

Issue No. 1
December, 2020

EXPRESSIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
KIDDERPORE COLLEGE



FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

2020 has been a difficult year. Humankind is still reeling from the aftermath of the worst pandemic that the world has seen in decades. Lives are lost, livelihoods have disappeared.

Amid such uncertainty, creative expression seems to be the most potent tool to bring order and purpose into the chaos and despondency wreaked by Covid 19. In a world where literature is rapidly becoming an afterthought, the need to venture into creative artistic realms, beyond the confines of the academic curriculum, has become paramount.

This prompted the thought of providing the students of the Department of English a platform for artistic creativity through a Departmental Magazine. Since we were in the middle of a lockdown with limited access to resources, opting for the digital mode seemed logical.

We must admit that the enthusiasm and steady flow of contributions from our students overwhelmed us. Their essays, short stories, poems, artwork, photographs, sounded a collective note of hope and courage that had gone missing in our lives in the last couple of months. Their innocence betrayed a spirit of soaring optimism that is inspirational. *Expressions* reflects that indefatigable spirit displayed through splendid works of inspired imagination. The depth in their writing, the thought behind those frames, the skill with which they sketched rendered us speechless. We take this opportunity to appreciate their zeal, honour their resilience and laud their creativity.

The compositions in this issue try to navigate the prescriptive boundaries of the self through a journey within and a journey without. Intention and introspection coalesce, in each case, to reflect an idea of the self that is not necessarily consistent or coherent, but authentic. Some of the pieces in this issue ruminate on brighter, safer times, while others try to chart a path for the future, but most are looking for meaning, an understanding of the fragmented, isolated, self.

The voices in the first installment of our e-magazine attempt to bring us closer, to blur the distances that have been causing us endless pain.

Hope *Expressions* reverberates through the corridors of our institution and beyond.

Warmly

Department of English
Kidderpore College

SMALL THINGS WE OWN ARE MOST PRECIOUS

"Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize that they were the big things." A true statement made by a great philosopher, Robert Brant.

In our quest to experience the more seductive and exciting "highs", we have lost sight of the fact that most of life, indeed a vast portion of it, is made up of small things and moments. The wonder and awe of life is diminished, the feelings associated with appreciation and gratitude are missed because our attention is not on what's right, beautiful, special and mysterious; instead, our attention is on the lookout for problems rather than on the small things that bring us joy and are right in front of us. The things which we usually think are 'big' are, in fact, relatively significant, whereas the things we think are 'small' are, in fact, most important. Money, for example, or physical beauty, or an accomplishment, or a material possession can seem to be the end-all. But when we look back in our life, it's very likely that the thing which was once in clear focus has now lost their lustre. They will seem less important, maybe even superficial. On the other hand, the smell of the flowers in the meadow, the touch of the fresh air when we open our window, a lovely smile, the touch of new-born fingers wrapped around our own, or the gift of friendship, will be precious and indeed priceless.

A person who celebrates only the big stuff and 'highs' will have only fleeting moments of happiness, at best. On the other hand, a person who feels grateful for the small things in life will be happy for a major period of time. This does not mean that things are better than they are or a suggestion that there isn't plenty of ugliness and pain in the world. What it is, however, is the acknowledgement that when we are honest and reflective about what's important in life, it's the smaller things that win the prize. The smaller joys are the things that we will remember and appreciate when we look back to the days gone by. If we neglect to enjoy the small things, we would be left with the daily struggles, the disappointments and disasters that knock at our door, when we least expect them.

We allow our feelings of being overwhelmed and our yearning for achievement and material satisfaction to overshadow the precious little gems of life that are all around us. Therefore, we must learn to appreciate the small things and small moments which life is made of. Though these things are small yet they play a huge role in creating a peaceful and happy life. So each day we must pay attention to at least one or more moments that worked out well for us. Even a bad experience has a valuable moment wrapped inside it, if we are only willing to discover it.



Reconnecting humanity's heart, mind and soul to nature

Shahbaz Ahmed
Semester 3 Honours

HAPPY YOU

Sometimes it's good to be selfish
And love yourself,
Sometimes it's good when you make
Your happiness a priority.
People can change with time
So, don't change yourself for anyone
Always be who you are.
Celebrate what you have, Value it
While working for what you want.
Thinking about things you don't have
Can fade your present happiness.

Cherish someone's effort when they do something for you,
Expectedly or Surprisingly.
Because people value others' effort
When they lose them.
Expectations do hurt people from inside,
Don't expect to get what you give others.
In this world people are busy in fulfilling
their own necessities.

Stop thinking about others,
They are not facing your struggles,
What other people think of you
Is none of your business.
Don't allow their bitching to bother you.

Do whatever makes you happy
But do it now!
Live life for the moment,
Everything is unpredictable
Freedom gives you happiness
And doing what you love is
Self-satisfaction.



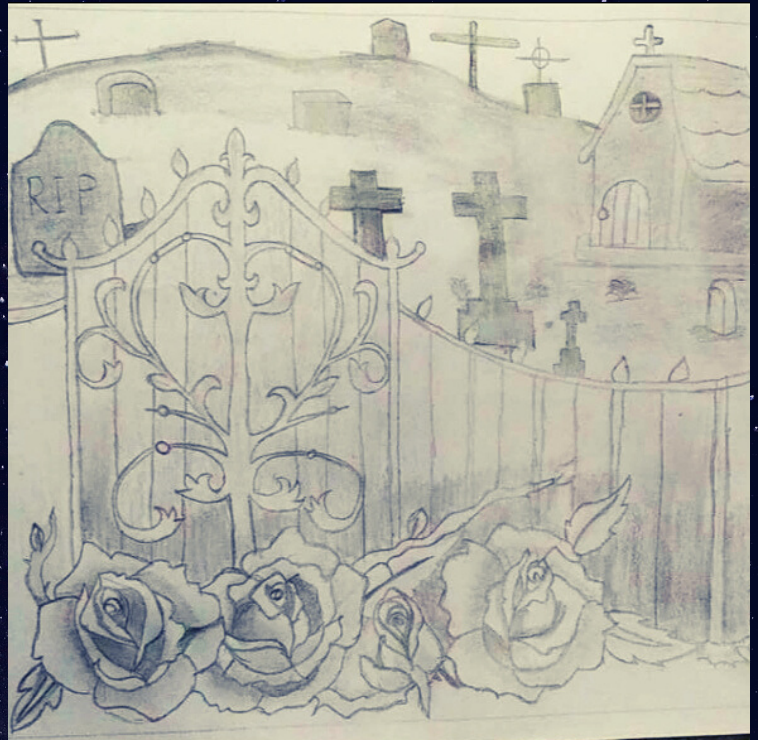
The Rainbow Pride Walk in Kolkata first started in the year 1999. On 29th of December, 2019 the Kolkata Rainbow Pride Walk took place with thousands of people representing the LGBTQ+ community and its supporters joined together to protest peacefully and convey their message of removing homophobia from the country.

The loud, rumbling sound when a two-coach tram ambles past is immediately recognisable to anyone who has ever been to Kolkata. The tram system in the City of Joy is operated by the Calcutta Tramways Company (CTC) and is the only tram network operational in India.



Bhabna Dhar
Semester 3 Honours

Anthony D'Souza was a scrupulous coffin-maker. He lived in a small village with his little daughter. His daughter Lucy, was an elegant girl with a rubicund face. Her father loved her very much. Anthony's sole duty was to make coffins for the demised. He did his job with great dedication. Lack of education in the village kept them illiterate. Lucy was often sick due to malnutrition. There was nobody at Anthony's home and Lucy was his world. The day came when his daughter left him for the heavenly abode. When she was taking her last breath, her father was working in the shop - making coffins. Little did he know that the coffins which he was making for others would so soon be required for his daughter. When he heard the news of the sudden death of his beloved, he was in profuse sorrow. He was astonished to comprehend that he was going through the same situation which the kin of the demised have to face. He did not want to bury her but when people insisted him to do so, he had to proceed at last.



The weather was gloomy when they buried her in the grave. Anthony could sense the melancholia around him. He was looking extremely woeful with tears in his eyes. Suddenly it started raining and all the graves and the turf became wet. He was still waiting for his daughter, to be alive again and hug him with her little warm hands. For him, it was a hug which could thaw a frozen heart. He could feel that warmth of love even after the death of Lucy. Darkness gradually spread over the world and it was still raining. "Why did you leave me alone?" Anthony said, fretfully looking at his daughter's grave. He mourned that life is very short and the end is painful, harsh but we have to accept it.

All of a sudden, certain questions arose in his mind. Is there life after death? Does life exist in the graveyard? Anthony found himself as alone in the world as the graves are in the churchyard. With these questions, Anthony created the backdrop for his melancholy reflections about eternal truth. He said, "Death means a cessation of life's simple pleasures". He realised that Man is a wanderer and the final destination of his life is death. Death is inevitable and is certain to all. He concluded, "People could be alive even after death". His eyes sparkled with joy on imagining that his daughter too is alive, not in the world, but in his heart. After sometime, he became the owner of a coffin-shop near the graveyard and started living there in order to see his daughter all the time. Everyone in the village rejoiced to see him overcome his grief and engage in work again. The father's love for his daughter thus transcended all boundaries, customs, compulsions and even life.

Feet painted with red dye
Silver anklet twinkling like stars in the sky..
Walking is the job of my feet,
But their hobby is to dance to the ghungroo beats



Satarupa Chatterjee
Semester 3 Honours



"But man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated."

-The Old Man and the Sea

Shushmita Singh
Semester 5 Honours

CORRUPTION IN SOCIETY

Corruption is one of the greatest impediments in the path of progressive development in a developing nation such as India. Corruption could refer to the misuse of power by the same authorities who are given the right to exercise it. It could lead to a fostering of criminal activities, partial or unjust treatment of some sections of the population. It can happen in many ways in our society. It primarily happens by activities like bribery or embezzlement. Actually authorities are liable for it because they take bribes for their own benefits. Other instances of corruption may include the complete disregard for personal choices and differences among the citizens, refusal to carry out responsibilities, biased attitude and in extreme cases a complete disregard for the law of the land exhibited by those authorities who are in power.

One of the most noticeable outcomes of corruption in India is the lack of equal opportunities for all. As a result of this capable persons do not get employment. Only those people get employment who can give bribery. Very few people get government job according to their capability.

In today's scenario, if a person wants a government job, he has to pay lakhs of rupees to the higher officials irrespective of satisfying all the eligibility criteria. In every office one has either to give money to the employee concerned or arrange for some sources to get work done. The major cause of concern is that corruption is weakening the political body and damaging the supreme importance of the law governing the society. It affects all people of our society. It decays our economic development. That is why the problem of unemployment is increasing day by day. The problem of poverty is also increasing in these days and because of it many parents do not admit their children in school. Many students do not get higher education because of poverty.

Thus, we can conclude that corruption is evil of our society. It is like poison which kills human beings' conscience and humanity. So, the government should take steps to stop this corruption because if the government do not take steps, the public will find it difficult to survive.

Nasima Khatoon
Semester 3 Honours

AN UNRULY TRIAL

The wind howled,
In the pitch black sky;
Whilst the blood moon,
Sang the lullaby.

Wanton waves,
Splashing drowned;
The fiendish stars,
Twinkled! All around.

The silence of the sea
Spread wide.
Where do I hide?
Where do I hide?

It slinked through me,
Like ink through the water.
Slow and insidious,
Permeating every quarter.

Struggling with the gusts of tumultuous tranquillity,
She finally opened her eyes.
Or the despairing soul would be lost to homesick eternity,
With unsaid goodbyes.

Ramsha Ahmed
Semester 5 Honours



Sometimes a hug is worth more than a thousand words

Shaheen Khatoon
Semester 3 Honours

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence destroys millions of households around the world every year. There are various types of domestic violence – a man beating a woman, a man beating his child, a woman beating her child, or a child abusing his or her parents, verbally or physically – and the list continues. There are not only the physical and verbal assaults, but sexual assault and social abuse as well. Even though these things happen all the time, they should not happen at all. Some people are so afraid and embarrassed about being abused in their home that these incidents hardly get reported.

The amount of violence committed against women in India is still high. The crime is committed against women, mostly by men. Whatever be the shape and extent, it is a punishable crime. However, owing to the country's flawed judicial system, often such crimes go unaddressed. The crime is committed against women of any age, caste, and creed. The crime can be of any kind. The number of crimes committed against women in India keep increasing every year. In 2012, the crime against women in India accounted for 6.4 percent which meant in an average within three minutes, a woman fell victim to violence.

Mostly, the reason behind the violence in marriage is dowry. Usually, the groom belongs to a rich family and the bride belongs to a poor household, and they fail to pay the amount the groom asks for. In such cases, often, the bride faces the physical abuse of the groom. The woman is beaten, abused and molested regularly.

Men perpetrate nine out of ten crimes committed against women – this proves how the origin of crimes against women stems from the deep-rooted patriarchal ideology of the Indian society. Men believe that they are physically and mentally very strong and when they become an adult, people tell them that they are superior to women. They are always given extra care, love, respect from society and they start believing that they can do whatever they want. When a man marries a woman, he does not think that he got a partner for lifetime, but he thinks he got a servant for lifetime. He misbehaves with his wife and treats her like a slave. Even though crimes like these occur frequently, the women can't do anything because of the society and their own family pressure.

I personally feel that when two people are in a relationship, they are still independent and have their own identities and self-respect. They need to respect each other and not dominate over the other. That's where domestic and physical violence starts from. I think your partner deserves respect more than your love.

Tahseen Haroon
Semester 3 Honours



"Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
To cry, 'Hold, hold!'"

- Macbeth

Saba Ahmed
Semester 5 Honours

WHERE IS THIS WORLD GOING?

Where is this world going?

We value money more than people

We find those people annoying who express their problems

We find those people rude who don't Express.

We live in a world where showing off on social media is a trend now.

Where having iPhone is a sign of being rich

Where people will degrade you if you can't speak in English

Where degree is more important than knowledge.

Where is this world going?

Where people leave you with an absurd excuse

Where we can't really show true feeling for someone

Where we can't really embrace other for their success.

Where is this world going?

Where we run after the people who don't value us

And we take the people for granted who value us

Where fake friends are more important than the real family.

Where is this world going?

Where people hide their real faces

They are not what they're showing

Where is this world going?

Where is this world going?

Farhana Khatoun
Semester 3 Honours

25.06.2020

11:15 pm

Something is different today. The air doesn't smell the same. The breeze gives me nostalgia, taking me back to times when I would cherish every moment of my life with my parents and relatives. It takes me back to times when one did not have access to phones and internet. Sometimes it just feels so vague inside. Just recalling the moments we have missed out on lately. I am not sure if the time I dedicate to my parents is enough. For all I know is that they are the only ones who care about us. Our parents are concerned about us in ways we won't ever know.

Ever since I got introduced to social media, I have been hooked onto it. We get so dotty about social media that we unintentionally forget that we've got a real life too. The only message I want to put across to the people reading this is that we need to make time for our parents. Let's not take into consideration, the time, when we sit with our earphones on. That does not count. Instead, we must sit with them. Talk. Express. Observe. Listen. We must interact. We need to talk to them with the same level of excitement as they would do back when we were kids.

Asking them out for a drive or just sitting at home and watching a movie together. We must spend quality time with them to make timeless memories. It is only years from now, when we peer through time that we will come to know what an incredible time we've had with our parents by us, for us and with us.

The very fact of them not being around us in the near future is so disturbing. We must care before they succumb to the untimely frost and we lose them forever. It will be no use regretting later.

Humaira Ashfaq
Semester 5 Honours

INFINITE BEAUTY OF NATURE:
DIFFERENT FACES



Nahid Parveen
Semester 3 Honours

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day is the result of the sacrifice of many freedom fighters, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, Bhagat Singh, Sardar Vallabhai Patel among many others. The glorious history of India clearly reveals how our ancestors and forefathers had worked hard and suffered the brutal behaviour of the British. We cannot imagine by sitting how hard the fight was to gain independence for India from the British rule.

As we all know, the Freedom we are enjoying is only because of the sacrifice of the freedom fighters who had given up their life so that we may enjoy freedom. We Indians celebrate Independence Day on the 15th of August every year so as to pay tribute to the people who lost their life, only to gain freedom. Irrespective of their caste, creed and religions the freedom fighters fought for our country's freedom, and every people should celebrate the Independence Day as an honour to the nation.

We the people of India are very lucky to be in a country where people are independent to make their own decisions. Independence Day is the day which gives us immense pleasure to pay tribute to those who lost their family and their enjoyment just to serve our nation.

Now it's our turn to continue the legacy of doing something great for our next generation and we can make it. This is the time for all the people of India to make India an independent country by providing the women of the nation equal opportunities to pursue their dreams. We must at the same time ensure their safety. This is important, as although India is independent but the women of the nation are not.

We celebrate Independence day as a festival and we want to celebrate it in far better way by giving the women of our country perfect freedom. Now is the time to make India the best.

Kamrun Nisha
Semester 3 Honours

DEADLY NIGHT

Known from the inner heart
Nature is not so hard;
The so beautiful nature suddenly,
Falls into the dark of night;
There's silence in the air,
Filled the heart with fear!
Seems like the royal lady is wearing a coat
And the strength moving far away
Leaving me behind in a dark cave.
Howling wolves make me more afraid,
Proving more fearful than any horror!
I soon fell asleep,
Leaving behind the darkest night;
The night which I have never seen before

Satarupa Chatterjee
Semester 3 Honours

"What dire offence from am'rous causes springs,
What mighty contests rise from trivial things..."

- The Rape of the Lock



Fatima Salam
Semester 5 Honours

BREAKING DREAM

As I slept one night , I saw this dream
Which increased my vexation.

I dreamt I was going somewhere on the way,
Dark it was and impossible to find the path.

Trembling all over with fear I was,
Difficult to take even a step with fear further.

With some courage as I moved forward,
I found some boys lined up in a nice array.

Dressed in emerald-like raiment they were,
Carrying lighted lamps in their hand they were.

They were going quietly behind each other,
No one knew where they were to go either.

Involved in this thought was I,
When in this troupe my son saw I.

He was walking at the back , and was not walking fast,
The lamp he had in his hand was not lighted.

Recognizing him I said "O my dear ,
Where have you come leaving me there?"

"Restless due to separation I am,
Weeping everyday forever I am."

"You did not care even a little for me,
What loyalty you showed , you left me!"

As the child saw the distress in me,
He replied thus, turning around.

"The separation from me makes you cry,
Not good does this to me."

He remained quiet for a while after talking,
Showing me the lamp then he started talking,

"Do you understand what happened to this?
Your tears have extinguished this!"

Shahbaz Ahmed
Semester 3 Honours



"If the path be beautiful let us
not ask where it leads."



Bushra Haroon Ansari
Semester 3 Honours

THE VALUE OF TIME

"Lost time is never found again", said the famous Benjamin Franklin. Once the time is gone, we will never find it back again. Time neither has beginning nor end. Time never waits for anyone. Time is the most precious treasure whose value and importance should be understood.

Time has a very significant role to play in everyone's day to day life. Time also has the power to heal external wounds. Time flows like a pristine river. What was yesterday will not be available today and what today is will never last in future. If we dare to waste time, it will waste and destroy us completely. We should improve our time management quality to prevent the wastage of time. The only way to be successful in life is by being successful in proper time management. Our desire to complete a certain task after some time or on the next day often leads to our tasks remaining undone, for our 'next' never comes. A well-known proverb says, 'Time and tide waits for none'. Time cannot be recovered by anyone. We human beings are mortals, living on the face of earth. So our life is nothing but just some moments of happiness. Therefore, we should know the value of time which would lead to a successful life.

Thomas Hardy said, "Time changes everything except something within us which is surprised by change." Time is most powerful. With time everything gets changed and on time if you fulfil your wishes then you are a happier person. Make a concrete decision at the right time and get everything completed on time. Planning makes life easier. Time teaches us many things. The strength of time will bring in you the best in life. It is amazingly said, "Don't count every hour in a day, make every hour in the day count."

The clock is running. Every second is precious because we cannot have an extra second even if we want. A second passed cannot be restored! We should try to make as much out of the time that's still left. Time is free of cost but it's limited and cannot be accumulated. Hence, time is priceless.

Shazia Sahar
Semester 3 Honours

Patron: Dr. Abhijit Ganguly

Editorial Team: Dr. Sunanda Mukherjee
Dr. Sonali Sarkar
Susmita Ghosh
Diya Banerjee
Arusharko Banerjee

Chief Editor: Diya Banerjee