Akshara: An International Refereed Research Journal of English Literature and Language
ISSN: 0975-5373; E-ISSN: 2583-4738
Vol. 17, May 2025, pp. 98-100
Guest editor: Ram Sebak Thakur
Editor-in-chief: Vijay Kumar Roy
https://www.waoar.org/akshara/

Received: 02 March 2025
Accepted: 20 March 2025
Published: 30 May 2025

Book Review

Dharmpal Mahendra Jain. *Friday Evening*: *Verses of Vivid Moods*. New Delhi: Sarv Bhasha Trust, 2024, pp. 128, HB, Price: ₹ 220, ISBN: 978--81-977755-7-4.

Reviewed by
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Dharmpal Mahendra Jain's anthology, *Friday Evening*: *Verses of Vivid Moods* is a beautiful and evocative collection of poems that captures the essence of life's fleeting moments through poetry. Comprised of a hundred poems that range in tone, style and theme, this work provides an insightful look into human's condition, exploring everything from the sublime to the mundane, the joyful to the melancholic.

The title of the anthology evokes a sense of calmness and introspection. For many, Friday evening signifies a time of relaxation and reflection, a moment to look back to the past week while also anticipating the freedom of the weekend. Jain plays with this concept throughout the collection, weaving a tapestry of moods that explore various facets of life. Whether it is the serenity of nature, the turbulence of personal relationships or the quiet sorrow of loss, Jain's ability to encapsulate emotions in his verse is

remarkable. The addition of "Verses of Vivid Moods" to the main title emphasizes the anthology's emotional breadth, promising a diverse exploration of feelings and experiences. From nostalgia and melancholy to humour and joy, the poems traverse a rich spectrum of human emotions.

What stands out most in Jain's anthology is his mastery of imagery and his use of metaphors and similes. In one of the poems, he compares the wind to a lover who "runs to hide in the arms of the sea" (47), a line that beautifully underscores the relationship between the sea and the wind. The way he compares human emotions to elements of nature, such as "sweet-tempered rainbow" (41) or "sun's sorrow" (91) adds depth and complexity to his verses. These comparisons are not only beautiful but also universal, making it easy for readers to find themselves within the words. There is an inherent accessibility in Jain's writing that invites readers to reflect on their own lives, allowing them to see their experiences mirrored in his poetry.

Diversity of themes presented in the anthology under review is another feature that sets it apart. Jain explores a range of moods, from moments of quiet contemplation to outbursts of exuberant joy, rather than restricting himself to a single kind of poetry or style. While one poem can delve into the existential questions of life and purpose, another may examine the simple joy of a peaceful stroll in the woods. Each poem presents a distinct perspective, but they all relate to the main theme of life's multifaceted emotions, which keep the anthology interesting.

Jain's experience as an immigrant residing in Canada influences the theme and imagery of the collection. Recurrent topics include Canadian landscapes, multicultural encounters, and the feeling of living between worlds. Jain successfully captures the immigrants' experiences showcasing a blend of wonder, nostalgia, and adaptation in his verses.

However, it is Jain's philosophical undertones that truly elevate this collection. Underneath the surface of his vivid imagery and emotional depth, his poems frequently touch on universal themes such as the passage of time, the nature of love and the search for meaning in an often confusing world. This makes *Friday Evening*: *Verses of Vivid Moods* not just a collection of poems, but a work that asks the reader to pause and ponder life's more profound issues.

To sum up, *Friday Evening* : *Verses of Vivid Moods* is an engrossing anthology of poems that showcases Dharmpal Mahendra Jain's exceptional talent to write poetry that are both emotionally resonant and intellectually stimulating. With its rich

imagery, varied subjects and philosophical reflections, this collection is a journey through the vast landscape of human experience. Jain's work is a valuable addition to any bookshelf because it has something to offer everyone, regardless of whether they are poetry enthusiasts or casual readers.

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