



## **FORTHCOMING BOOKS BY STEPHEN GILL** *(poetry and prose both)*

### ***\*Stephen Gill's Sufi Sonnets***

I call my sonnets Stephenean Ghazals. Ghazal means conversation with women. Love is an important feature of ghazal,. These love sonnets or ghazals in Sufi, Bhakti, mystic and Christian traditions, are unlike the Elizabethan sonnets which are in iambic pentameter of fixed rhyming schemes and are divided into two sections. Elizabethan sonnets have been around for centuries. Readers dared not say anything against them for fear of being bracketed as naïve, shallow or rude. I have loosened some requirements of the traditional sonnets. In addition to the use of the last two rhyming lines, I make use of alliterative devices or poetic net wherever possible. This poetic net richly used in ghazals is woven largely with the beams of the rhymes, because ghazals are meant also for singing or applause for their musical presentations.

Love has and is still being used as a pivotal theme in poetry in the East as well as in the West. Stephen Gill believes that like the Creator, love is faithful and is the yearning of human beings. This is the cardinal message of these Stephenean Ghazals.

### ***\*MY CONVERSATIONS***

*My conversations* express Stephen Gill's published views on different subjects relating to love and peace and his art of writing, both poetry and prose. Most of these views are the answers Stephen Gill gave to interviewers which have appeared in different media and also have been included in Professor Dr. Anuradha Sharma's book *A Selection of*

*Stephen Gill's Interviews*, released in 2011 by Orientalia. With a few extra questions, avoiding repetitions and with additions, these conversations appear regularly under *Feature* on Twitter, FaceBook, LinkedIn, and a few others. These conversations are focused on the different aspects of Stephen Gill's art of writing, concept of love, peace and related subjects.

## **\*A PATHAN SOLDIER & OTHER SHORT STORIES**

### **Comments on *A PATHAN SOLDIER***

--The story is amazing as it is so nicely weaved that while reading you find yourself among the characters mentioned, it is so beautifully described. (Dr. Shilpi Khanna, India)

--A powerful story, Stephen. The ending rather reminds me of that of Timothy Findley's *The Wars*, only whereas Robert Ross rescues the horses, your David rescues the women. It's also a timely story, given what's going on in Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere. What I particularly like about your story is the way you invest David with a strong personality and character in so few words. The reader comes away with a strong sense of empathy. (Prof. Daniel Bratton, Canada)

--I read the story "A Pathan Soldier". It shows writer's deep understanding of cultural and traditional beliefs of the people of Indian sub-continent. It is good that the story does not name the Pathan soldier. He stands for all those soldiers who fight with professionalism and for whom humanity is more important than religion or country.

The story, precisely, deals with the valour of a soldier who draws strength not from the weapon of war but from his cultural beliefs. Women in all cultures, specially in oriental cultures, represent the honour of the community or family. They suffer most in the wars. In the manuals of war he may not get a mention but in memory he will live forever.

The wars among the countries of the sub continent, as it always happens everywhere, has irreparably damaged our value system. We need to restore that by singing the glory of heroes of the history written on the margins.

All the soldiers mentioned in the story belong to certain communities with distinctive moral values but only one could rise above the average behavior of a soldier. He could do that because even in the war he lived his values. He died for unknown and unnamed woman victimized by the war of which he was an inalienable part signifying that to die for humanity is better than to die for nation or religion.

The story is heart touching and raises certain questions. the one question could be why do people forget all values in the wars that are apparently fought to protect values?

The language is rhythmic and the style befitting to the theme. The casual expressions suggest the urgency of the battle field.

--Thank u very much for the short story. Traditional values are deeper in ones conscience than ones religion, Your presentation moved me. (Prof. Babu Kirubanithi, India)

--this story, as most stories about war, manifests its absurdity: in war apparently for the honor or security of his own people and country, man, a naturally loving creature, has to kill others with

whom he has no quarrel, without any understanding (or belief) in the necessity of the war. (Dr. George Hines, Canada).

### **\*A COLLECTION OF MY PREFACES AND INTRODUCTIONS**

In addition to different genres of poetry, fiction, literary criticism, juvenile and literary as well as non-literary essays, and travelogue, Stephen Gill has written prefaces to his own works and also introductions to the works of others from various nations. His introductions, a class by themselves, are meaningful for general reading and also for literary critics to assess his writings. This collection presents Stephen Gill in a different colour.

**Comment:** *Like Dryden or T.S. Eliot, Stephen Gill's criticism is chiefly in the form of prefaces where he both justifies his own poetic creations and propounds certain rules and regulations of writing ideal poetry. He is one of those chosen few poets of the world who besides, providing spiritual solace and intellectual pabulum, gives invaluable notes (both subjective and objective) on poetry and poetic craftsmanship. (from "A Note on Poetic Craftsmanship in the Prefaces of Stephen Gill" by Dr. Kalpna Rajput, appeared in Essays on the Poetry of Stephen Gill by Prof. Dr. Shaleen K. Singh, p. 44)*

### **\*LITERARY AND NON-LITERARY ASSESSMENTS** **(research papers & articles)**

Stephen Gill has written several research papers and articles on different subjects from the perspective of peace. These write-ups include women, race relations, freedom of press, and personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi and Pope John Paul, which have been published in journals, magazines and newspapers. All these research papers and articles will appear in this book.

### **\*ME IN THE MEDIA OF THE WEST**

A collection of the news write-ups appeared in the media upto the twenties. Author arranges this gallery from his own file

### **\*MY TWO MODERN EPICS:**

#### ***The Flame & Amputee***

***The Flame* is about the destruction caused by maniac messiahs. The poet writes in its introduction that "remorseless forces of brutalities have their own agenda. They do not follow any organized religion." *The Flame* was released by**

**Vesta Publication of Canada in 2008. Most of its cantos have appeared in several magazines and journals.**

**AND**

***Amputee* is about an abused child. The poem springs from the poet's deep conviction that peace needs to be discussed from the perspective of education, and a formal education ought to be initiated from the day a couple decides to raise a family. *Amputee* illustrates the culture of peace. It was released by Vesta Publications of Canada in 2013.**

--"He (Stephen Gill) uses imagery, tone, color and rhythm to express the subtle play of his sensibility"...(Maryanne Raphael in *Stephen Gill in the West*, released by AuthorsPress)

--"the poetry of Stephen Gill provides a graphic glance of the present day world and suggests love as the first religion of man to be followed by uprooting the weeds of hate and terrorism from the hearts and sowing the seeds of hopes and aspirations... (*The Coexistentia*, Trempul, Prof. Olimpia Iacob, 161)

--"In a world currently bombarded with violence, terrorism, and unease, Gill's work provides a template for examining and implementing harmony." (Melanee Morin, *The Seeker* (Canada) vol.9, Issue 2, Jan. 26, p.12)

--"Haunting and sad with lots of imagery" (*Byline*, Ottawa)

--Stephen Gill writes "fine crafted poems" (*Poetry Forum*, USA)

**\*MY TRAVELOGUES**

**\*A PORTRAIT OF STEPHEN GILL (Autobiographical & Biographical Sources).**

**\*POEMS IN URDU AND HINDI LANGUAGES:**

**\*TALASH (Search)**

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