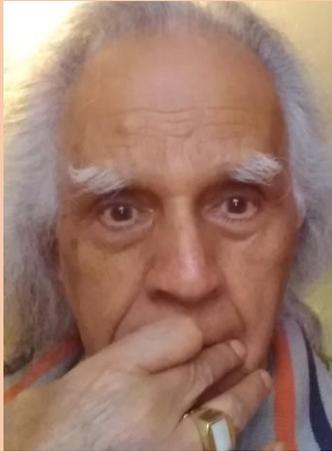


**NOTABLE OPINIONS OF PROMINENT LITERARY CRITICS, PROFESSORS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE AND MEDIA FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ON THE POETRY OF STEPHEN GILL:**



**AMONG HIS ROLES AS NOVELIST, LITERARY CRITIC, ESSAYIST AND SPEAKER, IT IS HIS ROLE OF A POET THAT ATTRACTS STEPHEN GILL THE MOST**

\*Referring to *The Flame*, Stephen Gill's epic poem, Professor Dr. RC Shukla, former head of the department of English of KGK Postgraduate College in Moradabad, India, writes in his long research paper in *The Flame Unmasked*: edited by Professor Dr. SK Arora:

--*"Extremely rich in symbolism and the use of imagery, Gill's poem is an evidence of his astonishing merits as a poet. The use of new adjectives and nouns from the beginning to the end is sure to establish Stephen Gill as a poet par excellence. It is certain that no poet of England wrote poetry with such a rich stock of imagery except John Milton in his Paradise Lost and Samson Agonistes. Even the exceedingly romantic poet Shelley who wrote Prometheus Unbound has in his particular sense, been defeated by this great Canadian poet."* (p.9)

--Referring to *Gitanjali* for which Tagore was awarded Nobel Prize and Stephen Gill's sonnets, Professor Dr. ID Tiwari, head department of English of IKS University, writes:

*Anyone who has enjoyed reading Gitanjali of Tagore and the Singer of Life of Stephen Gill would agree that the underlying themes of both the collections are peace, humanism and mysticism. Both surrender to Him and pray for peace and salvation of humanity. An unbiased and disinterested mind would certainly find the Singer of life aesthetically more gratifying, and poetically more sublime than Gitanjali. The sonnets of the Singer of life are created on a wider canvas and deal with more intense and deeper emotions than the songs of the Gitanjali.*

---“Gill’s gift of language, the immediacy of his wit and word-play combined with a command of imagery which not only capture his readers in a freeze-frame, but hustles them through time and space to another dimension, places him in the forefront of contemporary Indian poets writing in English,”

(Patricia Prime in **Canopy**, India, and **Mawaheb International**, Canada)

---“Poets such as Stephen Gill are certainly doing their utmost to promote world unity...”

(**Daily Sarnia Observer**, Canada)

-- “For Stephen Gill, poetry is the language of peace...”

(Laurel McCosham, staff writer, in daily **Standard-Freeholder**, Canada)

--“Gill’s poems are capsuled feelings and meanings, gross stripped experience speaking for itself in an era of similar experiences, but unique in the personality and expression of their author.”

(Dr. Richard N. Pollard, Prof. of English & Chairman, the Ph.D. Committee of the University of Ottawa, in preface to **Reflections**.)

---“Stephen Gill writes concisely, gracefully of commonplace things and contemporary concerns, suggesting thoughts and feelings of depth without forcing them on the reader”.

(**The Ottawa Citizen, Daily**)

---“What is apparent in all of Stephen Gill’ work is his generous use of imagery, the substance of all poetry to allow to comprehend the shadow, form and content inseparable as always but in a contemporary, un abstruse and most relevant fashion that remain timeless and universal...”

(**The Pilot**, USA)

--- “Stephen Gill expresses his thoughts and hopes for a peaceful and beautiful world” ...

(**Books**)

---“Gill builds bridges with his books”,

(**The Daily Expositor**, Canada)

---“His magic pen creates a unique metaphor raising his poetry above the common crowd”

(Maryanne Raphael in **Bridge-in-Making**, India)

---“Stephen Gill’s poetry is like tasting a strange dish, not quite sure whether one likes it but certainly one must taste again to make sure. I tasted several times and found the dish very much to my liking”.

(Bluebell S. Phillips in **The Canadian India Times**)

---“A reputable poet, sensitive to the anguish of the oppressed and suffering human beings...”

(Paul Yuzyk, Ph.D., a Canadian Senator, introducing **The Discovery of Bangladesh**)

---“...depth in knowledge of humanity and understanding of the human condition in its everyday ritual of survival on a planet whose beauties are marred by soul suffering, soul seeking, meaning longing men..”

(Richard N. Pollard, former head & prof. Eng. Lit. Univer. of Ottawa)

--“highly individual and pleasing style is at once admirably simple and deeply penetrating...”

(**The Link**, Canada)

---“Global peace and social concerns are the primary themes of Gill’s work. That is why his poetry has traversed global literary circles and continues to gain appreciative audiences..”

(Virginia Love Song in **Poetcrit**, India)

---“There is in Tennyson's poems and Mr. Gill's volumes a hierarchy of values. The first and most important is, as John Henry Newman insisted, growth from within. This growth requires spiritual priority. This principal leads man to personal, national and international harmony through an understanding that comes from love...”

(Dr. Frank Tierney, Professor of English Literature, University of Ottawa, in **The Canadian India Times**)

---“Stephen Gill is a poet of values---universal peace and love, oneness and wholeness of human race, respect for human right, and a social structure designed to produce and promote justice. The poet, who considers his poems part of his spiritual self, urges abolition of racial, religious, political and economic prejudices and seeks equal opportunities and privileges for men and women, adoption of a world code of human rights and responsibilities, and creation of a world federal government to heal the dissensions that divide people. He knows religious fanaticism and hatred are a world-devouring fire whose violence none can quench. God alone can deliver humanity from this desolating affliction...”.

(Dr. R.K. Singh, Prof. and Head; and Dr. Mitali De Sarkar in **The Mawaheb International**, Canada)

--“An indefatigable crusader for peace and champion of literary causes”

(**Poetry in the Arts**, USA)

--"Gill's poetic idiom is flawless and rich in conception and execution. He avoids clichés and uses fresh images. He does his best to maintain the logical flow so that the continuity of verse may not be broken. The tonal variations add pleasure to the verse in such a manner that the reader feels the very spirit of the lines that go deeper and deeper in his heart. His phraseology has a vast sky of imagination and offers the vista to the reader who himself experiences the things of the world which the poet has created for him to imagine."

*(The Poetic Corpus of Stephen Gill: An Evaluation by Professor Dr. Sudhir K. Arora, published by Sarup Book Publishers in 2009, p.x and blurb, India)*

--"The message in the poetry of Stephen Gill is harmony. This is the message in the mythologies of the Ojibway people. This is also the message of the Government of Canada that promotes multiculturalism actively. In other words, the official policy of the Government of Canada is to create harmony through multiculturalism. Harmony leads to live and let live."

*(Lino Leitao in Seva Bharati Journal of English Studies)*

--"The metaphors and similes are fresh as well as effective."

*(I. D. Tiwari, author, Ph.D., Prof., Head, Dept. of English Lit., IKS University, India).*

-- "The bulk of Stephen Gill's poetry is to get relief from the repressed feelings. This aspect of Stephen Gill's poetry brings his writings closer to the view of Carl Jung who finds a close relations between poetry and psychology. Stephen Gill uses his poetic techniques to share his repressed emotions. Aristotle believes that catharsis leads to forgiveness and renewal. Stephen Gill's use of unconditional love in his writings is to seek forgiveness in a healthy way.

*(Dr. Aksa Rao, "Stephen Gill's Poetry for Personal Therapy," Online Pakistan Christian Post, and Indian Periodical)*

--"Sonnets of Stephen Gill are very metaphoric and full of deep thoughts and feelings. They transform ordinary "prose of life" in the lyrical Song of Songs of King Solomon, if a person is able to see divine beauty in the world.

*(back cover of Singer of Life, Adolf P. Shvedchikov, PhD, author, nominee for Nobel Prize, Russia)*

--"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, Prof. Olimpia Iacob, Romania, p. 161)*

--Stephen Gill is the poet of an egalitarian society. He is the writer who forges a bond between binary oppositions, living and non-living things, man and woman, prakriti and purusha. Like a mythical figure, he moves ahead of the so-called theory of deconstruction. The distinct theme and style of his creative writings are the subjects of discourses that put him at the global map."

(Prof. Dr. NDR Chandra, Fulbright Senior Research Fellow, former Vice Chancellor of Bastar University, and a prominent author of several critical studies. He writes the above in *An Interpretation of the Mind and Art of Stephen Gill*, Ed. Dr. Anuradha Sharma, p. 18)

--“The dominant themes in Gill’s poems relate to love and its absence...the predominant emotion throughout the corpus of poems is love. As a result of love, there is hope for the world. (Dr. George Hines, Canada, *Stephen Gill and his Works*, Author’s press, p.97-98).

--“Stephen Gill’s poetry is a product of his past life. He is indeed the true representative poet of the current, turbulent, terrorist-hit world. He is a poet in the true sense of the word—a sage, prophet and savior of the world.”

(Prof. KV Dominic in *Stephen Gill’s Poetry*, p. vii)

--“The name of Stephen Gill will be written in golden letters in every history of Indian Diaspora writers. His emotional cries to curb religious fanaticism and racial prejudices are sufficient to assure him a lasting place in the history of Indo-Canadian literature.”

(Prof. Nilanshu K Agarwal in *Discovery Stephen Gill*, back cover)

--“Stephen Gill is a renowned, qualitative poet and his English poems stand out from that of other modern poets on account of foregrounding intense sensibilities, precision of expression, creative imagination, symbolic use of language and liltily vivid imagery.”

(Prof. Nar Deo Sharma, *Essays on the Poetry of Stephen Gill*, ed. Singh, Adhyayan Publishers, p. 9)

--“The poetry of Stephen Gill definitely attracts and captivates with the beauty, rhythm, majesty and solemnity of sincere feelings, sentiments and thoughts and these qualities precisely make his poetic works memorable.”

(Prof. Dr. PCK Prem in *An Interpretation of the Mind and Art of Stephen Gill*, ed. Dr. Anuradha Sharma, p. 147)

--“Stephen Gill’s poems come across as fresh breeze of morning, a range of emotions and thought qualifying him for the status of a post-modern poet. His apprehension and acute awareness of the contemporary world and its problems is remarkable. He seeks harmony and coherence amid all that is irksome, chaotic or tumultuous and spreads the message of love, the gospel of integration, altruism and agape. As a poet he shows maturity and purposiveness—one who is fully conscious of the physical world and at the same time having a perception of the larger dimension of issues found in the metaphysics. Many a time the issues under poetic surveillance are left inconclusive and unresolved; it is precisely this which gives thrust, impetus and strength to Gill’s poetry. What is

commendable throughout his works is the clarity of thoughts, command over diction, colloquial simplicity and above all his conviction in what he writes and the courage to uphold it.”

(Professor Dr. Virender Parmar in Preface to **Essays on the Poetry of Stephen Gill** by Professor Shaleen Kumar Singh, released by Adhyayan Publishers, p.xvi)

--“As in Whitman, there’s a freewheeling Hegalian mysticism a foot in the poetry of Stephen Gill. History is God acting out.”

(Dr. John Gormon, Professor of English at Houston-Clearlake University, Texas, USA)

--Stephen Gill writes “fine crafted poems”

(**Poetry Forum**, USA)

--“Due to his graceful individual expression and his vastness of thoughts that abound in the land of Gotama and Gandhi, he is distinctly recognizable in the gallery of Canadian and Indian poetry.”

(Lino Leitao, novelist from Canada in **Pegasus**).

--“...images are carefully carved” (**Gotta Write Network**, USA)

--“in his poetry the Western sonnet and the Eastern ghazal coalesce. His images underscore the paradox that Gill’s paragraphs mask an orthodoxy that sets him apart from his Canadian contemporaries..”

(Professor of English. Dr. Daniel Bratton from Canada in **The Singer of Life**.)

“I have had the honour of going through highly thought-provoking, touching, deep and highly moving long poem *the Flame* by Dr Stephen Gill. It reminds me of Walcott's poem “Sea Grapes” and Neruda's poem “Tonight I can Write”. Similar sentiments flow from the *Flame*. Dr Gill, a well known champion of world peace and harmony, yet again comes out with distinct vision and message. A unique poem, subtle and absorbing. This poem by itself can be a subject of doctoral dissertations at post graduate level.” (KK Srivastava, author of several prominent collections and a literary critic from India)

*\*Professor Dr. Zotta Alexandru is a lecturer of Romanian and of world literature at Vasile Goldis Western University of Arad at Satu Mare campus in Romania. He says:*

“Thinkers who took interest in the Eastern spirituality unveiled that in the Indian culture there is intermixing of religion, philosophy and poetry in an indestructible interrelation. Therefore, it is not surprising to find the political thought of Stephen Gill in his literary genres. It is also not surprising to find the persuasive value of his poetical discourse, presented with strong arguments in the distinctiveness of his lyricism. This is a reason for his reflection on the condition of poetry in his preface to *The Flame*. He states in his preface that poetry is truth, an affirmation that is close to Goethe who says that poetry is the beauty of divine truth. Stephen Gill’s affirmation is

close to the affirmation of Dostoyevsky also, who believed in something of the same nature.”

(*Stephen Gill in the West*, ed. Professor ID Tiwari, page 216)

\*\*In a world currently bombarded with violence, terrorism, and unease, Gill's work provides a template for examining and implementing harmony. (*The Cornwall Seeker*, Jan. 28, 2018)

AND MUCH MORE...

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