

## **ARBIND CHOUDHARY: PHRASAL KING IN INDIAN ENGLISH VERSES**

**Prof. R. A. Singh**  
Retd Prof. of English,  
V.K.S.University,  
Arrah, Bihar 802301

All poets possess their own poetic styles, manners, presentations and variations that differ with one another without dispute. Shakespeare, Milton, Spenser, Donne, Keats, D.G Rossetti and Tennyson are known worldwide due to their poetic universality, epical flavour, pictorial painting, metaphysical monarchy, sensuousness, artistic approach and nationalism in English poetry. In Indian English literature Henry Vivian Louis Derozio, Vivekananda, Tagore, Aurobindo, Toru Dutt, Sarojini Naidu, Kamala Das and Nissim Ezekiel have earned their names and fames due to their patriotism, saintly approach, poetic multiplicity, mythical heraldry, sensuousness, melodious song, feminine sensibility and burning issues respectively. Arbind Kumar Choudhary is really an explorer rather than a versifier so far various forms of versifications in Indian English poetry is concerned. The phrasal couplets, phrasal quatrains, phrasal stanzas and phrasal verses are the explorations in Indian English poetry that persuades a galaxy of the versifiers to make him a poet of phrasal artistry without sophistry. The proverbial passages, mythical blending and Indianised version of sonnets add additional beauty to his poetry.

In English literature John Keats has been called the most sensuous poet among the romanticists. D.G Rossetti is the most artistic poet among the Pre-Raphaelites. Tennyson is the most national poet of England among the Victorians. G.M. Hopkins is known for sprung rhythm while Spenser has been known for his Spenserian stanza. In Indian English literature Arbind Kumar Choudhary is the most proverbial, pictorial and, above all, phrasal poet in contemporary creative milieu. The phrasal fragrance of his verses that flourishes with one verse to another persuades a group of the poets to adore him with the crown of the Phrasal King in Indian writing in English. Arbind Kumar Choudhary is really the first post independence Indian English poet to have been awarded with the literary crown of the Phrasal King in the domain of English poetry in India. The intensity of the phrasal fragrance that enriches the poetic beauty of his verses to its climax makes him the champion of the champions in Indian English poetry. This captivating poetic passage that pierces the phrasal nebulousity and creates a junction of the phrasal words persuades a number of the verse-suitors to honor this versifier with the crown of the Phrasal King on one hand and the Quatrain King on the other in the territory of Indian English poetry. Prof.NDRChandra writes in his scholarly paper entitled 'Fragrance of Arbindonean Racy Style':

“Arbind has been called a Phrasal King too because most of his rhymed quatrains consist more than one phrases derived from various sources of lives. Sometimes the number of phrases exceeds more than other parts of speech. He is no doubt a phrasal dictionary in himself because no where can we get such a large number of phrases as is used by him. Some of the striking phrasal words that consist are animal spirits, prize idiot, fair luminous mist, dewy dark obscurity, Herod policy, long last sleep, in sun and

shower, dog in the monger policy, a wolf in sheep's clothing, green room, Pandora's box, bliss of solitude, blue blood, full-throated ease, time's best jewel, wild goose chase, the pests of society, ruling passion, lap of luxury, red letter day, gold digger, seventh heaven, beggar's description, milk and water, green-eyed monster, left handed complement, capital idea, saving grace, trophy wife, rat race, silver sphere, odour of sanctity, halcyon days, soldier of fortune, purest ray serene, donkey years, burning Tutsan, Tom, Dick and Harry, second to none, love-lustre, lovey-dovey, eternal triangle, furied rapture, birthday suit, green widow, sacred caw, make heaven and earth, petticoat government, turn the corner, good humour, pay the debt of nature, azure sister, Dutch treat, red carpet welcome and many more all through his poetic gardens."1(2014:139)

The thought stirring phrasal quatrain that possesses the phrasal words in plural numbers in English poetry in general and Indian English poetry in particular persuades a number of versifiers to honor him with the crown of the Phrasal King in the domain of Indian English poetry with might and main. His rhymed couplet that adds two phrasal words- maiden head and fairer world---makes him the Phrasal Monarch in English poetry in general and Indian English poetry in particular. His phrasal heraldry has made him the champion of the champions in Indian English poetry. The poet versifies this phrasal couplet in such a way:

**“Darling of the maiden head**

**Is time's chest in this fairer world.”2(2007: 4)**

The phrasal fragrance of the phrasal quatrains overwhelms a galaxy of his verse-suitors and advocates the significance of the Phrasal Movement in Indian writing in English.

This rhymed couplet that possesses two phrasal words--unfathomed grieve and watery grave---speaks volumes about the phrasal fragrance of his verses with might and main.

**“O singer of unfathomed grieve !**

**1822 sings your watery grave.”3 (2007: 19)**

The thought stirring rhymed phrasal quatrain that possesses the phrasal words in plural numbers creates a galaxy of his verse- suitors to abide by his style of versification in Indian English poetry. It is memorable that Arbind Kumar Choudhary is the quatrain master in Indian English poetry. Most of his quatrains are rhymed, phrasal and proverbial. The phrasal pinnacle of his rhymed quatrains makes him the Phrasal King in the territory of English poetry in India. ‘Universal Voices’ that plants the germs of Indianised version of sonnets next after Shakespearean, Spenserian and Petrarchan makes him the founding father in Indian English poetry. This rhymed couplet that adds two phrasal words-vital feelings of delight and fatal feelings of delight---wreathed artistically just like the beads of the garland breeds not only the proverbial but also the phrasal fragrance for Tom, Dick and Harry in general and the versifiers in particular on this strife-stricken earth.

**“ The vital feelings of yogi's delight**

**Ridicules fatal feelings of delight.”4(2008:2)**

The phrasal passages pierce the poetic nebulosity for the creation of the phrasal storm for Tom, Dick and Harry in general and the versifiers in particular. This proverbial couplet that contains two phrasal words-jewel of the earth and peep into---exhumes not only the proverbial but also the phrasal fragrance for its whirlwind all around the corner . **“Jewel of the earth is that gentry**

**Who peeps into people's misery.”5(2008:5)**

This stanza of the poem ‘Life’ that is a junction of three phrasal words-pipe dream, bring forth and green room- makes him a poet phrasal heraldry in Indian English poetry.

**“Life is a pipe dream,  
 Death brings forth a green room.”6(2008:19)**

This couplet that possesses two phrasal words---crown of thorns and bed of roses-- brings to light his phrasal monarchy in Indian English poetry.

**“Life is a crown of thorns  
 Death is a bed of roses.”7 (2008: 19)**

P.K Majumdar, an editor of Bridge in Making, calls him the quatrain master due to his thousands of rhymed quatrains published in and outside India. ‘Melody’ brings forth a number of the phrasal quatrains that makes him a poet of phrasal artillery in Indian English poetry. The most magnetic poetic passage that possesses three phrasal words thrills the peeping poets for the creation of the Phrasal School of Poetry in Indian English literature. Prof. Mahashweta Chaturvedi comments in her scholarly paper entitled ‘Phrasal Flavour of A.K. Choudhary’:

“The application of the four phrasal words in this rhymed quatrain spreads phrasal fragrance far and wide. ‘Universal Voices’, a collection of 48 rhymed Indianised version of sonnets focused primarily on the literary perspectives of Indian English writers, deals effectively with the application of a number of phrasal words from alpha and omega that is the clear illustration of his poetic maturity on one hand and the mastery over the phrasal words on the other. Here lies a rhymed couplet that contains two phrasal words – wild goose chase and bird of passage wreathed very beautifully.

Wealth is a wild goose chase  
 For Vaskodigama like bird of passage.  
 (U.V, 2008:6)

It is the ‘Universal Voices’ that establishes his poetic career not only as an originator of Indianised version of sonnets called Arbindonean Sonnets but also lays foundation for the crown of the Phrasal King in Indian English poetry.”

**8(2015:13-14)**

This rhymed quatrain that contains the junction of three phrasal words-queen of may, red letter day and castaway-- wreathed artistically enchains a group of his verse suitors to honor this versifier with the crown of the Phrasal King on one hand and the Quatrain King on the other in the territory of Indian English poetry .

**“The spring of day  
 Is the queen of the may  
 For the red letter day  
 Of the castaway.”9(2009:7)**

The rhymed phrasal quatrains that possess the phrasal words in plural numbers enrich the Indian English poetry up to the global mark. The four phrasal words of this phrasal quatrain-- pater noster, hold water, peal of laughter and in deep water—establishes his phrasal heraldry in Indian English poetry.

**“The explorer of the pater noster  
 Holds water  
 Of a peal of laughter  
 Even in deep water.”10(2009:21)**

The phrasal quatrains that make a bridge of one phrasal word with another bring to light the phrasal perfection in Indian English poetry. This quatrain contains the junction of four phrasal

words- pater noster, hold water, peal of laughter and deep water-- that prepares a fertile literary ground for the phrasal monarchy in English poetry in and out side India.

This proverbial quatrain that is primarily a junction of four phrasal words--lovelier flower ,glitter like star shower, passion flower and in sun and shower --speaks volumes about the intensity of the phrasal fragrance his verses exhume far and away.

**“ Her duo lovelier flowers  
Glitter like star showers  
For the passion flowers  
Even in suns and showers.”11(2011: 13)**

The sensational phrasal quatrain that incorporates three phrasal words captivates the quatrain lovers to call him not only the Quatrain King but also the Phrasal King on this strife- stricken earth. This quatrain of “Nature” that is a junction of five phrasal words-love sick, yard stick, benedick, cracker jack and wedlock- justifies the significance of the Phrasal King in the kingdom of English poetry in and out side India.

**“Love sick is the yard sick  
Of the benedick  
Where crackerjack  
Fucks the wedlock.”12 (2011: 21)**

‘The Poet’ is his poetic doctrine that propounds his philosophy of poetry in detail. One can inhale the essence of the phrasal passages from alpha and omega of his verses. This rhymed quatrain that is a junction of four phrasal words --heyday, fair play, field day and feet of clay- justifies the significance of the phrasal coronation in the hierarchy of English poetry in India.

**“Kohinoor’s heyday  
Is a fair play  
For the field day  
Of the feet of clay.”13(2011:28)**

This phrasal quatrain that is proverbial and rhymed consists four phrases-foul play ,die away, dismay and dorian gray-- to extend the poetic beauty of his verses. His phrasal quatrain makes him a poet of high water mark in Indian English poetry.

**“The foul play  
Dies away  
Like the dismay  
Of the dorian gray.”14(2011:37)**

‘The Poet’ possesses a number of striking phrasal words-- wild goose chase, pulp literature, womb of time, treasure- trove, guardian angel, father- figure, acid test, goalpost, as good as gold, as quiet as mouse, as right as rain, celestial fire, join the majority, second nature, palmy days, coalsmith, jaundiced myth, fever pitch, page- turner, tunesmith, living death, alpha and omega, pay the debt of nature, cock and bull story, pests of society, nest of viper, land of milk and honey and many more that makes him a poet of Phrasal Monarch without arch-rival in Indian writing in English. Prof.M.P.Singh writes in his scholarly paper entitled ‘Phrasal King in Indian English Literature:

**“His phrasal maturity makes him a literary celebrity in the poetic world. This rhymed quatrain that consists three phrasal words – make a name, corking chime and womb of time- brings to light the phrasal fragrance of this Phrasal King in the domain of English poetry all around the world.**

**“To make a name**

**For the corking chime**

**Is the flame**

**Of the womb of time.”**

**( The Poet , 2011:30)**

**The phrasal fragrance of the Phrasal King makes him a literary flower of the poetic garden with might and main.”**<sup>15</sup>(2016:108) ‘**Eternal Voices**’ consists some striking phrasal words- watery grave, link together, war mind, unpremeditated art, Romantic tenants, utopian age, thorn of life, ineffectual angel, unfathomed grieve, harsh music, rural spirits, eternal fight, elegiac creator, vale of tears, maiden song, of first water, mingle together, at fever pitch, dark horse, turning point, make name, father- figure, jail bird, and many more while ‘**Universal Voices**’ contains a number of sensational phrasal words-burn in furnace, saving grace, jewel of the earth, vital feelings of delight, fatal feelings of delight, wild goose chase and many more to enrich the intensity of Indianised version of sonnets in general and Indianised version of phrasal sonnets in particular. ‘**My Songs**’ breeds several phrasal words- Uncle Same, vale profound, snake in the grass, green room, naked thinking heart, bliss of solitude, Tom, Dick and Harry, in genial spirit, play false, raw spirit, and many others while ‘**Melody**’ possesses some striking phrasal words- lap of luxury, pest of society, peal of laughter, nest of whooper, donkey work, fancy work, game person, ruling passion, good samaritan, seventh heaven, old goose berry, success story, gold digger, beggar’s description, good humor, nip in the bud, beat down, spin a yarn, run will, work wonder, burst up on, crow over, brood over, trip over, wage war, hold water, yearn for, hunt for, cry for, as dull as ditch water and several others to make the verses pregnant with it. ‘**Love Poems**’ and ‘**Nature Poems**’ add additional beauty in his phrasal passages and make him phrasal monarch without doubt. ‘**Nature**’ possesses several phrasal words- golden fire, tyrian purple, fox-glove, October blood, menstrual flood, shocking pink, golden together, keep under lock and key, moon- blanched sand, dog eat dog policy, summers honey breath, purple perianth, make heaven and earth, without fear or favour, Punch and Judy show, Alibaba’s cave, long last sleep, Aladdin’s cave, between wind and water, and several others while ‘**Love**’ consists sensational phrasal words- birthday suit, wedlock, love- sick, sea-sick, knee- trembler, affaire d’ amour, billet-doux, pillow- talk, fancy man, soft porn, eternal triangle, erogenous zones, azure-sister, affaire d’ amour, alpine love, arch-lock, as cool as cucumber, as good as gold, as dull as ditch water, burning tutsan, blue-stocking, burning tempest, beauty and beast, beast of burden, burning ember, birth day suit, brass monkey, Clever Dick, call of nature, carrotty color, cat and dog life, couple color, celeste color, crave for, corking time, celestial fire, dressed to kill, donkey work, donkey year, dog eat dog policy, dewy dark obscurity, dreaming earth, erogenous zone, elfin-storm, eternal triangle, face love, fox-glove, fair hand, fancy man, fancy woman, flesh pot, fallen woman, fancy work, fairy god mother, fecund zone, femme fatale, fresh faced lava, fatal feeling of delight, fair luminous mist, golden tether, golden fire, and several others to fire the passionate lovers on one hand and the spiritual lovers on the other. ‘**The Poet**’ possesses phrasal pigments- better than ever, counsel of perfection, land of milk and honey, through thick and thin, pay the debt of nature, put the saddle on the right horse, counsel of perfection, wintry grave, put the saddle on the right horse, old wife’s tale, land of milk and honey, lovey-dovey, zoetrope, apple-pie order, eternal blazon, good humor, father- figure, brazen prison, good measure, pest of society, nest of viper, lap of luxury, Tom, Dick and Harry, cock and bull story, keep wolf from the door, as right as rain, keep under lock and key, as good as gold, peep into, bring to light, work wonder, pay the debt of nature, run wild, die away, act wonder, enliven a dead horse, fox-glove, sob story, success story, hall mark, wise

crack, knee-jerk, fancy work, side-kick, cracker jack, shell-shock, lumber jack, knick-knack, young Turk, womb of time, and many others to perfume the poetic passages with the phrasal fragrance far and wide. The cluster of the phrasal passages across his creative works makes him a poet of global repute without dispute. The abundance of the phrasal passages across his creative verses makes him the undisputed Phrasal King in Indian English poetry.

**References:**

1. Gangarde, Kalyan & Navgire, P, New Explorations in Indian Writing in English, 2014, p.129-143, Parbhani, New Man Publication.
2. Choudhary, A.K, Eternal Voices, 2007, Bareilly, PBD
3. Ibid, p.19
4. Choudhary, A.K, Universal Voices, 2008, Begusarai, IAPEN.
5. Ibid, p.5
6. Choudhary, A.K, My Songs, 2008, Begusarai, IAPEN.
7. Ibid, p.19
8. Yadav, A.K, Arbindonean Iridescence in Indian English Poetry, 2015, Jaipur, Paradise Publishers
9. Choudhary, A.K, Melody, 2009, Begusarai, IAPEN.
10. Ibid, p.21
11. Choudhary, A.K, Love, 2011, Bareilly, P.B.D.
12. Ibid, p.2
13. Choudhary, A.K, The Poet, 2011, Bangalore, Bizz-Buzz.
14. Ibid, p.37
15. Yadav, A.K, Arbindonean Luminosity in Indian English Poetry, 2016, Jaipur, Paradise Publishers.