

Roses that Smell Different

Prof. Rebecca Susan Margaret



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Roses that Smell Different



English Language
Roses that Smell Different
(Poems)

Author: Prof. Rebecca Susan Margaret Mani

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Roses that Smell Different

Prof. Rebecca Susan Margaret Mani

To All I Owe Love

About Author

Ms. Rebecca Susan Margaret (Reeba) is the daughter of Dr. Mani Kaniyamkulam & Thankamma. Her husband is Sri. P.K. Cherian (late) Panachiyil, Kolenchery. Rinu is her only daughter.

Mar Joseph Pallikaparampil
Bishop Emeritus of Palai



BISHOP'S HOUSE, PALAI

P.B. No. 18, PALA - 686 575
Kottayam Dt., Kerala, S. India
Phone: 04822 - 202000
E-mail: aramanapala@gmail.com
Web : www.palaidiocese.com

I am happy to see the book of poems "Roses that smell different" written by Prof. Rabeca Susan Margaret a former professor at Alphonsa College Palai. Alphonsa College which is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this year takes pride that one of her professors who has contributed so much for the growth of the institution has produced such an excellent work.

May I join the "Alphonsians" to congratulate Prof. Rebecca Susan Margaret for this beautiful work which I am told is the result of fifty years of strenuous efforts. I wish and pray that the Lord may bless the author abundantly.



Yours in CHRIST LORD

Mar Joseph Pallikaparampil

(Bishop Emeritus, Eparchy of Palai)

True, the Roses Smell Different.

Dr. CYRIAC THOMAS
Formerly Vice-Chancellor,
Mahatma Gandhi University.

This is for certain, a Book of Poems in English, beautifully written by a seasoned teacher and professor who taught her students for three decades and more, in the English Lecture halls of the Palai Alphonsa College which currently is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. Perhaps Ms Reeba might have thought of writing and compiling this book of poems as a gift to the Alphonsa during the college jubilee season itself. No doubt, Prof. Reeba deserves our sincere thanks and hearty congratulations for this treasured piece of art which she has penned in her own inimitable poetic style, to use a conventional phrase, in Queen's English!

The very name of the author, Prof Rebecca Susan Margret Mani - spells and smells majestic and royal. Those who doubt it whether the author too belong to the Great Britain, hailing from Wales or Normandy or a part of the Windsor parapharmella. I am sure Reeba will realize the feel and truth of the old saying "there is so much in a name".!

Prof. Rebecca Susan in Margret Margret has now made a name of her own and a reputation unique, in the literary map of English Literature, by writing these stylish set of English poems, which surely will make her readers pleasant and happy. The Book of poems of the author is being published as a triple combination, Book 1, Book 2 and Book 3. The first one consists of 45 poems, touching on different and varied topics, a few of which rekindles our memory and take us back to those days

of police high handedness reigning over a town in the high ranges, called Thankamoni. The police was alleged to have behaved brutally towards helpless women, girls and kids, as an act of revenge against the men folk who confronted the police during a daytime agitation against the police brutality. The Thankamoni incident, as it was called by the people and the media, shocked Kerala's very public conscience. Prof. Reeba, as the poet was it was affectionately called by her colleagues and by her admiring student folk, expresses her anger, agony and deep pain and protest by penning down a poem with the very title "Thankamoni", Prof. Reeba, otherwise peaceful and calm, and a true Gandhite I believe, becomes a little harsh in her use of words while narrating the "Thankamoni tragedy". This simple poem stand witness to the "social activist" in the poet's heart of hearts and reveals her indignation. and protest against the police violence!

Book 1 starts with a solemn prayer which assertively affirms the poet's unflinching faith in the Lord, our Creator and Savior. Ms Rebecca informs her readers that the prayer was penned as per the request of her best friend and colleague in the Alphonsa College, Rev. Sister Meletia CMC, a former principal of the college. The poems in Book 1 touches a number of topics and subjects, varied and different - Joy and nature, love and ingratitude, the sweetness of liberty and the beauty of the Alphonsa College, the pleasure of music and the pain of agony, on puppy and the monkey, the nature of man and the soul of seasons... all come in the shape of poems in Book 1.

Book 2, equally contains themes and points the poet sees around which deeply hurts and pains the very mindset of the poet which prompts her to write on beggars as also on the price one has to pay for love, on the pleasures of trekking and the tears of farewell. She also writes on Onam, besides on the Lotus Pool, and she gets angry while writing on an

India, dangerously polluted which harms the happiness and the comforts of the life of the man in the street as also that of the millionaire, living in the mansion. Prof. Reeba also writes beautifully on friendship, but becomes a bit bitter while writing on the sufferings of the girl child !. In the midst of all these, she sings a song on the concept of God and on the might of the monsoon.

In Book 3, Prof. Rebecca's poetic imagination dwells on topics more sociological, philosophical, spiritual, and sometimes it even goes beyond and touches, technology, religion, environment, and what not? Prof. Rebecca Susan doesn't spare the Bhagavat Geetha which she underlines with thoughtful words, though in a subtle way, as the best Book in the Indian belief and context.

Personally I feel proud and elated that I have been asked by the author to write an introduction to this beautiful Book of poems which she has penned in a language so chaste and stylish. I wish the learned poet God's grace, and the readers a very nice time, reading them. I prayerfully wish her all the best.



Auhtor's Note

I have scribed a few lines while with the Alphonsians and after my retirement. At the grand old age of an octogenarian, I feel like placing my thoughts and feelings at certain pivoted points in hand and painful life sometimes shaded by the Divine Providence. At times I even argued with God. So here in this book you can find 55 years of my agony and joy, and my reflections of things around me. I did it to keep my mind and soul active. Now it is in the printed form, in your hands, it is not anymore mine. Hope you'll find it as the efforts of a simple soul.

In between the lines, I remember my colleagues, friends and students who are my good critics.

More than that I salute all my teachers especially Rev. A. Bagshaw (Late) former Vice Princepal, C.M.S. College, Kottayam, Prof (Miss) Joan Eliot (C.M.S. College) and Miss P. Brooksmith well remebered for her dedicated services to the teaching of English in Kerala; above all Prof. George Koshy (G.K.) C.M.S. College. Your memories still linger, giving life vigour and optimism. Thank you very much for these pacifying, fond and loving memories.

Thanking you all

Rebecca Susan Margaret Mani (Reeba)

Preface

We are happy that in the liminal space between lesson plans and life's quiet revelations, these poems took root. As both observer and participant in the daily theatre of academia, Ms. Rebecca has watched generations of young minds wrestle with Whitman and weep over Woolf, their perspectives reshaping her own understanding of the texts she taught for decades. This collection is, in many ways, a conversation across these years-between the teacher and the student she once was, between the faith she inherited and the questions she learned to embrace, between the natural world outside her classroom window and the intricate ecosystems of human growth within.

It is very much evident that some compositions in this collection emerged from the margins of lecture notes, others from solitary walks across campus in the gathering dusk. They speak to the intersection of intellectual rigour and emotional resonance, of professional obligation and personal revelation. Here, we find meditations on everything from playground memories to feminist theory, from classroom epiphanies to quiet moments of spiritual doubt. Each poem is a kind of field note from the front lines of a life spent in pursuit of knowledge while remaining open to wonder.

These poems are offered as both testimony and invitation to remember, to question, to wonder, and to join in the ongoing conversation between what we know and what we still hope to learn. We, the faculty members of the department of English are proud of this exceptional writer, who is a mentor and guide to all of us. We wish all the readers a wonderful reading experience, as we had.

Alphonsian English Family



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Prof. Rebecca Susan Margaret

Prof. Rebecca Susan Margret has now made a name of her own and a reputation unique, in the literary map of English Literature, by writing these stylish set of English poems, which surely will make her readers pleasant and happy.

- Dr. Cyriac Thomas
(Former Vice-Chancellor, MGU)

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Poems



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സാഹിത്യകൃതികളുടെയും വിപണനം

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