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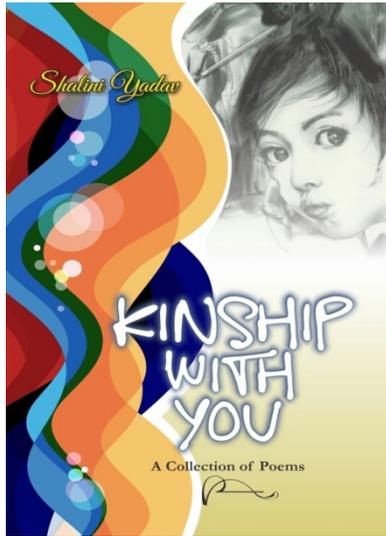
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Kinship with You: A Collection of Poems

Authored by: Dr. Shalini Yadav

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Reviewed By
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Dr. Shalini Yadav got her Doctoral degree (English Literature), from University of Rajasthan in Post-Colonial Literature, and has been working as an Assistant Professor in Al Jouf University (KSA). She has a devout attraction for fiction, poetry and Indian myths which cultivate a deep approach in her to peep into the reality of life and world. Her voracious reading, feelings and thoughts endeavor to fetch her to the mysticism. Her earlier volume of poetry, *Till the End of Her Subsistence* earned plenty of appraisals.

Shalini's present collection bears seventy-one poems of multi-taste. Because "the sum and substance of the material life is **attraction** for woman" and "the sum and substance of spiritual life is **attraction** for Radha-Krishna" (bold is mine), as the poetess quotes in the "Acknowledgements", present volume is an outcome of the bewilderment of the conflict between faith and materialism – a referential subject for the present time where the 'woman' has become today an instrument of obnoxious rut in spite of idealism when the woman used to be the source of 'spirituality', life, wealth, love and prosperity. The volume is an arena of the battle between materialism and spiritualism where we are unsure of the ultimate outcome.

In *Kinship with You*, the readers will find poems of mystic and material conflict of inner psyche – a conflict between what we possess and what we should possess. These poems are well composed on the subjects of truth, love, trust, belief, life, chastity, psyche, eternity, angel and devil, mystic world, a voice hidden inside the soul and several others. In many poems the poetess regrets the loss of faith in this alien world and lays emphasis on the purity of thoughts – unity of materialism with spirituality.

The sinister and destructive elements in materialistic world which often escape the notice of the poetess form an essential part of her poetic response. Men's will set against religious nature and triumphing over it, awareness of a chasm between man and idealism – these, along with the recognition of her nature's benevolence, form the warp and woof of her poetic experience. Even where nature is regarded as benevolent, shades of doubt sometimes cloud the idealism. Rarely does the poetess visualize herself coalescing with her ideology. By temperament and ideology, these feelings are divorced from the urbane and sophisticated society that values conformity and ridicules dissent.

The greater the hiatus between the social norms and the self-awareness of the mystic individual, the more did these rely on her own impulses and intuitions. This faith in the self is a corollary to the individual freedom ushered in by her unstable revolution and these two together upset her traditional values. The mechanistic concept of the universe gives way to a dynamic one. She explores hidden sources of strength in nature/psyche, in her own mind and soul in order to resist the onrush of materialism and realizes an ideal concept of humanity.

The sanctity of revolutionary ardour derived from the Hindu mythology could not act as a lasting source of inspiration for her owing to the partial failure and perversion of the ideal in the land of its origin, and the inherent frailty of all such ideals pursued with blind passion. Religion which had for sometimes served as the pole-star for intellect became increasingly a symbol of emotion as opposed to ratiocination. It is this rooted faith that “the sum and substance of material life” coupled with a passionate belief in progress provokes to bewilder the mythic love and religious idealism that a new history of human relations is being created with a unique combination of circumstances. A desire to break with the present marks, the strong sense of mission that characterizes her attempt at

forming new equations with the physical world around her, constitutes her poetic cosmos around her. Caught between the necessity to tame her mystic nature in order to establish the traditional ideology and a need to find fulfillment and peace amidst nature's bounty, she often reflects a curious ambivalence towards inner acute desire of 'Radha-Krishna' nature.

Kinship with You is a good collection of poems and meaningful for the present day situations. I recommend it to study and evaluate.