



Bichitra
The Bengali Association
of Manitoba Inc.



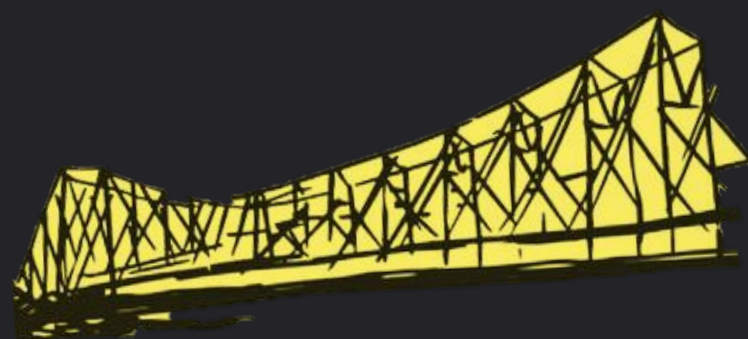
আগমনী



১৪২৮



৪১-তম বর্ষ





Bichitra

The Bengali Association
of Manitoba Inc.



৪১-তম বর্ষ



PURNA SATPATHY

WFGCONNECTS.CA/PURNASATPATHY

*SERVING OUR COMMUNITY TO ACHIEVE
THEIR FINANCIAL "DREAM"*

- HELPS YOU WITH FINANCIAL EDUCATION & SOLUTION
- AFFORDABLE SUPER VISA INSURANCE (MONTHLY PLAN AVAILABLE)
- LIFE INSURANCE, CRITICAL INSURANCE, DISABILITY INSURANCE
- REGISTERED EDUCATION SAVINGS PLAN (RESP)
- REGISTERED RETIRED SAVINGS PLAN (RRSP)
- TAX FREE SAVINGS ACCOUNT (TFSA)

*"IT DOES NOT COST A DIME TO EDUCATE YOURSELF
BUT COST A FORTUNE NOT TO OPT FOR"*

(204) 509-0235

PURNALPANA@GMAIL.COM



WORLD FINANCIAL
GROUP CANADA INC.

Rahul Sohar

Realtor

© 2049551463

© soharrealtor@gmail.com



11 St. Anne's Road
Winnipeg, MB. R2M2Y1





**SANDEEP & ROOPALI MAGGU
UNIT 5F, 1639 KENASTON BLVD
WINNIPEG, MB
R3P 2M4**

Table of contents

Territory Acknowledgment	10
Flashback	11
In Memoriam: 1978-2021	12
Message of gratitude from executive committee	15
শ্রীশ্রীশারদীয়া দুর্গা পূজার নিষন্ট-১৪২৮	16
Shree Shree Durga Puja Timings-2021	17
Bichitra Executive Committee, 2021-2023	18-22
Bichitra Member Directory, 2021	23-27

Table of contents

Articles and poems

Maa Durga ~Ryma Dey	29
Holocaust ~Anna Das	30-32
বিভূর বাগান ~বিভূতি মন্ডল	33
Effect of COVID pandemic in our lives ~Ayush Majumdar (Piku)	34-36
WhatsApp-এর দুর্গা ~ডঃপল্লব গঙ্গোপাধ্যায়	37-38
The Boy Who Almost Got Killed ~Raul Dey	39
আঁধারে আলো ~প্রণব দেবনাথ	40-46
A Lesson on Aboriginal Identity ~Jigeesha Mukherjee	47-50
Midnight in Leptis Magna ~Kamal Malakar	51-61
Lamar Valley ~Anindya Roy Choudhury	62-64
সাম্প্রতিক কালের দুর্গাপূজা ~সন্জিত দাস	65
Pujo in Rebound ~Jigeesha Mukherjee	66

Table of contents

Artwork

Ayshani Mukerji	69
Prachi Dey	70
Rajsree Mandal	71
Rimona Mandal	72
Shreyoshi Gomes	73
Shruti Mukerji	74
Jigeesha Mukherjee	75
Sourav Mandal	76
<i>Cover art ~Jigeesha Mukherjee</i>	

Photographs

Miscellaneous activities by Bichitra (2010-2021)	78-85
Puja Decoration, 2021	86

Table of contents

Advertisements

Purna Satpathy

Rahul Sohar

Sandeep and Rupali Maggu

Reza Quadir

Shawn and Pam Sommers

Shovan Dutta

Ranjiv Kalia

Territory Acknowledgment

By ~
Bichitra

The Bengali Association
of Manitoba Inc.



We would like to acknowledge that
we are on Treaty 1 territory and
that the land on which we gather is
the traditional territory of
Anishinaabeg, Cree, Ojibway-Cree,
Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the
homeland of the Métis Nation

11

In Memoriam: 1978-2021

The members of Bichitra – The Bengali Association of Manitoba Inc., are the organization's greatest asset.

On this page, Bichitra pays homage to the many members and talents we lost during the past 42 years.

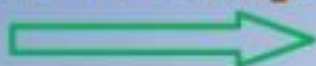
Anju Sen
Ashim Kumar Roy
Bijoy Roy Chaudhury
Chitta Ranjan Ghosh
Deepak Bose
Lily Mukherjee
Manoranjan Ray
Mujibur Rahman
Prasun Tagore
Pulak Ghosh
Radha Madhab Das
Ranen Sinha
Rina Ganguly
Rory Fonseca
Shanti Majumdar
Shibdas Biswas
Snehesh Kumar Sinha
Samir Bhattacharya
Chandra Samanta
Gaurisankar Roy
Kiron Mallick
Lakshmi “Lucky” Mallick

We made every effort to ensure accuracy of information contained in this list.
Any errors or omissions are purely unintentional.

CANADA is the land of opportunities!!

Please take your action now!!!

For a great Real Estate experience and thousands of dollars in savings please contact



Reza Quadir
Realtor

Mobile (204) 960-9222
reza100@outlook.com

Affiliated Services: you can count me when you need very best in all affiliated, from movers, to handyman, professional home inspectors, mortgage professionals, attorneys and more. You're always in the right hands.



Happy Durga Puja!

- **THINKING OF BUYING A HOME?** Beat home buyers to hot new listings & deals on homes! Avoid bidding wars!
- **THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME?** List your home for FREE. Ask how!
- **NEED A HOME MORTGAGE?** Programs for those new to Canada. Programs for those with little to NO money down. Help for ALL with over 40 lenders with the BEST rates in Canada!

We've helped more than 1000 families since 2008. Allow our family to help yours...



www.ShawnSommers.com

**Shawn & Pam
Sommers**

204.818.0707

Talk/Text 24/7



www.PamSommers.com

A portrait of Shovan Dutta, a middle-aged man with dark hair, smiling. He is wearing a blue button-down shirt under a grey pinstriped blazer. The background is a warm orange gradient.

what is credit?

And how does it
contribute to my
financial well-being?

I'm here to answer all
of your questions, and
help you with day-to-day
banking, loans, mortgages,
investments, and more.

**SERVICE PROVIDED IN BENGALI,
HINDI, AND ENGLISH.**

Shovan Dutta, Advisor | 1033 St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg

where relationships
matter most.

sunovacu.ca



sunova
CREDIT UNION

Message of Acknowledgment

~From the executive committee

The Bichitra Executive Committee would like to welcome you all at the 41st Shri Shri Durga Puja. This year is very special in the essence that this is the first time Bichitra is going to organize a puja during pandemic following the Provincial Public Health Order. To ensure that our members get an opportunity to participate in the puja in a Bengali way over a course of three days, we are organizing the puja at 800 Point Road, Winnipeg, MB R3T 3L8.

Your generous support to organize the 41st Durga Puja is very much appreciated. We extend our sincere greetings and best wishes to all the members and friends of Bichitra and to all the guests participating in this year's festivities.

On this occasion, we sincerely thank all the members of Bichitra and of the Durga Puja Committee for their hard work and help in making the 2021 Durga Puja celebrations a reality, and thank the most dedicated editors, all the contributors, and advertisers for making the publication of Agomoni a grand success.

শ্রীশ্রীশারদীয়া দুর্গা পূজার নিৰ্ঘণ্ট

-১৪২৮

❖	মহা ষষ্ঠী	অক্টোবৰ ১৫, সন্ধ্যা ৬.৩০
❖	মহা সপ্তমী	অক্টোবৰ ১৬, দুপুৰ ১২.৩০
❖	মহা অষ্টমী	অক্টোবৰ ১৬, সন্ধ্যা ৬.৩০
❖	মহা নবমী ও বিজয়া দশমী	অক্টোবৰ ১৭, সকাল ১০.৩০ থেকে- ৰাত্ৰি ১০.৩০



স্থান :ফোৰ্ট গ্যাৰি ইউনাইটেড চাৰ্চ
৮০০ পয়েন্ট ৰোড
উইনিপেগ, MB R3T 3L8

যোগাযোগ: অসিত দে (204)-770-8986
পীযুষ মজুমদাৰ (204)-290-6332

Shree Shree Durga Puja Timings

~2021

❖	Maha Shasthi	October 15, 6.30 pm
❖	Maha Saptami	October 16, 12.30 pm
❖	Maha Ashtami	October 16, 6.30 pm
❖	Maha Nabami and Bijoya Dashami	October 17, 10:30 am to 10 pm



Venue: Fort Garry United Church
800 Point Road
Winnipeg R38 3L8

Contact: Asit Dey (204)-770-8986
Pijush Majumdar (204)-290-6332

Executive Committee, 2021-2023



Asit Dey, President

Thanks everyone for checking out our website. Asit enjoys volunteering and love to participate in different cultural activities. He likes to proliferate the passion for volunteering to the people he knows. His vision is to share and leverage the strengths to build a strong cultural and responsive community in Manitoba.

Surjya Banik, Vice President

Surjya Banik is a Mechanical engineer and currently working as a Power Engineer with the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of Manitoba. He is married to Dr. Mitali Banik and blessed with two daughters. He enjoys listening to devotional and classical music and likes nature, people, and leans towards spiritually focused activities. He is a compassionate, straightforward, and honest person.



Executive Committee, 2021-2023



Avishek Ghosh, General Secretary

Avishek is an Electrical Engineer by profession and currently working as a Research Assistant at the University of Manitoba. He strongly believes in giving back to the community and serves as an active volunteer at different capacities. Besides serving as a General Secretary for Bichitra's executive committee, he also volunteers at the International Centre at UofM, IEEE student chapter and Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba. Exploring the unknown, traveling the globe and experiencing different cultures, cuisines and music are what drive Avishek forward.

Shovan Dutta, Treasurer

Shovan Dutta is a seasoned banker with 23 years of international banking experience. He is currently working as independent contractor with Sunova Credit Union. He holds a CSI designation from Canada and CTP designation from the United States. He lives with his family and enjoys exploring his culinary skills, gardening, and travelling in his spare time.



Executive Committee,
2021-2023



Papri Chakraborty, Cultural Secretary
এ মা !! আমি নিজের সম্মন্ধে লিখতে জানি না !

Srijeet Saha, Food Secretary
এ মা !! আমি নিজের সম্মন্ধে লিখতে জানি না !



Executive Committee, 2021-2023



Jigeesha Mukherjee, Publication Secretary

Jigeesha is a second year PhD student at the Department of Microbiology, University of Manitoba, working on fungal genetics. Her interests beyond academics involve slam poetry and music. She is also enthusiastic about participating in community events, charity drives and volunteering. She hopes to forge meaningful associations with the members of the Bengali community in Winnipeg through Bichitra.

Arindam Sarkar, Member-At-Large

Arindam is an active volunteer in the community and sits on the executive and advisory board of multiple not-for-profit organizations. He was an exec. member at Vedanta Society of Winnipeg, active volunteer at Agape Table, technology evangelist at WSD, fundraiser at JD RF and contemplative speaker. He is a technology enthusiast, an avid reader of science fictions and a die-hard fan of San Antonio Spurs. Apart from his volunteering activities, he is a management consultant by profession – a day job that helps for his daily survival.



Executive Committee, 2021-2023



Pranab Debnath, Member-At-Large

এ মা !! আমি নিজের সম্মুখে লিখতে জানি না !

Pijush Majumdar, Ex-President

Warm greetings to all our members. By profession Pijush is a registered pharmacist and by heart he is a pure Bengali who loves to be involved in community activities & help others irrespective of race, religion & ethnicity! His favorite hobby is to travel different parts of this planet while exploring different cultures and people from different ethnicity. Other than the Bengali food, he is crazy about Cantonese style Chinese food. Unlike lot of other Winnipeggers, Pijush is a big fan of Winnipeg winter.



Bichitra Member Directory, 2021

Sr. No.	Last Name	First Name	Spouse	Children	Address	Postal Code	Phone
1	Adhikari	Prasant	-	-	63 Baldry Bay	R3T 3C5	269-1468
2	Alam	Jesmen	-	-	7 Rooke Ave	R3Y 0B6	269-5544
3	Bal	Makhan	Krishna	Shivani, Shibashis, Shomit	145 Edward Ave. East	R2C 0V9	222-3993
4	Banerji	Shantanu	Versha	Naina, Aakaash, Robin	203 Grenfell Blvd	R3P 0B8	807-5092
5	Banik	Anjan	Anju	Ayan, Antar	214 - 26 Gaylene Place	R3T 4G7	963-6344
6	Banik	Rajib	Trisha	Ritisha	113 - 26 Gaylene Place	R3T 4G7	963-5035
7	Banik	Sakti Prosad	Ratna	Anindita, Hrishikesh, Shatabdi	11 - 1523 Chancellor Dr.	R3T 4G1	809-6274
8	Banik	Surjya	Mitali	Anannya, Upama	1344 Lee Blvd	R3T 6E2	221-9692
9	Bankar	Gaurav	Rukmini	-	1522 - 77 University Cres.	R3T 3N8	504-0233
10	Basu	Saibal	Sujata	Sachin, Snehal	56 Raphael St.	R3T 2R4	275-5606
11	Bhatta	Shapath	Mousumi	Prothoma	1067 Parker Ave	R3T 0T3	772-6812
12	Bhattacharya	Samir K.	-	-	404 - 333 Vaughn Street	R3B 3J9	898-3905
13	Bhowmick	Alik	Suchita	Pranjai, Pristine	10 Ashwood Cove	R2J 3G6	229-5438
14	Biswas	Sumita	-	-	605 - 1710 Portage Avenue	R3J 0E2	257-7952
15	Chakraborty	Pradyut	Papri	Priyanshu	1929 Jefferson Ave.	R2R 1R9	698-0585
16	Chand	Dr. Jagdish	Kumud	-	1844 Chancellor Dr.	R3T 4H5	261-1307
17	Chatterjee	Tirthik	Gitalipi	Mihika	404-170 Hargrave St.	R3C 3H4	930-6261
18	Chaudhuri	Abhijit	Sadhana	-	801- 1355 Lee Boulevard	R3T 4X3	480-8637
19	Chaudhuri	Atanu	Devjani	Soumya, Trisha	403-400 Tache Ave.	R2H 3C3	891-6245

Bichitra Member Directory, 2021

Sr. No.	Last Name	First Name	Spouse	Children	Address	Postal Code	Phone
20	Chaudhuri	Biswajit	Cauvery	Chitrangada	1392 Chancellor Dr.	R3T 4H6	416-4566
21	Das	Dip Kumar	Srabani	Anna	49 Nutley Circle	R2N 1S2	298-4005
22	Das	Subha	-	-	67 McGill Place	R3T 2Y6	269-7249
23	Das	Pranay	Sathi Rani	Soptom Neel	2 Healy Crescent	R2N 2S9	416-6598
24	Das	Swadesh Chandra	Nilima Rani	Pinaki, Susmith	1951 William Ave West	R2R 0C1	417-9962
25	Deb	Apurba	Lipi	Mrittika, Moinak	31 Colwick Cove	R3T 5L4	417-1798
26	Deb	Mridul	Jolly	Anamika, Shaon	106 Laval Dr.	R3T 2X7	431-338-0052
27	Debnath	Jayanta	Shilalipi	Mugdho	341 Victor St.	R3G 1P7	218-1116
28	Debanth	Pranab	Sikta	Monisha, Debajyoti	140 Wayfield Dr.	R3T 6C9	275-6882
29	Dey	Asit	Prachi	Ryma, Raul	2 Brookstone Pl.	R3Y 0C4	219-8969
30	Dey	Bishnu Ranjan	Bipasha	Ipshita, Ishani	3 Munn Road	R2N 3H8	951-7675
31	Dey	Liton	Susmita	Adrita, Hrishit	35 Draho Crescent	R2N 4H1	914-9820
32	Dutta	Samrat	Amrita	Alisha	147 Kingsclear Dr.	R2N 0K4	869-6178
33	Dutta	Shovan	Elora	Spreeha	7 Drew Street	R3Y 0L1	430-2012
34	Ganguly	Pallab	Late Rina	Riya, Rishi	103 Marine Drive	R2N 0E1	504-4021
35	Ghosh	Amiotosh	Rimi	Pranjal, Prachurjo	10 Blue Spruce Crescent	R2M 4C2	698-4025
36	Ghosh	Archana	-	-	13 Harcourt Ave., Toronto	M4K 1M3	558-0288
37	Ghosh	Avishek	Shreyoshi	-	3-1616 Pembina Hwy.	R3T 2G2	431-336-2110
38	Ghosh	Neil	-	-	13 Harcourt Ave., Toronto	M4K 1M3	996-3557
39	Ghosh	Prabal	Swati	Celina	1151 Fairfield Ave.	R3T 2R3	269-3075

Bichitra Member Directory, 2021

Sr. No.	Last Name	First Name	Spouse	Children	Address	Postal Code	Phone
40	Ghosh	Saday	Savitri	Anushka, Aurobindo	154 Southwalk Bay	R2N 1M7	998-6362
41	Ghosh	Sandeep	Joyita	Aahana	107-701 Sterling Lyon Pkwy	R3P 2V1	639-471-1741
42	Ghosh	Subhankar	Triparna	Ronav, Rahini	194 St. Michael Rd	R3M 2K9	296-0396
43	Kundu	Kaushik	Swatilekha	-	912-33 Hargrave Street	R3C 3T9	881-6283
44	Malaker	Kamal	Baljit K.	Sharmeela	1614 Chancellor Dr.	R3T 4B9	261-7010
45	Majumdar	Arpan	Apoorva	-	121-170 Watt Street	R2L 2B5	698-5506
46	Majumdar	Pijush	Arpita	Ayush	23 Lake Bend Road	R3Y 0M6	261-8917
47	Majumdar	Tuhin	Ritu	Ayden	7 Cadwell Crescent	R3Y 1T2	431-588-3133
48	Mandal	Bibhuti	-	-	7 - 66 Carlton St.	R3C 1N9	783-2292
49	Mandal	Reshmi	Gautam	Rajsree, Rimona	210 Knightsbridge Dr.	R2M 4E9	255-3439
50	Mandal	Saumen	Shampa	Arnab, Sourav	404 Kirkbridge Dr.	R3T 5R4	261-8645
51	Mesbahi	Iariq	Nahid	Sayeda	27 Greensboro Bay	R3T 4K9	269-6624
52	Mitra	Prabir	Kalpana	Bobby, Debbie	62 Bethune Way	R2M 5J3	256-0081
53	Mojumder	Antor	-	-	15 Lake Village Road	R3T 4M7	292-6249
54	Mondal	Sujay	Chandrani	-	601-61 Edmonton St.	R3C 1P9	869-5150
55	Mukerji	Ayan	Shruti	Ayshani, Ishan	180 Everden Road	R2N 4J2	999-3382
56	Mukhopadhyay	Jigeesha	-	-	211 Krikbridge Dr.	R3T 4W5	396-2195
57	Pandey	Anita	Ajay	Ayusha, Anish	7 Marvan Cove	R2N 0C7	453-2282
58	Paul	Jagari	Avinash	Ayya	65 Becontree Bay	R2N 2Z9	952-9170
59	Paul	Niranjan	Archana	Orgho, Adrita	78 Waterstone Dr.	R3Y 0L2	872-4477

Bichitra Member Directory, 2021

Sr. No.	Last Name	First Name	Spouse	Children	Address	Postal Code	Phone
60	Pavel	Arunava Roy Chowdhury	Mily	-	207-952 Chancellor Dr.	R3T 2K1	431-336-4564
61	Poddar	Nabarun (Shaon)	Bappy	Sanaskrity	82 Barrington Ave	R2M 2A7	881-8485
62	Pramanik	Projjwal	-	-	3 Marquis Crescent	R2P 0J7	647-896-0693
63	Quadir	Reza	Kaniz	Arpita, Aazan	34 Royal Oak Dr.	R3Y 1R2	960-9222
64	Ray	Shoma	-	-	77 Niagara St.	R3N 0T8	414-4661
65	Ray Sisk	Reena	Joel	Maya, Sachin	77 Niagara St.	R3N 0T8	414-4661
66	Roy Chowdhury	Subir	Karabi (Rimi)	Austin, Aarya	752 Ashworth St. South	R2N 4C3	221-6951
67	Roy	Dhrubajyoti	Moumita	Shreyan	1811 - 170 Hargrave Street	R3C 3H4	930-8721
68	Roy	Gaurisankar	Ratna	Neilloy, Rajarshi	35 East Lake Dr	R3T 4T5	261-0672
69	Roy	Jaya	-	-	710-965 Inverhouse Dr. ON	L5J 4B4	855-5063
70	Roy	Pranab	Manju	Rupa, Ronjan	59 St. Michael Road	R2M 2K7	257-6601
71	Roy	Sima	-	-	153 Hillmartin Dr.	R3T 5L5	557-4086
72	Saha	Bhaskar	Mimi	Aninda	24 Williams St., Markham	L6C 0C2	915-8324
73	Saha	Ranjan	Sayani	Riyona	3 Brixton Bay	R2N 2R1	480-9891
74	Saha	Srijeet	-	-	501-2815 Pembina Hwy	R3T 4Y8	431-997-2456
75	Sanyal	Dipankar	Ankona	-	405-701 Sterling Lyon Pkwy	R3P 1J9	291-2956
76	Sarkar	Arindam	Urbi	Aaheli	60 Edward Turner Dr.	R3X 0J8	952-1604
77	Sarkar	Ashok	Tuntun	Rahul, Avantika	6-460 Lindenwoods Dr. W.	R3P 0Y1	488-6643
78	Sarkar	Joykrishna	Debjani	Joshita, Jasmitha	233 Southglen Blvd	R2N 3K3	505-3661
79	Sarker	Ashish	Anupama	Nabonita, Aditya	308-70 Bison Dr.	R3T 2S5	615-8485

Bichitra Member Directory, 2021

Sr. No.	Last Name	First Name	Spouse	Children	Address	Postal Code	Phone
80	Satpathy	Purna Chandra	Alpana	Swayam	63 Wiltshire Bay	R2J 2L6	509-0235
81	Shahrier	Utsha	Lubna	-	3 Tranquil Bay	R3T 5E2	962-8717
82	Shome	Subhrakam	Shashwati (Joba)	Devarshi, Tanajee	10 Celtic Bay	R3T 2W9	261-6348
83	Sinha	Luella	Late Ranen Sinha	Mala, Jay	582 Queenston Street	R3N 0X3	489-8635
84	Sutradhar	Piklu	Moushumi	Poridhi	2C-940 Chancellor Dr.	R3T 2K1	952-3742

Articles and poems

Maa Durga



Maa Durga, we are blessed with the
courage
to fight all evil, and
to make peace in life.
To the goddess
who protects us from all harm,
we thank you for the dedication and
charm.

Five nights for Maa Durga,
full of food and songs,
celebrating your presence,
with dance all night long.
The gift of kindness, freedom, success,
courage
and wisdom from you,
we will extend those gifts
to others in needs
throughout the years thinking about you.

Poem and artwork
by
~Ryma Dey

The Holocaust was an extermination of all European Jews during WW2. Between the time period of 1933-1945, the Nazi Community and its associates completely murdered about six million Jews across German occupied land, which is about two-thirds of the Jewish population. Jews were either exterminated through labour work, were sent to gas chambers with deathly gas, or were sent to gas vans, ending in genocide at concentration camps! Also, to distinguish Jews from German people, they were forced to wear a blue star of David on their clothing. Many Jewish stores, synagogues and many more had been destroyed by getting burned, people smashing the windows, or by getting attacked. In fact, Jews had been forced to hold up signs telling the public not to shop at their stores.



As a punishment, the Nazi government made it clear that no Jewish person could marry any German civilian and that soon all their citizenships would be taken away!

2 | Holocaust

It was a dreaded experience for the Jews living through the war, as they could never know if they would be alive the next day. The possibility of being caught by a German soldier (police) was terrifying. They had no clue about what was happening and why. They were constantly living in danger. It was an abominable nightmare.

Jews would have to run away from the public to find a place to hide, they would be made fun of and even forced to do things that made them look different from other German people. The final step was being deported to a concentration camp where they breathed their last couple of breaths. The Holocaust was like a punishment for innocent people, and it is the reason why many young lives had been taken away.

Many Jewish people had to sacrifice everything they had to protect their loved ones and themselves. The most common way Jewish people would protect themselves is by simply finding a hiding spot. Many Jews would hide in attics, cellars, old buildings, corners where they wouldn't be seen, or any place that wouldn't expose their identity. When Jews were hiding, it was mandatory to remain quiet and to use very little resources (things) for daily use. For example, when the family was hungry, they would use a small stove that could easily heat up food items.

Although many people supported Adolf Hitler and his government, there were many Germans that disliked and disagreed with his rules and decisions. Many people made plans to assassinate him and to overthrow his established regime.



The main reason people did not speak up and say anything to defend the Jews is because during the Holocaust, Adolf Hitler and his regime had become extremely powerful and it would've been very hard to overpower him.

2 | Holocaust

In Munich, in the year of 1942, university students formed a group called the White Rose resistance group that was against Hitler. However, because of this group formation, the leaders of the group (Hans Scholl, Sophie Scholl, and a professor named Kurt Huber) were arrested and executed for the distribution of anti-Nazi notice.

Because the Nazi government had been so strong that if someone said anything against them, they would instantly be arrested and executed and that was a big scare for people.

During the Holocaust, up to 20 million people died, which include homosexuals, people with disabilities, Jews, Soviet civilians, Serbs, and many more!

Walking into a concentration camp was like walking towards your own death. More than millions of people were imprisoned, mistreated, and were murdered, but only because of their ethnic identity.

Auschwitz was the biggest and deadliest concentration camp, around 1.1 million people were killed there, and almost one million of them were Jews.



Out of the millions of people that were deported and killed there, only 196 people were successful and managed to escape!

During the Holocaust, there were more than 44,000 concentration camps! However, apart from a few exceptions, victims who were deported to concentration camps were instantly killed upon arrival in gas chambers!

Article by
~Anna Das

বিভূর বাগান

ছোট আমার সজ্জি বাগান
ভরে দেহ মন ভরে দেহ প্রান।
ছোট ছোট চারা গুলি
চায় যবে মুখ তুলি
তপন কিরণ আর বাদল ধারায়
করে তারা সুখ স্নান।
ফোটে কত ফুল
ভ্রমর অলিরা আসে
কত কানাকানি
গুঞ্জন বাতাসে।
তারপর ফলে ফল
হয়ে তারা উচ্ছল
পরানের মধু দিয়ে যায় শুধু
চায় নাক প্রতিদান।



কবিতা ~

বিভূতি মন্ডল

Sometime in the beginning of March, 2020, all of a sudden I heard a deadly virus was spreading all over the world. I had no idea of what this virus was and how it could affect our lives! My parents told me that a new virus named COVID-19, came from China and it was spreading very fast. Many people were dying throughout the world as there was no treatment for the infection. My parents and my teachers said that I must not touch anything and had to wash my hands thoroughly as I could get the infection by touching things.

On a Friday evening, one of our relatives called from Toronto and suggested to my dad that we should do as much grocery shopping as possible as there was news that the stores and malls would be closed for a while. My dad went to the superstore as that's where he loves to go for his groceries.



At that point, I still didn't know we were heading for something called pandemic, a word I had never heard before!

4

Effect of COVID-pandemic in our lives

He came home frustrated with very few items saying he never saw that many people in the superstore and that everyone was buying massive amounts of everything with an unknown fear. Soon we had many other rules to follow, like wearing masks, not going to anybody's house and maintaining social distance from everybody.

I went to my school and to my surprise, I saw the least number of students not only in my class but in the entire school. The number of students continued to be lower every day and so were the number of cars on the roads. I started to feel something scary and uncertain coming in our way. After a week, the school sent an email to my mother saying the school would be closed for two weeks in order to keep the students and staff safe from COVID-19 infection. I heard my parents discussing how many new cases were tested positive in Winnipeg for that day. Thankfully, my mom's office allowed her to work from home for the next two weeks and she was home with me.

Things started changing dramatically in the next few days as every news channel and radio station discussed how many people were getting infected on a daily basis. My home city, Winnipeg, wasn't an exception from the increasing spread of the deadly virus. My parents told me that the world was officially in the pandemic. Curiously, I googled the word 'Pandemic' and got more scared when I started reading about it. My school got closed for the summer, everyone stopped going to each other's house, all the community activities were cancelled and there were no weekend parties or play-dates.

The new adjustment to life and the adaptation with the pandemic began. The journey had not been easy at all!



Outside of home, most of the services were either closed or were functioning for limited hours. It was difficult in a way that we almost got home bound.

4

Effect of COVID-pandemic in our lives

Only essential workers like my dad kept going to work on a daily basis, whereas my mom would work a few days from home and a few days, she would go to the office. School announced that they will start teaching online. We started virtual learning.

Initially it was a little problematic to adjust to the school's online classes; but very soon I started liking it as that was the only time I had the opportunity to see my friends. Very soon, I connected with my community friends the same way in my virtual class and finally I could play my video games again with my friends.

On other hand, families started spending more time than ever with each other. Although I didn't get to spend that much time with my dad due to his work pattern, I surely spent a lot of good time with my mom.

As everyone was maintaining social distance and wearing masks, people were getting less sick during this pandemic. My dad even said he did not hear many people who had the flu last year. He believed it was because of social distancing and using masks.



In conclusion, I still consider this phase to have some positive contribution in our lives as well.

4 | Effect of COVID-pandemic in our lives

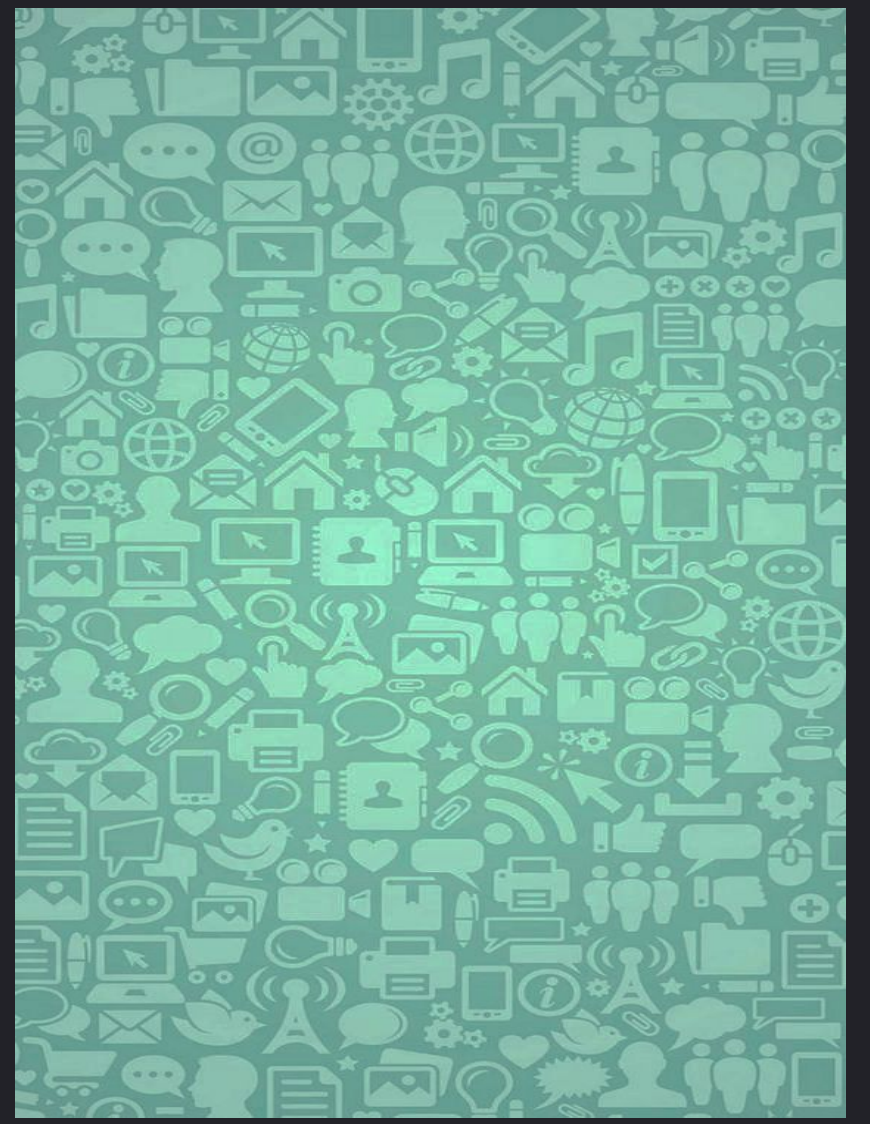
Pandemic will likely cause long-standing or even permanent changes to the world. While most people debate on its negative impact, I think not everything was negative during this time!

The teachers and students became more creative and collaborative during this time. Some office workers loved working in a remote setting. We learned to do many things online and it opened up many opportunities for everybody. We could spend more time with family and enjoy our neighbourhood.

**Article by
~Ayush Majumdar
(Piku)**

WhatsApp -এর দুর্গা

রাত তখন এগারোটা। ঘুম পেয়েছে। ভাবলাম মা দুর্গাকে একটা Whatsapp-এ message পাঠাই। পরের দিন সকালে দেখলাম আমার Mobile-এ লেখা আছে — “বাবা পল্লব অনেকদিন পরে আমাকে তুমি খোঁজ নিয়েছ। আমি খুশী আগামী পাঁচদিন তোমাকে আমতলার মন্দিরে দেখব। সাবধানে থেকো। সবানজলে হাত ধুয়ো। বাড়িতে থাক। Corona Virus থেকে মুক্তি পাও। Whatsapp-এর Profile Picture-এ স্বয়ং দুর্গা। মনটা খুশীতে ভরে গেল।



সেদিনের রাত্রিতে আবার Whatsapp-এ message পাঠলাম। ভোর হতেই Mobile-টা হাতে নিলাম। এবারের লেখাতে দেখলাম — “বাবা পল্লব — আমাকে সবাই সংস্কৃতে মন্ত্র পরে ডাকে। এই প্রথম দেখলাম তুমি আমাকে বাংলাতে লিখেছ। আমি বাংলা ভাষা ভালবাসি। সবাইকে বল “দুর্গা App” যেন Download করে। তা হলেই আমার সঙ্গে সবাইকথা বলতে পারবে।” এর মধ্যে অনেকদিন কেটে গেছে। আমি হাসপাতালের কাজে ব্যস্ত। সময় করে মা দুর্গাকে Whatsapp-এ খবর পাঠাতে পারি নি। আমার এক রোগী হঠাৎ করে খারাপ হল। ভদ্রলোক ছিলেন Heart-এর রোগী। উনি Corona Virus-এ আক্রান্ত হলেন। তাই Situation-টা খুব খারাপ ছিল। শ্বাস কষ্টের জন্য Ventilator দিতে হল। মনে হল এই রোগীকে বাঁচাতে পারব না। হাসপাতালেই ক্লান্ত হয়ে ঘুমিয়ে পড়েছি। ঘুমের মধ্যে বলে ফেললাম — “মা তারা জয় হিন্দ”। Mobile-এর Whatsapp বেজে উঠল। মা দুর্গা বললেন — “Whatsapp-এর message টা পরে দেখ”। লেখা আছে Dexamethasone

WhatsApp -এর দুর্গা

গুরু কর। Ventilator দরকার হবে না। Nurseকে ডাকলাম। শুরু হল treatment। রোগী ঠিক হয়ে গেলেন। অবাক লাগল।

এরপর একদিনের জন্যও মা দুর্গাকে Whatsapp করতে ভুলি নি। গতকাল মা লিখেছেন— “লোকেরা ভাল থাকলে আমাকে ডাকে না। অসুবিধায় পরলেই মনে করে। আমি কিন্তু সবার সাথেই আছি। সবাই যেন দান-খানের মধ্যে যায় এটাতে অনেক লোকের উপকার হবে।”

অনেক ঝাঁকানি দিয়ে Planeটা থেমে গেল। Toronto থেকে Delhi আসছিলাম। পুরো চোদ্দ ঘন্টা Flight-এ ঘুমিয়েছি। এরপর যাব কলকাতায়। তারপর আমতলায়। স্বপ্নের কথা মনে পরে গেল। Immigration এর formalities শেষ করার পর Mobile টাকে on করলাম। কি আশ্চর্য্য।

ই

দুর্গা App আছে। message পাঠালাম — “ঘুমিয়ে পড়েছিলাম।”
উত্তর আসল — ঘুমিয়ে ঘুমিয়ে মিষ্টি খাও। কোন অসুবিধা নেই। আমরা মা দুর্গা মিষ্টান্ন ভাণ্ডার।

~ড:পল্লব গঙ্গোপাধ্যায়

One day a boy was walking to school. He saw a black van. The van pulled over right in front of the boy. The guy inside of the car asked the boy if he wanted a ride. The boy said OK! The boy went in the car. But he was kidnapped and he didn't know. They went to an abandoned cabin.



What I learned today is
never to go into
someone's car except
your mom and dad's
car!

6 | The Boy Who Almost Got Killed

The boy was very scared because he knew this wasn't the way to school. The guy loudly asked him to get out of the car. The guy was holding a knife at the boy's neck. The boy saw dead bodies and skeletons everywhere.

The boy escaped. The guy and his friend had a weapon and tried to kill the boy but the boy escaped. Also, the boy said he would never go in anyone's car except for his mom and dad's car.

Article by
~Raul Dey

আঁধারে আলো

বিকেল গড়িয়ে সন্ধ্যা হয়ে এসেছে। গাছগাছালির ছায়া ক্রমশ দীর্ঘায়িত হয়ে একটা আলো আঁধার ভাব চারদিকে। ‘জয় মা কালী’ এসে গেছে। এবার আসবে পাঁচটা সাঁইত্রিশের লোকাল।

‘জয় মা কালী’ আর ‘জয় মা দুর্গা’, দুটো বাস এই লাইনে আপ ডাউন করে। সকালে শেয়ালদা লোকাল ধরার জন্য ‘জয় মা দুর্গা’ আর বিকেলে ডাউন লোকালের জন্য ‘জয় মা কালী’। বেশির ভাগই ডেইলি প্যাসেঞ্জার, দশটা পাঁচটার কেরাণী। আর আছে কিছু স্কুল কলেজের ছাত্রছাত্রী। যাতায়াতের জন্য এই দুটো বাসই ভরসা।

অচিন্ত্য অলস দৃষ্টিতে তাকিয়েছিল। সামনে জানালাটা বেশ বড়, মেঝে থেকে প্রায় ছাদ পর্যন্ত। সাবেক কালের দালান কোঠায় যেমন হয়। ওর অফিসটা স্টেশনের লাগোয়া। জানালা দিয়ে বাইরে স্টেশন চত্বরের প্রায় পুরোটাই চোখে পড়ে। ‘জয় মা কালী’ এসে গেছে মানে জায়গাটা এবার জমজমাট হয়ে উঠবে। শুরু হবে কাজকর্ম, হাঁকডাক, ছোট্টাছুটি। চত্বরের একপাশে হরগৌরী মিষ্টান্ন ভান্ডার। ওপরে টিনের শেড, নিচে সিমেন্টের পাকা মেঝে। সামনে বিশাল দুটো উনুন জ্বলছে। তাতে কড়াই চাপানো। কড়াইয়ে আলকাতরার মত কালো তেল গরম হয়ে ধোঁয়া ছাড়ছে। ওপাশে একটা চায়ের দোকান। টিনের সাইনবোর্ড কাত হয়ে ঝুলছে, অস্পষ্ট অক্ষরে লেখা ‘মন্টুর চা’। সামনে দুটো কাঠের বেঞ্চি, একটা নড়বড়ে চেয়ার, খদ্দেরদের জন্য রাখা। উনুনে টোল থাওয়া ঢাউস কেটলি চাপানো। লাগোয়া একটা পানের দোকান। তার বাহার কম না। নীল সবুজ আলোর মালা, অষ্টপ্রহর হিন্দি ফিলিমের গান বাজছে। দেড়তলা উঁচু দোকানে আসনপিঁড়ি হয়ে বসে বিহারী দোকানদার, কপালে মেটে সিঁদুরের ফোঁটা। খদ্দের এলেই শুরু হবে পান সাজা, সিগ্রেট বেচা।

এভাবে চলবে ঘন্টা দুই আড়াই। তারপর অন্ধকার ঘন হলে নির্জনতা নেমে আসবে। রাস্তায় গড়াগড়ি দেবে মাটির ভাঁড়, শাল পাতা, এঁটোকাঁটার আবর্জনা। শূঁকে শূঁকে ঘুরে বেড়াবে নেড়ি কুকুরের দল।

আঁধারে আলো

আজ প্রায় ছয় মাস ধরে এই রুটিন দেখে আসছে অচিন্ত্য। কখন কি হবে ওর মুখস্ত।

জায়গাটা একটা মফস্বল শহর। কলকাতার কাছেই, ঘন্টা দেড়েক মাত্র লাগে ট্রেনে। মফস্বল হলেও স্কুল, কলেজ, হাসপাতাল, ব্যাঙ্ক, পোস্টঅফিস, সবই আছে। আর আছে ঘন নীল আকাশ, নারকেল সুপুরি গাছের সারি, ঝিলের মাঝে দুধসাদা বক, ঢেউ খেলানো সবুজ মাঠ।

শহরের বাইরে, সীমানায়, রূপনারায়ণ নদের উপর বাঁধ। বাঁধের ধারে ধারে বট, অশ্বত্থ, জাম, ভেঁতুল, শিরীষ, অর্জুন বড় বড় গাছ মাথা উঁচু করে দাঁড়িয়ে। বাঁধ থেকে নেমে একটু দূরে শ্মশান। তারপর শহরে ঢুকে চোখে পড়ে জেলেপাড়া। ক্রমশ ডানদিকে কুমোরপাড়া, তারপর স্কুল, হাসপাতাল, অফিস, ব্যাঙ্ক, পাকাবাড়ি, বর্ধিষু লোকের বাস। গ্রাম্য পরিবেশে শহরে ছোঁয়া।

অচিন্ত্য কলকাতার ছেলে। ইট, কাঠ, কংক্রিটে মানুষ। এমন শান্ত শ্যামল রূপ দেখে মুগ্ধ হয়ে গেল।

এসেছে অডিটের কাজে। ছমাসের কাজ, মাস চারেক পেরিয়েছে। আর ক'টা দিন মাত্র বাকি। তারপর সেই ধুলো, ধোঁয়া, মিছিল, ট্র্যাফিক জ্যামের মধ্যে ফিরতে হবে। ভাবতে মনটা খারাপ হয়ে গেল।

বিমর্ষ হয়ে চেয়েছিল। চত্বরটা ক্রমশ ঝাপসা হয়ে চোখের সামনে ফুটে উঠল একটা ঘর। সে ঘরে একটা নিচু সেন্টার টেবিল। ওপরে একরাশ ফটো ছড়ানো। জোরকদমে পাত্রী বাছাই চলছে। এই বৈশাখে ওর বিয়ে দিয়ে তবে ছাড়বে, তার তোড়জোর।

যতদিন বেকার ছিল, দিব্যি ছিল। চাকরিটা হল, ঝামেলাও শুরু হল। সবাই কোমর বেঁধে লাগল ওর বিয়ে দিতে। ভাগ্যিস সময়মত ট্রান্সফারটা হয়েছিল, তাই রক্ষা। কিন্তু আর বড়জোর দুমাস। তারপর কি হবে !

আঁধারে আলো

বসে বসে সেই কথাই ভাবছিল। চমক ভাঙল হাঁকডাকের শব্দে। পাঁচটা সাঁইত্রিশের লোকালটা এল বোধহয়। ছড়োছড়ি করে লোকজন বেরোচ্ছে স্টেশনের গেট দিয়ে। তারপর পড়িমরি ছুটছে বাসের দিকে। কে আগে সিট দখল করবে।

অচিন্ত্য বসে দেখছে আর ভাবছে, হঠাৎ কি মনে হতে উঠে বসল। আশ্চর্য ব্যাপার। ট্রেন এল, অথচ সেই মেয়েটা তো এল না।

এখানে আসা অবধি একটা অদ্ভুত ব্যাপার লক্ষ্য করেছে। ট্রেনের সময় হলেই একটা মেয়ে এসে বসে থাকে চায়ের দোকানে। তারপর ভিড় কমলে উঠে যায়। ঝড় হোক জল হোক, মেয়েটা রোজ আসে। আজ কিন্তু আসেনি। কেন আসেনি, খোঁজ নেবে নাকি। পরক্ষণে ভাবল, দরকার নেই। কে কি ভেবে বসে, চুপ করে থাকাই ভাল।

এমন সময় দরজা ঠেলে ঘরে ঢুকলেন সনাতনবাবু। বললেন, ‘ কি স্যার, সন্ধ্যা হল, বাড়ি যাবেন না ’।

ভদ্রলোক অফিসের জুনিয়ার ক্লার্ক। বেশ মিশুক লোক। কাজের ফাঁকে এসে প্রায়ই আড্ডা মেরে যান। দোষের মধ্যে, কথা বলতে বলতে থেমে ওর মুখের পানে চেয়ে থাকেন। কি দেখেন, কে জানে।

ভদ্রলোক এসে পড়ায় সুবিধাই হল। অচিন্ত্য ভাবল পুরোনো লোক, ইনি জানতে পারেন। জিজ্ঞাসা করাতে বললেন, তিনিও দেখেছেন মেয়েটিকে বসে থাকতে। তবে আজ কেন আসেনি বলতে পারবেননা। অচিন্ত্য বলল, ‘ ভদ্রঘরের মেয়ে বলেই তো মনে হয়। রোজ রোজ কেন বসে থাকে ’?

সনাতনবাবু অনাসক্তভাবে বললেন ‘ কি হবে জেনে, শুধু শুধু সময় নষ্ট ’।

কৌতুহলী হয়ে অচিন্ত্য বলল ‘ আপনি জানেন নাকি। তাহলে বলুন না ’।

দৃষ্টি জানালার বাইরে, সনাতনবাবু বলা আরম্ভ করলেন। ‘বছরখানেক আগেকার ঘটনা। মেয়েটির বিয়ের সম্বন্ধ হয়েছিল একটি ছেলের সাথে। এই শহরেরই ছেলে, সদ্য চাকরি পেয়েছে কলকাতায়। কথা ছিল চাকরিতে জয়েন করে ফিরে এলে বিয়েটা হবে। কিন্তু সে আর ফিরল না’।

‘ ফিরল না মানে ’?

‘ মানে নিখোঁজ হল। সেই থেকে, ট্রেনের সময় হলেই মেয়েটি এসে বসে থাকে ওর আশায়। তবে আমি জানি ও আসবে না ’।

অচিন্ত্য জিজ্ঞাসা করল, ‘ কোনো খোঁজখবর হয়নি ’?

‘ হয়নি আবার ! তন্নতন্ন করে খোঁজা হয়েছে। ছেলেটা যেন হাওয়ায় উবে গেল ’।

‘ ওর বাবা মা, আত্মীয়স্বজন.....’?

‘ কেউ নেই। বাবা মা গত হয়েছেন আগেই। দূর সম্পর্কের এক মামা আছেন, যোগাযোগ রাখেন না ’।

‘ আপনি বলছেন ফিরবে না। কেন বলছেন একথা ’।

‘ কারণ ও মারা গেছে ’।

‘ মারা গেছে ! বলেন কি, কিভাবে ’?

‘ পুলিশের গুলিতে। মিছিলে গুলি চলেছিল। ধারেকাছে ছিল বোধহয়, বুকে গুলি লাগে। খবরের কাগজে ছবি দেখেছি ’।

‘ শুধু আপনি দেখলেন, আর কেউ দেখলনা, আশ্চর্য ’!

‘ ভেতরের পাতায় এক কোণে ছবি। চোখে না পড়ারই কথা। তাছাড়া, পাড়াগাঁয়ে খবরের কাগজ কে পড়ে বলুন। তবে আমি ঠিকই দেখেছি ’।

‘ হুঁ। কিন্তু ঘটনাটা যে চেপে যাচ্ছেন, সেটা কি ঠিক হচ্ছে। আশায় আশায় মেয়েটা..... ’।

‘ ঠিক বৈঠক জানিনা। এমনিতে দিব্যি আছে, পাঁচটা মেয়ের মত স্বাভাবিক। কিন্তু বিকেল হলেই পাগলামি শুরু। বিয়ের বেনারসী, গয়নাগাটি, শাঁখা সিঁদুর, সেসব এখনও আগলে রাখে। ঘটনাটা জানলে কি করে বসে, তাই.....’।

‘ তা বটে ’, অচিন্ত্য চিন্তিত ভাবে মাথা নাড়ল।

সনাতনবাবু চলে যাচ্ছিলেন, অচিন্ত্য ফিরে ডাকল। বলল, ‘ সনাতনবাবু, আর একটা কথা ’।

‘ বলুন ’, সনাতনবাবু ঘুরে দাঁড়ালেন।

‘ ইয়ে মানে, আপনি এতসব কথা জানলেন কি করে ’?

সনাতনবাবু বিষন্ন হেসে বললেন, ‘ আমি ছাড়া কে জানবে বলুন, ও যে আমারই মেয়ে ’!

তারপর একটু থেমে আপনমনে বলে চললেন, ‘ মা মরা মেয়ে আমার, দুঃখের কথা কাকে বলি বলুন। তবে অভয় দেন তো একটা কথা বলি ’।

‘ কি কথা ’, অচিন্ত্য অবাক হল।

ছেলেটির সাথে আপনার চেহারার আশ্চর্য মিল রয়েছে ’।

‘ আমার সাথে,’ হকচকিয়ে গেল অচিন্ত্য।

‘ হ্যাঁ, আপনার সাথে। যাকগে, রাত হল। এখন চলি, পরে কথা হবে’খন ’।

এতক্ষণ পড়ে থেকে চা ঠান্ডা হয়ে গেছে। সেই ঠান্ডা চায়ের কাপ হাতে অচিন্ত্য বসল গিয়ে জানালার ধারটাতে। নানা চিন্তাভাবনা মনে ভীড় করে এসেছে, জট ছাড়ানো দরকার। যাবার আগে সনাতনবাবু আলো জ্বলে দিতে গেল অচিন্ত্য মানা করল। আঁধারই ভাল। কিছুক্ষণ বসে চিন্তা করা যেতে পারে। সামনে চেয়ে দেখল, চত্বর এখন জনহীন। অন্ধকার ঘন হয়েছে। দোকানগুলোতে বাতি জ্বলেছে। হিন্দি গানের টুকরো ভেসে আসছে পানের দোকান থেকে।

এতক্ষণ যা শুনল, এককথায় অবিশ্বাস্য ! যেন সিনেমা ! বিয়ের কথা দিয়ে নায়ক নিরুদ্দেশ, নায়িকা আশায় আশায় দিন গুনছে। আচ্ছা, মেয়েটা নাহয় বোকার হৃদ। তাই বলে বাপটা প্রশ্রয় দেবে !

অচিন্ত্য উঠে বসল। এভাবে চলতে পারেনা, একটা বিহিত করতে হবে ! ওর মন সভয় বলল, ‘ কে বিহিত করবে ’? অচিন্ত্য বুক ঠুকে বলল, ‘ আমি করব। কেন আপত্তি আছে ’?

ওর মন মুখ ভেংচে বলল, ‘ তা আছে, কি বিহিত করবে শুনি ’?

অচিন্ত্য বলল, ‘ সব খুলে বলব ’।

ওর মন আঁতকে উঠে বলল, ‘ কাকে বলবে ’?

অচিন্ত্য দৃঢ় ভাবে বলল, ‘ মেয়েটাকে ’!

এবার ওর মন চটে গেল। বলল, ‘ ফেপেছ। ভদ্রলোক ছেড়ে দেবে তোমায় ’?

আঁধারে আলো

তারপর নরম সুরে বোঝানোর চেষ্টা করল, 'বাপুহে, তুমি হলে পরস্বপন। ওসব মতলব ছাড়। ঘরের ছেলে ঘরে ফিরে যাও'!

অচিন্ত্য প্রতিবাদ করে বলল, 'কভি নেহি। একটা মিথ্যে আশা নিয়ে মেয়েটা বসে থাকবে। আর আমি চুপ করে দেখব? এ হতে পারেনা, এ অন্যায়'।

ওর মন ধমক দিল, বলল, 'কে বলে অন্যায়। ন্যায় অন্যায়ের তুমি কি বোঝো হে। তাকিয়ে দেখ, কোথায় ন্যায়টা হচ্ছে শুনি'।

'বেশ, তাকিয়ে দেখছি' বলে, অচিন্ত্য দেখে সেই মেয়েটা। বসে আছে অন্ধকারে, ছায়ামূর্তির মত। কোন ফাঁকে এসেছে খেয়াল হয়নি।

তড়িঘড়ি চেয়ার ছেড়ে উঠে দাঁড়াল অচিন্ত্য। তারপর একদৌড়ে ঘর ছেড়ে বেরিয়ে গেল।

যাবার জন্য পা বাড়িয়েছে, হঠাৎ সামনে অচিন্ত্যকে দেখে হকচকিয়ে গেল মেয়েটা। তারপর দু পা পিছু হটে, চোখ বড় বড় করে তাকিয়ে রইল। যেন ভূত দেখছে। অচিন্ত্য হাঁপাচ্ছে। হাত তুলে আশ্বস্ত করে বলল, 'দাঁড়ান, যাবেন না। কথা আছে'।

সেই রাতে ঘরে ফিরে মা'কে চিঠি লিখতে বসল অচিন্ত্য।

শ্রীচরণেশু মা,
আমার জন্য চিন্তা করোনা। আমি পাত্রী ঠিক করে ফেলেছি।
মেয়েটি.....।
ইতি
তোমাদের খোকা (অচিন্ত্য)

~প্রণব দেবনাথ

The complex issue of self-identification for the Indigenous people today, remains inextricably linked with past government legislation and continued stereotyping.

Aboriginal identity encompasses an enormous diversity of people, groups and interests located within varying socio-political, economic and demographic situations. They spring from many nations and traditions. At a legal level, Canada recognizes specific groups such as Indians, Inuit and Métis. However, within these broad categories there are many sub-groups (e.g., Red River Métis, Western Métis; Inuvialuit, Nunavut; Cree, Ojibwa).



Acknowledging the struggles of the past and the present and overcoming differences to be one with the Indigenous community.

8 | A Lesson on Aboriginal Identity:

Aboriginal peoples have long argued that Aboriginal identity has been essentialized so that the implementation of the government's policy of Aboriginal peoples would be made easier and which in the end, results in the negligence of acknowledging these variations among such a wide group of peoples.

In order to acknowledge the past and current struggles and stereotypes that come associated with the Aboriginal identity, and to create a safer, more harmonious society for our Indigenous peers, it is crucial that we understand and respect the various nuances and traditions of the Indigenous culture.



This is inclusive of, but not restricted to: the importance of ancestral language as part of Indigenous culture; understanding past and present trauma (psychological and sexual abuse on women and children, impact of the Indian Act); ongoing racist stereotypes and discrimination; how creating a safe space for our Indigenous peers can help them overcome the fear associated with their identity; and finally, how we can learn from the Indigenous culture and create a more sustainable environment.



The Canadian school system and mainstream media propagates harmful stereotypes, as very little is taught about Indigenous Peoples and their real history from their point of view.

8 | A Lesson on Aboriginal Identity:



To ensure that there is understanding, respect, and appreciation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, both need to meet, work together, and learn about each other.

Past trauma such as the impact of the Indian Act (especially in reducing status of women, abusing children etc.) is leading to our Indigenous peers being uncomfortable in current academic and professional spheres, furthermore, facing microaggressions on a daily basis.

Hence reconciliation is crucial, to minimize real conflict between the Indigenous Peoples and the dominant non-Indigenous culture and help our Aboriginal peers to navigate safely at school and work and eventually overcome the fear associated with living their true identity freely.

One must remember that trauma is continuous and deeply seeded in the Indigenous identity.

Reconciliation must involve promoting awareness in the Canadian society about the physical, psychological and emotional costs that Aboriginal families and communities have endured.



The residential school era left ongoing and devastating impacts on the health, and well-being of individuals, families and communities.

8 | A Lesson on Aboriginal Identity

Given the impacts of the genocidal history, horrific past imagery of having one's own language and culture being tortuously extracted out of them, on the health and well-being of Aboriginal peoples, it is imperative that effective and culturally appropriate strategies be developed to interrupt the intergenerational transmission of this trauma, so that individuals, families, and communities, can begin to heal.

The nature of many Aboriginal peoples' communities and lifestyles means that they are feeling the effects of climate change much differently than those living in urban neighbourhoods. Many Aboriginal peoples live in rural or Northern areas, where resource extraction directly and immediately threatens the biocultural diversity of the land and wildlife in these areas.

Apart from the large-scale implications of climate change like greenhouse gas emissions and acidic pollution, mineral mining processes have other consequences that affect these areas directly. Canadian indigenous groups are leading the charge against fossil-fuel development in a country with the world's third-largest proven oil reserves, using rail blockades as leverage.



Canada's Indigenous peoples have a unique relationship with and understanding of their lands and territories.

8 | A Lesson on Aboriginal Identity

Many Indigenous communities, working alongside ecological and labour organizations, have supported the shift to a sustainable economy reliant on green technologies, a renewable energy strategy, and “green jobs” that aim to decarbonize production processes to guide Canada into a more sustainable future.

As we become more aware of the evils of the government-imposed propaganda to harm and discriminate against Indigenous people, we can contribute to their well-intended efforts for the society and the environment at large. Overall, a harmonious relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people can lead to a better society for all.

Article by
~Jigeesha Mukherjee

If someone asks me today: tell me what you can say on Leptis Magna, I will stare at him with a vacant look, assuming he is trying to teach me Latin. No idea, I would say!

On second thought, could it be another charter like the "Magna Carta, the great charter," which is the most important constitutional document of all times we learned about in our school history? In Bengal, under Calcutta University, we had to learn British History. I do not know if it was true in other provinces and other universities. Magna Carta is the foundation of freedom of the individual against despots' arbitrary authority, as we were taught.



**You! He said, we are all lucky,
not knowing what "Leptis
Magna" is in the 21st century
AD.**

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

I thought I gave a clever answer. He stared at me, smiled and said, good try! But the response resounded:

Nope! Try again, he said. I had no idea what to think. Maybe I should make a 180 degree turn around—nothing to do with politics, social engagements. Instead, how about Lapis Lazuli, the semiprecious stone with intense blue color favored by famous kings and queens like Cleopatra (the entire Egyptian monarchy). Jews consider it an emblem of success, and Christians revere it as the stone of the Virgin Mary.

I thought I was close. But nowhere close to being correct, said my inquisitor. But an excellent exercise that fits my imagination.

But had we been born in 2nd or 1st century Rome, we would have been sharing the same cage with hungry lions, tigers, or some vicious animals in the middle of a Gladiatorial Rink. This spectacle is for Roman Citizens' pleasure, excitement, and vitality, as a spectator of the gruesome mauling of a person by the wild beasts. The more you scream in agony, pain, and fear, the higher the spectators' delight of joy fills up the air and atmosphere of the rink.

Leptis Magna is the most magnificent Roman port city after Rome in grandeur in the entire Roman Empire, competing with Carthage.



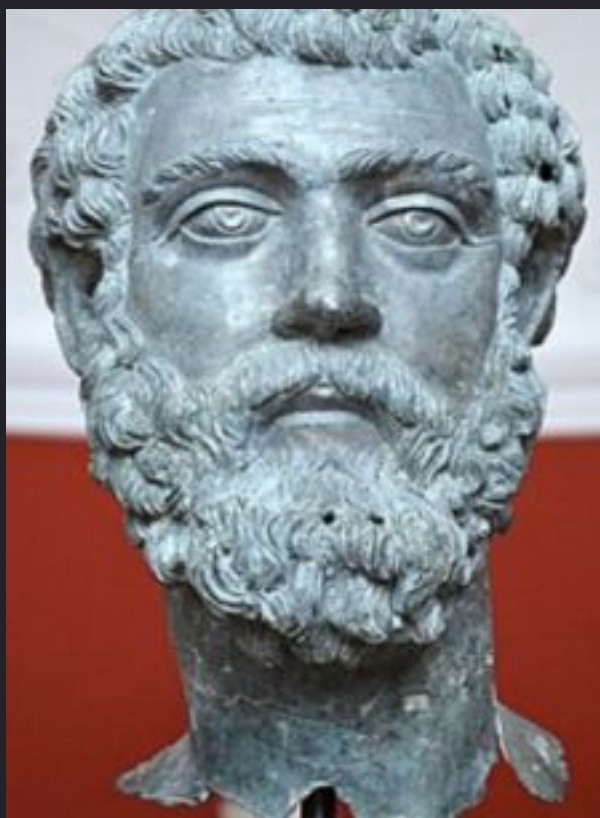
The punic culture was a Semitic culture developed in the western Mediterranean region, an offshoot from the original Phoenicians of present-day Lebanon.

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

Leptis Magna is located in modern-day Libya at the coast of the Gulf of Sidra in the North African Coast. Phoenician King Tyre established the City of Leptis Magna in the seventh century BC. But archeological evidence suggests that Leptis Magna had been a settled establishment from Paleolithic and Neolithic ages and had been a continuous settlement until it grew to its height of eminence at the time of Emperor Septimius Severus of Rome. (193- 211 CE).

It is Septimus Severus who became the only black Roman Emperor who is also from outside Europe. Septimius Severus was born in Leptis Magna in a powerful, politically well-connected, and wealthy Libyan Punic Family. Although he spoke Latin, Greek well, his native language was Punic, and the Family was of Punic culture, who conquered, settled, and developed Leptis Magna around the seventh century BC.

Septimius Severus was one of the most accomplished Roman Emperors who successfully ruled Rome from 193 till 211 AD. He expanded the boundaries of Rome to the east, west, north and the south in Northern Africa.



Emperor Septimius Severus
21st Emperor of Rome

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

Being his city of birth, Emperor Septimius Severus invested considerable funds and resources to make Leptis Magna the most attractive place to live outside of Rome. Thus, Emperor Augustus and Marcus Aurelius started the beautification of Leptis Magna. However, Septimius Severus took their efforts to another level of advancement.

Aside from the funds from the coffer of the Empire, wealthy local merchants like Rufus also contributed a significant part of the fund to the City of Leptis Magna to please their "Own-City-boy Emperor" Septimius Severus.

He fought and won. When he did not win, he negotiated a winning strategy or eventually submitted them under Roman rule. If not on the second attempt, he never had to go more a third time to secure a win for the Empire.



*Arch of Septimius,
built by Citizens in honor of the
Emperor Septimius*



**The road to any success is
never easy nor smooth.
Especially that of an Emperor
to be of Rome.**

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

Septimius Severus especially being a boy from the province, had to ride many high tides and sink into low ones, saved by luck or by fluke; walk the filth of politics and betrayal, not only at the forum or at the senate but also at home and in his abode. Deception by loved ones, the allegation of rape after months and years of consensual cohabitation with several Garamentian socialites.

Dishonored, disgraced,
humiliated, but resurrected due to
his apparent honesty and
magnificent personal regal
demeanor.

His thorny journey from being a private provincial boy in Leptis Magna, through the slippery and poisonous highway to the "Emperorship" of Rome had never been uninteresting, lackluster, smooth, lacking surprises, several close encounters with near-death situations from attempted assassinations. Yet, he rode all those tornadoes, fearless, with tenacity, resolution and courage to bring tranquility, happiness, and luxury to Romans.

He married a local Lady from Leptis Magna, Paccia Marciana from the Punic stalk. After ten years of marriage, Septimius, still lacking a family, needed to procreate to retain his legacy to the throne of Rome. Paccia died of natural causes.



*Remains of the Basilicas
of Leptis Magna;
redesigned and extended
by Septimius*

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

He scouted the entire Empire and the neighboring kingdoms looking for a suitable match after Puccia's death.



Septimius's feelings for Paccia were never questioned since he never spoke about her in his autobiography.

He was keen on referring to horoscopes to make a match for him. In the neighboring Kingdom in Syria, he discovered Julia Donna, the only daughter of an Arab high priest in the Sun God temple of Elagabalus. Julia was well educated, brilliant, active, and knowledgeable about national and regional politics.

It is conceivable that the Emperor frequently consulted Empress Julia for matters of the Palace and that of the state. She was a wonderful, compassionate, loving human being. However, she suffered from the fiery jealousy of many women from the Emperor's hometown Leptis Magna and the rest of the Empire.

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

The Emperor's love for Leptis Magna brought him time and again to the city, accompanied by the Empress. The city of Joy for Septimius had always been a city of threat to Julia's life. But she masterfully concealed her agony from the Emperor.



*Amphitheatre of Leptis Magna
built by Septimius*



It is not only Julia herself, but her personal entourage and guards must also be watching their backs, their food, and drinks all the time.

Septimius not only brought joy, glory, and power to his birthplace but also created several memorable monuments and buildings, which are still exuding his glory more than two thousand years after his death. Leptis Magna remains an architectural crown jewel hidden and saved by the sands of the Libyan desert and deteriorating access from the Sea of Sidra.

The monuments of architectural marvels in Leptis Magna he left behind include the Arch of Septimius Severus, the Basilica, the Forum, the Theatre, the decorated colonnaded street, the Nymphaeum, modernization and extension of the marketplace, and the port of Leptis Magna.



The Emperor and Empress's love and affection for their two sons Caracalla and Geta, had been so intense that they were appointed as co-emperors during the lifetime of Septimius.

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

This situation satisfied their hearts but gave rise to imperial feuds, which simmered during the lifetime of the Emperor, but erupted like Vesuvius soon after his unexpected death in modern-day York while campaigning against the Scots, north of Hadrian wall in England.

UNESCO Declaration of Leptis Magna as World Heritage Site



Declaration as Imperial City Roman Senate and the Emperor

Geta, the second son, was smarter, loved by everyone, even by the packs of senators who wrestled with their father Emperor Septimius throughout the eighteen years of his reign, even before his ascension to the throne. Then, of course, to add to the intrigue, were lineups of several of the prettiest and most desirable ladies in the entire Roman Empire behind Geta. Thus, to Caracalla, the older son and aspiring Emperor, the situation became more infuriating and intolerable.

His fire of jealousy had been so intensely torrid, that he had Geta assassinated in their mother's arm by Pretorian guards.



Intrigue, desperation, threats of assassination poisoned the air in the palace, yet, all under a veil of tranquility.

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

Caracalla's insecurity and jealousy had been unfathomable to such an extent that Geta's face was erased from all Roman coins and statues and portraits were removed from all public places.

Emperor Septimius's success and rise to the pinnacle of Roman power had something to do with his physical demeanor. Apart from his height, the deeply penetrating eye of an eagle, yet full of kindness added to his face exuding strength with stability, tranquility, confidence, and sagacious authority.

The overriding family feuds, senatorial treachery, alluring, seductive tempter, threatening political tsunamis were happening all the time, but nothing could dislodge Septimius from his historical demeanor of strength and tranquility.

How did he do it?

Despite being flooded with wealth, love, affection, comfort, and taste of supreme power, his two sons failed to be endowed with any qualities of his which made him one of the most extraordinary emperors in Roman history.

Unveiling the shroud, feeling under the world of power, is revealing, intriguing, full of unanticipated mystery, suspense, and uncertainties, through which the Imperial family wade through.

Having spent six years in Colonel Gaddafi's Libya, I was amazed by Libya's historical, archeological, and cultural wealth. History goes as far back as paleolithic settlements along the Mediterranean shores and along the banks of many Wadis, which are seasonal rivers or ravines, that flow from Libya's south to the Mediterranean Sea, nine to ten thousand years back.



**He survived, thrived and conceived his own dynasty
"The Roman Imperial
dynasty of Severus."**

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

But the surprise of Libya's interior, deep into the Sahara, is more intriguing, enthralling, and exhilarating rather than mind-boggling. Current archeological findings push Libya and the Sahara back by 25,000 years when it was a tropical forested area with lush green vegetation, rivers, lakes, not wadis, to give life to everything populated and covered by greenery, including animal habitation to match the environment.

That is a different story,
nevertheless a continuum indeed.

My job with Libya's Ministry of Health and Higher education opened the opportunity to travel across the country. The more I looked, the more I witnessed, the more I got convinced that Leptes Magna could not have been better poised anywhere else, but only on the shores of thriving Libya. Ruled by its most celebrated son Lucious Septimius Severus, it could not have been born anywhere else but in "Lebda," as they called it affectionately to raise it to be a jewel in the Roman crown.

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

The "Midnight in Leptis Magna" is the title of fiction based on Septimius's rise and rise through the stormy sky, muddy and toxic waters and at times, an impenetrable human jungle, where snakes and hyenas lived and conspired with his extended family, elaborate establishment of consorts. It must have been an incredible feat to ride these out unscathed yet stay at the helm and expand Rome's glory, power, wealth, and physical limits.



Midnight is the end of all the wrestles, harassment, trials, and tribulations of the day's actions and frustrations.

Yet midnight is the time when one's worldly traitors, spirits, ghosts, and vampires from the darkness are all in a hurry to claw in their prey. After Midnight, the thickness of night starts to dissipate slowly and bring the hope of life with the glimmer of the rising sun. Sunlight will glorify life again in Leptis Magna. But, this is not the Leptis Magna of Septimius and his family's intriguing life, who cherished their beloved Lebda after Rome.

Instead, the book will tell stories behind the thorny, tempestuous yet glittering journey of Septimius in Lebda, before, during, and after his ascension to the throne of the Roman Empire.

9 | Midnight in Leptis Magna

This fiction absorbs local folklore, communal memory, tales from village elders, many officials, volunteers, shop keepers, and stories from fortune hunters with their metal detectors, substantially enriching this tale.

Their stories will never find a way into history but will continue to enhance the fascination of folks mesmerized by Leptis Magna and its most gifted child, Lucius Septimus Severus, the Twenty-first Emperor of Rome, and the only Black person to sit on the imperial throne of Rome.



*Vina, Vidi, Vici .
(I came , I saw, I conquered)
Julius Caesar
(100 BC- 44 BC)*

Article by
~Kamal Malakar

Driving from Grant Village resort towards the West Entrance of the 'Yellowstone National Park', comes a route through a valley which will definitely take your breath away.

10

Lamar Valley



<http://anindya.roychoudhury9@blogspot.com>



Turn yourself to a child, who thinks the mountains are so near, so near that they can be touched.

You will turn silent, you will turn philosopher, you will turn...to 'whatever it takes to enjoy the serenity' of the place. The road by which you came, seems to come out of the clouds, the road ahead.....seems to be to eternity. And you yourself will feel like a dove, sitting beside the road, waiting for your companion and soaking in the beauty of the place.

Soak in...yes, stop your car by the road (You can over here, it's legal). Get down from the car, walk through the green pastures on the two sides.

Go ahead...try to touch them, in that exercise you will love the green more, you will love the breeze which comes down those mountains.

Yes that time you will feel the world is such a beautiful place.

Located in the northeastern corner of the Yellowstone National park, the Lamar Valley, along the Lamar River, is often called America's Serengeti for its large and easy-to-see populations of large animals.

10

Lamar Valley

We were staying at the Grant Village Resort. Lamar valley is 71 miles from there , driving time of about 2 hours.

When you go towards the North East entrance of the park you will go past Mount Washburn to reach the valley. There are quite a number of spots to stop and take photos of the mountain as well.



Once you reach and stop in the Valley, bisons like you see in the pictures can come really close to the cars. But do not worry, they are really calm animals and will not harm you if you do not bother them.



People who are planning to visit Yellowstone should definitely have this in their bucket list.

10

Lamar Valley

Remember you will hear about lots of attractions inside the park, but just don't miss it. The other attractions are there and they are lovely but this is something which will blow you away and will leave an everlasting impression on your mind.



Article by~
Anindya Roy Choudhary

সাম্প্রতিক কালের দুর্গাপূজা

দুর্গাপূজার মৌলিক তত্ত্ব অনুশীলন করলে বুঝা যায় এতে যেমনই আছে আড়ম্বরতা তেমনই আনুষ্ঠিকতা, আচার-আচরন, নিষ্ঠা ও নিয়মানুবর্তিতার কঠোরতা। উল্লেখ্য যে বর্তমানে দুর্গোৎসব রূপে যা প্রচলিত তা পৌরানিক। বেদে দেবীসূক্তে এর মাহাত্ম্য আছে। কিন্তু পূর্ণাঙ্গ পূজা পদ্ধতি মেলানো মুশকিল। তন্নে অবশ্য মন্ত্র পূজার উপাসনা পদ্ধতি আছে। তা বিকৃত রূপেই বিবেচিত।

যা হোক, চিরাচরিত প্রথাও আজ পরিবর্তনের ছাপ লক্ষ্যনীয়। বর্তমান পুরোহিতগণ সে সমস্ত চিরাচরিত প্রথার প্রতি কতটুকু নিরংকুশ তা তাঁরাই বুঝতে পারেন। দুর্গাপূজায় বাঁশি বাজানো নিষিদ্ধ অথচ বেশীর ভাগ মন্ডপে ঢাক ঢালের সাথে বাঁশি বাজানো হয়ে থাকে। দেখা যায় বাহ্যিক আড়ম্বরতা যত বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে, শাস্ত্রবিধি পালনের আগ্রহ ততই হ্রাস পাচ্ছে যার ফলে পূজার মৌলিকত্ব দিনদিন অনুপস্থিত হতে বসেছে।

সেকেলে বড়লোকি কায়দায় পূজো অনুষ্ঠিত হলেও আনন্দ উল্লাস, হৈহুল্লোড় চলত বহু বাটিতে এবং তা পুরুষদের বিশেষ তত্বাবধানে এবং পুরোহিতগণের নির্দেশনায় যার জন্য পূজো উপাচারাদিতে কোনরূপ বিঘ্ন ঘটতনা।

আজকাল অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রেই পূজোর মূল উদ্দেশ্য ও ভক্তির উন্মেষ বাদ দিয়ে প্রতিমা রূপ সজ্জার প্রতিযোগিতা, মণ্ডপ সজ্জার বাহুল্যতায়, প্রচুর অর্থ ব্যয়ে আলোর ঝল ঝলানী, মাইক সার্ভিস অপ্রাসঙ্গিক গান বাজনার পরিবেশনা পূজোর আধ্যাত্মিকতা কলুষিত করে তুলে।

দুর্গাপূজো উপলক্ষে দেবী মাহাত্ম্যে উদ্ধৃত হয়েছে,” শরত কালে আমার মহাপূজা যা বার্ষিকরূপে পালিত হয় তাতে ভক্তি সমন্বিত হয়ে কেউ যদি আমার মাহাত্ম্য শ্রবণ করে তবে আমার অনুগ্রহে সর্ব প্রকার বাধা বিপত্তি মুক্ত হয়ে পুত্র পরিজন সমেত ধন ধান্য সমগ্র লাভ করবে সন্দেহ নাই।”

সংগৃহীত
~সন্নিজত দাস

Pujo in Rebound

A city gleaming in cheap wrapping paper,
colors and lights fighting
For attention; festive excuses on stepped feet,
hushed apologies rushed,
No comfort. Frenzy over scrupulous lists,
must-sees, *pandal*-hopping,
Coconut fibers and camphor sealing scents
from childhood: familiar, lush.



Dhaks beating in rehearsed monotone,
noises and hues,
Music and art in flamboyant cacophony,
now deserted blues.
Carefully distanced, masked,
Safe and sound,
Memories caged in tagged albums,
Pujo in rebound.

Poem by
~Jigeesha Mukherjee

Happy Durga Puja 2021

May Maa Durga bless you
with good health, wealth, happiness, prosperity and
long life.



Mr. Ranjiv Kalia, Vice President
A2A Homes and Infrastructure



A2A Homes and
Infrastructure

Maa Durga

Artwork

Ma Durga

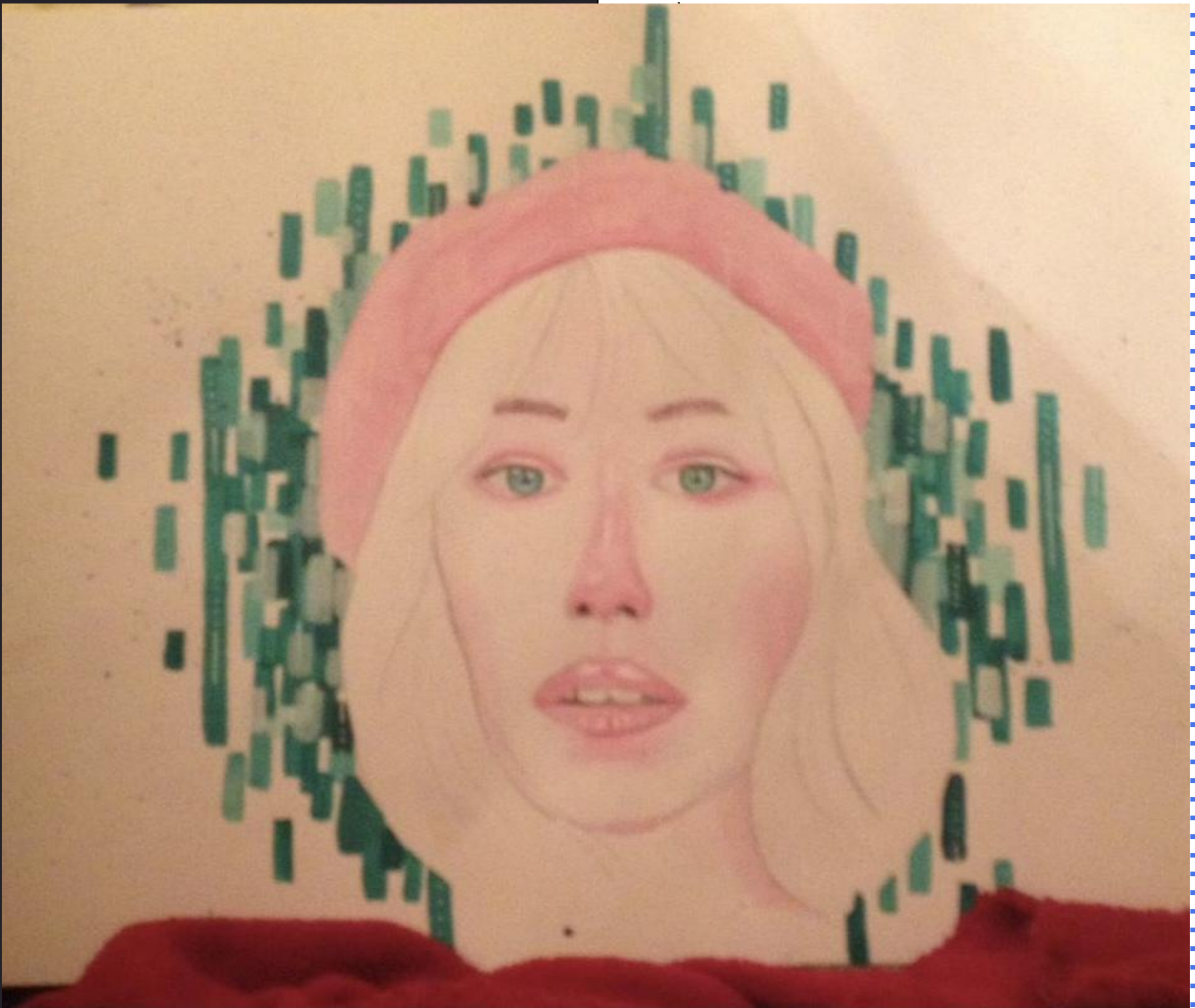


Ayshani Mukerji

~Ayshani Mukerji



~Prachi Dey



~Rajsree Mandal



~Rimona Mandal

Ganesha



~Shreyoshi Gomes

Ma Durga



~Shruti Mukerji

The Joker



~Jigeesha Mukherjee



~Sourav Mandal

Photographs

Miscellaneous activities by Bichitra 2010-2021



Miscellaneous activities by Bichitra 2010-2021



Miscellaneous activities by Bichitra 2010-2021



Miscellaneous activities by Bichitra 2010-2021



Miscellaneous activities by Bichitra 2010-2021



Miscellaneous activities by Bichitra 2010-2021



Miscellaneous activities by Bichitra 2010-2021



Miscellaneous activities by Bichitra 2010-2021



Puja Decoration, 2021





Bichitra
The Bengali Association
of Manitoba Inc.

আগমনী

১৪২৮

৪১-তম বর্ষ