to take one to new levels of thought process and imagination and yet it's difficult to decide which one is the best of all.

As one goes through the content of the poems, these lines from William

Wordsworth's 'The Solitary Reaper' may cross the mind:

"...perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy, far-off things,
And battles long ago;
Or is it some more humble lay,
Familiar matter of today?
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,
That has been and may be again?"

The subject matter of the poems is thus quite rich and diverse and yet if they can be grouped into one category, it may be said that they deal with human psyche-conscious and unconscious; a work of stream of consciousness- things that often cross our mind and yet escape being taken as relevant.

The book starts with the poem “memories” that celebrate the memories of life lived so far and then the book unfolds the memories of childhood, the ideas of “soul mate”, the “hopes”, the “fears”, some concerning the universal goodwill of man others quite personal. It seems to be the outpour of poet’s heart. The selection of words and diction shows poet’s command on English Language as well as basic psychology.

The poems like butterfly, Love Me No More, Shadows of the World, Revolutions, Asking Tranquillity, Dreams, Emptiness, Fear, Voice, Black etc have much more to say than they seem to be on surface level. An in-depth analysis of these poems shows that they carry a meaningful purpose. Their symbolic meaning appeals to the intellect and provokes the thinking process. For instance the poem butterfly talks about the emancipation of girl-born; Voice suggests focusing on the unheard voices of peace. Asking Tranquillity reveals the answer to the much asked question of unfavourable Fate.

The most appealing quality about each of the poem is that they all are carrying a message of hope. The optimism runs through the lines of each poem. And why not! The entire function of kaleidoscope runs on a ray of light. The poems bring to the fore the questions that often torment common minds and the answers to which one can find while reading these poems.

The music and rhyme of these poems can be felt as one reads them in their proper flow which adds to the experience of reading. A number of beautiful images are stored in the pages of this book. As we turn them over we find colourful swings, giant wheels from fairs, Granny’s Stories with the tales of fairies, colourful kites that make the blue hue of the sky recede into the background, butterflies as they fly and perch, rainbow, snow, pearls, age-old revolutions in nature and man, waves and so on. It’s like going through a photography exhibition. The most striking image drawn is of “the Dark Lady” Shakespeare’s sonnets.

The experience of reading the book is like watching a bioscope-the tales of romance, mermaids singing, children rejoicing the innocence of childhood; and then there is fear and hope, questions of growing up, struggles and problems of survival as they cross one’s mind. And then the ever pervading message of hope- that the sequence of universal and cosmic affairs could be set right if humans start doing right instead of playing a game of “the game of foul and fair.”

The poetess Rashmi Jain has shown an in depth understanding of Human Psychology in these poems. Overall Kaleidoscopic Visions presents a varied and colourful experience of reading which delights the readers.

1. Rashmi Jain, *Kaleidoscopic Visions: A Collection of Poems*. New Delhi: Authorspress. 2015. ISBN: 978-81-7273-987-4. Pages 47, Rs. 195.00/US \$ 10.00

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