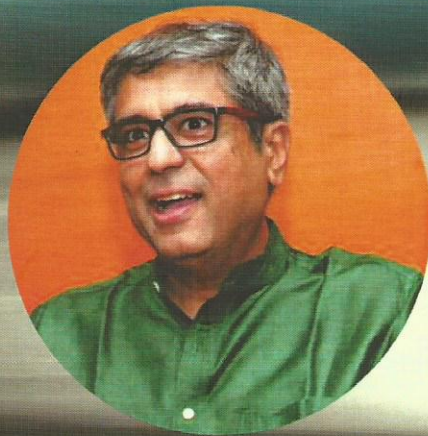


# DATTANI'S PLAYS

Staging the Invisibles



Editors  
Dr. Bina Biswas  
Dr. Koshy A.V.





Dr. Bina Biswas is a Professor and the Head of the Department of English, TRR Group of Educational Institutions, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad. She is an alumna of the University of Delhi and has a Doctorate from Andhra University. She has carried out extensive research on Tagore's short stories and poems for over eight years. Her stories have been published in different Indian and International journals. Her story 'Case of a Missing Shoe' has been published in *The Indian Literature* (IL 272), Sahitya Akademi. Her poems have been published in different parts of the world in anthologies and magazines. She is a translator, critic, poet, fiction writer and multilinguist par excellence,

besides being a Tagore expert. Ten to twelve books of hers, including a novel and memoir, are slated to come out by the end of 2013 or 2014, covering different aspects of her multifaceted talent. Her first book, a collection of short stories titled *The Tale of the Missing Shoe and Other Stories and Bridge in the Old Building and Other Stories* have been published last year. Her book *Tagore's Heroines: Portraits of Gender Orientation* and her poetry book *Forest Flowers* were released in May 2013. She has translated Nobel nominee Mahesh Dattani's play *Final Solutions* into Bengali, which will be published shortly by Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. Her monumental work consists of her translation of Michael Madhusudan Dutt's Meghnaadbad Kabya into English. She has translated from the Urdu a collection of poems by Naseer Ahmed Nasir titled *The Shawl of Yellow Leaves*. She currently lives in Hyderabad, and also edits for Lifi publishers, being an excellent editor.



Dr. Koshy A. V. is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English at the College for Arts and Humanities for Girls, Jazan University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He has written or co-written seven books of criticism and poetry to his credit with authors like A.V. Varghese, Gorakhnath Gangane and Angel Meredith and one was reprinted once. He is a Pushcart Poetry Prize nominee (2012) and twice Highly Commended Poet in Destiny Poets UK ICOP (2013, 2014) and he was twice featured in Camel Saloon's The Hump for best poem/editor's pick and once for best poem in Destiny Poets UK Website. Even as a child he won an international award for writing. He is a reputed critic and expert on Samuel Beckett besides being a fiction writer

and theoretician. His last book was *Wake Up, India: Essays for Our Times*, co-authored with Dr. Bina Biswas. Many more are on the way including this one and *The Significant Anthology* he is editing with Reema Prasad. He has edited or co-edited many books including *A Man Outside History* by Naseer Ahmed Nasir and *Inklinks: An Anthology* by Poets Corner and for Lifi. He instituted the Reuel International Literary Prize in 2014 and runs an autism NPO with his wife Anna Gabriel. He administered with the help of others the literary group Rejected Stuff on Facebook.



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SAUGATA KUMAR NATH	

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## Women in Dattani's Plays: A Close Study of *Bravely fought the Queen*

SAUGATA KUMAR NATH

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The space left for women in patriarchal societies is marginal. Simone de Beauvoir views, "Throughout history they [women] have always been subordinated to men..." (xxiv). There have been centuries in which women even believed that they are objects to be looked down upon and they did not realise that they are marginalised under patriarchy. Even if they realised, they did not dare to think that there is scope for them to protest against marginalisation and that they should do so as equal human beings, like their male counterpart. Dorothy Parker's comment, "... My idea is that all of us, men as well as women, should be regarded as human beings" (Beauvoir xx) appears relevant in this context. And even today men and women, to a great extent, are not equal. Women took centuries, however, to gain confidence to protest against their subjugation.

Women voiced their protest in significant ways in the twentieth century which got momentum with the publication of Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*. The book highlighted upon the prevalent notion of a woman in a patriarchal society as the "Other" (Beauvoir xxii) to a man, the dominating "subject" (Beauvoir xxii). "He is Subject, he is the Absolute—she is the



# Symphony

*An Anthology of Poetry across Cultures*

*This textbook is prescribed for the undergraduate students of  
the General English course, Assam University, Silchar, Assam*



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## 1. WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)



William Blake was born in London. He received no formal education. However, at an early age he was introduced to the literary world of William Shakespeare and John Milton. Besides, he was well versed with the Bible. Blake was also a great painter and an engraver and, during his lifetime, he was better known as an artist. His poetic compositions and paintings, mostly, are inseparable from each other. In *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*, most of the poems have paintings along with them. The first volume of poems of Blake, *Poetical Sketches* (1783), was imitative in nature. This was followed by *Songs of Innocence* in 1789.

Blake was a keen observer and he could clearly see the problems in contemporary England. He was a revolutionary as well as a visionary. He was highly influenced by the ideals of the French Revolution. The title of one of his revolutionary prophetic books is *The French Revolution*, published in 1791. Then was published his *Songs of Experience* in 1794 which had a less joyful tone than *Songs of Innocence*.

Most of the poems published in *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience* express the idea that human society is suffering under the new waves of development. The society has turned so materialistic that human values and love for fellow human beings are no more considered important. Even children are not taken care of by parents. To the parents, children appear to be of no importance. For them what is important is religion and the King. Even religious leaders do not think about charity or helping the children. Therefore, Blake describes his land as 'a land of poverty'. Blake was aware of the social ills, but he was not a pessimist. He was rather optimistic about a bright future ahead for the people of his generation. About his own poetry, he said, 'The Nature of my Work is Visionary or Imaginative; it is an Endeavour to Restore what the Ancients called the Golden Age'. He,



## 2. WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770-1850)



William Wordsworth was born at Cockermouth, Lake District. In his teens he lost his father, but with the help of his uncles, he continued his studies and graduated from Cambridge. Wordsworth's interest in composing poems was seen at an early age of his life when he composed his first poem as a school student. While at the university, his poems were published in *An Evening Walk* (1793) and *Descriptive Sketches* (1793). However, his maturity as a poet is first reflected in his *Lyrical Ballads* (1798), jointly composed with his friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge. It is said that English Romantic poetry begins with this collection of poems. The other significant book of poems of Wordsworth includes *The Prelude* (1805), the incomplete *The Recluse*, and *The Excursion* (1814). Wordsworth is normally regarded as the greatest of all the Romantic poets.

The second edition of *Lyrical Ballads* was published in 1800 with a 'Preface' by Wordsworth. In the 'Preface', Wordsworth spoke of his theory of poetry. He defined poetry as 'the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings', taking its origin from 'emotions recollected in tranquility'. Wordsworth also elaborates on his idea of the poet in this essay. He views that a poet is a man 'possessed of more than usual organic sensibility' and one who has 'thought deeply and long'. A poet, Wordsworth says, knows the general human nature. The subject of poetry, according to him, should be 'incidents and situations from common life' and this should be presented with 'a certain colouring of the imagination whereby ordinary things should be presented to the mind in an unusual manner'. According to Wordsworth, the language of poetry should be 'a selection of the real language of men in a state of vivid sensation'. The poems 'The Daffodils' and 'Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802', exemplify Wordsworth's theory of poetry.

