

Library

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Sahitya Akademi

invites you to

meet the author

Hari Himthani



Hari Himthani



Hari Himthani was born in 1933 at Hisab in the Nawabshah district of Sindh (now in Pakistan). The place of his birth was more of a hamlet where 50-60 houses were sparsely located and which was gifted with natural beauty. He grew up in the surroundings of large open verandahs, old banyan trees,

lush green open expanses of wheat and corn fields, cattle returning home with the chiming bells hanging on their necks, freely flowing water courses, irrigation canals, and peculiar village ponds with children frolicking and bathing, and orthodox joint families.

During gruesome days of the Partition and the ethnic cleansing that followed, Himthani migrated to India. Having taken to writing in 1952 he made his reminiscence as the material for creative writing. Apparently, his early literary works are a sort of the nostalgia that was for an era of vibrant, pristine, simple, and value based village life. His first short story – “Pyar Roi Dino” – was published in *Kumari*, a famous monthly in Sindhi. His works included threatening traces of the Partition and gory scenes of the pogrom that took place. His novels *Raat Jo Biyon Pahar* and



With K. Satchidanandan, former Secretary, Sahitya Academy



With Sunil Gangopadhyaya, now President, Sahitya Akademi

Maazia Jaa Danga sensitively narrate the trauma of the Partition.

Himthani came down to Ajmer in 1947 and ever since settled there. The novels and short stories that he wrote later predominantly dealt with middle class urban people, their problems and issues. His novels – *Abhagin* (1954), and *Asha* (1955) – established him as a novelist of repute. Between 1954 and 1960 he wrote five novels that were appreciated widely.

In 1961, he took to writing autobiography. So fierce was his singleness of purpose and resolve that the next three years found him verily sequestered in the confines of his room, oblivious of any transpiration outside his abode. Providence however, had some other idea, a devastating blow to his literary career, his elder brother, in a housecleaning spree during Diwali, inadvertently threw away nearly 1500 pages of the manuscript, the work Himthani



With Gulzar

continued indefatigably for three years. Unfortunately his efforts were undone. Consequently, a pall of utter dejection and gloom engulfed him. All his creative zeal abandoned him and he withdrew himself into a literary hibernation, as it were, for ten years.

Recommenced writing in 1970 he completed his novel *Dingyun Phidyun Lakeerun* which was followed by *Raat Jo Biyon Pahar* (1972) which is a heart rendering story of a Hindu boy who is in love with a Mohammedan girl and how the girl sublimates his infatuation to platonic love. It is a story of pathos that ends in a tragedy.



Addressing an autours' meet at Sahitya Akademi

The novel received great accolade by the contemporary readership. In Prof. Namdev Tarachandani's, noted Sindhi critic, words, "... his story telling is so unique in its continuity and sustained interest that it is impossible to part from his book until it is completely read. If the lights went out, the reader would light a candle and would continue reading."

With his profound and in-depth study of the characters he casts, he describes them so sensitively that he becomes inseparable with them. Himthani uses a wide canvas for his themes and successfully attempts to touch



With Prof. Gopi Chand Narang

upon many dimensions of human psyche. Some of his stories prove his profound knowledge of and insight into feminine psychology. His perception of the psychology of women is sui generis, short stories like "Pari," "Bharam," "Achetan," etc. are the instances of this observation.

The pivotal point of Himthani's works are quick wit, humour, consummate ease with which he shows an idiomatic excellence. He always intended to steer clear of any of the literary "isms" that have suffused the literary domain at various times. He evidently saw the ephemeral nature of such movements and avoided these unoriginal pursuits. In his various short stories he has more than once denounced the dogmatic conservatism and anachronistic rituals and

customs, inconsonant with progressive society.

Some of Himthani's works have been translated into many Indian and some of the foreign languages.



With Prof. Gopi Chand Narang

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

SHORT STORY

<i>Bhang Ja Rang</i>	1968
<i>Archna - Rachna</i>	1977
<i>Sada Ain Paraada</i>	1981
<i>Paghiryal Hath</i>	1984
<i>Kujh Tutal Tutal</i>	1985
<i>Ghatnaun Jo Chakar</i>	1987
<i>Achetan</i>	1993
<i>Udaamandar Arman</i>	1998
<i>Ghar (In Hindi)</i>	2005
<i>Yaad</i>	2006

NOVEL

<i>Abhagin</i>	1954
<i>Aasha</i>	1955

<i>Accident</i>	1955
<i>Soni Raat</i>	1956
<i>Aas na Aas</i>	1957
<i>Professor</i>	1958
<i>Piyar Royee Dino</i>	1960
<i>Dingyoon Phidyoon</i>	
<i>Lakeeroon</i>	1972
<i>Raat Jo Biyon Pahar</i>	1982
<i>Gul Jalan Piyaa</i>	1983
<i>Maazia Ja Dang</i>	1991
<i>Samay</i>	2001
<i>Samay (Hindi)</i>	2006
<i>Zohara</i>	2006
<i>Under Printing in Sindhi & Hindi</i>	



With Late K. R. Malkani, Governor of Pondecheri

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1933 Born in Sindh (now in Pakistan)
- 1947 Migrated to India settled in Ajmer
- 1951-52 First short story published in *Kumari*
- 1954 First Novel published
- 1961 Ceased to write temporarily
- 1970 Recommenced writing
- 1987 Aarmek Award
- 1990 Nai Duniya Publication Award
- 1993 Lifetime Achievement Award by Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli
ain Sahit Sabha
- 1995 Dr H. I. Sadarangani Gold Medal
- 1996 Saami Award by Rajasthan Sindhi Academy for Life time
literary achievement
- 2001 N. C. P. S. L. Award
- 2002 The Sahitya Akademi Award
- 2009 Honoured by Sindhu Welfare Society, Jaipur



With Late Goverdhan Bharti