

# THE OLIPHANT

NO. 116

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

15 May, 1991

## THINK ABOUT IT

*If youth is a fault, it is one which is soon corrected.*

*-Gnethe*



## Editorial

In Welham, the young are always ready to give to their elders the benefit of their inexperience. The response to that from our school staff, I am sure would be overwhelming. Every now and then an English teacher is told how English is such a funny language. And then follows a series of 'cracks'. You'd recognise a Welhamite anywhere. Only he has to open his big mouth and pronounce 'crack' the way it is at Welham. You see, these cracks are an integral part of Welham now. They are different, original and unbearable.

Coming back to where I was, there seems to be no response or arguments from the maths or history students - they're too busy meditating. Good luck, guys! I'm sure one of these decades would see the lot of you come up with a formula for breaking one's meditation. Talking about meditation, the S.D.C.M. (Sleeping During Class Mania,

as I mentioned in the last Editorial) is now here for good. The Welhamite brain is such a wonderful organ. It starts working the minute you get up in the morning and doesn't stop working until you get into the class. Our history lecturer would definitely approve of that.

Elsewhere, a new roof shelters the inmates of P.H. and two new coolers have been installed recently.

I would seriously like to go on writing, but it doesn't make much sense telling you about what you already know. However, before I do wind up for the fortnight, you ought to read this one - 'The Greek philosopher Aristotle may have been a great thinker but when it came to medical knowledge, he left much to be desired. Throughout his life, he believed that men have more teeth than women, whereas infact, there is no difference'.

It is known that Aristotle married twice, but nothing is known about his wives' dental status. Now the Biology department has something to think about.

Varun N. Bhaskar  
Editor

P.S. Thought of the week -

WELHAMANISM IS IN HOGGING.

\* \* \*

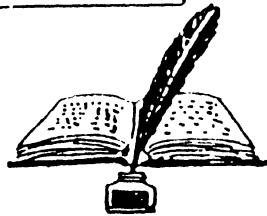
## Through the Keyhole



NP - "Wait till I scream at your class like I did at the other."

P. Mahajan - "Ma'arn, someone's sure to say Tarzan's in town."

\* \* \*



## The Literary Affairs of Welham

### THE HIDDEN POOL (SUMMARY)

The story begins with Anil teasing Laurie because he doesn't play Holi. Laurie has come from England because his father has got a job in India. Anil is a shopkeeper's son and met Laurie when he accidentally banged into him when he was cycling. Once when Anil was away, Laurie met a boy about his own age selling buttons, combs and ribbons in the street. This boy's name was Kamal, and Laurie became his friend. The three friends had many adventures together and enjoyed themselves. Then Kamal began preparing for his examinations and worked hard, day and night, and even stopped going around to sell things. Kamal unfortunately failed his exams.

Once there was a big insect race held and Laurie's insect 'Mahavani' won the race. Anil's mother, who was very superstitious, knew many ghost stories so once when Laurie and Kamal were spending the night at Anil's place, his mother told them so many ghost stories that they were unable to sleep the whole night.

One evening Laurie was walking down the forest path when he discovered a small stream flowing into the forest. He walked along the stream until it ended, forming into a small pool. He was very excited about this discovery and ran back to tell Anil and Kamal the news. As Laurie had discov-

ered the pool, the three boys called it Laurie's Pool. They kept the knowledge of the pool a secret and made it their favourite meeting place. The boys would swim, dive, fish and wrestle on the banks of the pool and would even try riding buffaloes sometimes.

One day Kamal suggested that they trek to a glacier some forty miles away from their town, but Anil and Laurie were hesitant and said that they would never be able to walk such a distance and besides they both thought their parents would never give them permission for such a trip. Kamal however persuaded the two and with little difficulty also talked Laurie's parents into allowing Laurie, but Anil's parents were the only obstacles in their plan. Anil's mother believed that ghosts are mostly found at high altitudes. The street children helped Kamal to do the persuading because Anil was a bully and so they wanted him away for a while. Anil's parents finally relented and the three began preparing for their adventurous journey. The last minute plans were made at the pool, and then, carrying their haversacks and sleeping bags (which were almost as heavy as they were) they trekked to the bus stand. The bus took them along a path winding up the mountain and stopped at a small village. The boys, relieved to get off the bus after the tiring journey, refreshed themselves at a small spring with extremely cold water. While they were freshening up beside the spring, they noticed a young boy watching them with interest. The boy asked them their destination and upon learning it, told the trio that he was familiar with the glacier and had been there before. The boy, whose name was Bishnu, suggested that he could act as their guide and porter for the journey. Kamal, after thinking about it for a moment, agreed and offered Bishnu a rupee a day as salary. At the end of the day, after walking all the way, the boys arrived at a Dak Bungalow where they spent the night. The next day the boys reached the foot of the glacier, where there was a pool even smaller than the one they had discovered. They bathed in the pool and spent the night at a Nepali watchman's cottage. The watchman (like Anil's mother) told the boys weird tribal tales of a monster that roamed the hills in the evenings, but the boys ignored him and put him off. The next day the boys began their slow climb up the glacier. When they finally arrived at the snow covered peak, they played in the snow, made snow-balls and threw them at each other. They discovered a small cave and lit a fire in it. They then carved their names in the soft walls of the cave, hoping they might find their names when they next came to the glacier. After spending some hours on the glacier,

the boys decided to start their journey back to the plains. One reason why they wanted to descend was that their food was nearly over and each of them was rather hungry after the vigorous trek up the glacier.

\* \* \*

*Harsh Khanna*

### THE BLUE UMBRELLA (SUMMARY)

Binya is a fair girl who lives in a small village near Tehri (Garhwal). She lives with her mother and her brother Bijju. She has two cows named Neelu and Gori.

One day, she went looking for her cows who had gone to graze. She saw a few picnickers enjoying themselves in the hilly area. The picnickers had a bright blue umbrella with them. The umbrella attracted Binya. She fell in love with it. She wanted the umbrella somehow. Binya had a pendant of a leopard's claw around her neck. The woman to whom the umbrella belonged wanted the pendant. So, both of them exchanged their things. Binya took the umbrella.

Now, she was very happy. The umbrella was the most attractive thing in the village. It was because of its dark blue colour that Binya was very proud of her umbrella. Ram Bharosa, the trustworthy, wanted the umbrella from Binya. Binya refused to sell her loved one even for fifteen rupees.

Binya went with her umbrella to the hillocks. There she sat in the shade of a pine tree. Soon, she slept. The forest wind blew while Binya was asleep and dragged the umbrella down. The noise woke Binya. She ran after her umbrella. It was useless. The umbrella had fallen down the cliff. While on its journey down, it got stuck in a cherry bush projecting from the cliff. Binya wanted her umbrella. She climbed down the cliff very carefully. Soon she reached the umbrella which had got stuck in the bush.

Binya could not crawl back with the umbrella in her hands, so she let the umbrella fall off the bush into the ravine below. The umbrella stuck to a nettle clump. Twenty minutes later she emerged from the clump. They had stung her, but she was immune to nettles.

On the other side, Ram Bharosa tried to lend extra credit to Binya and Bijju, so that they were not able to pay and would sell him the umbrella. None

of them did what Ram Bharosa wished. People were jealous of Binya's umbrella. Many people made stories about it. Many thought it had brought bad luck. Binya allowed young children to hold the umbrella for a while.

Soon, the monsoon arrived. It rained big drops. Binya waited for this and enjoyed herself in the rain with the umbrella held over her head with Bijju and the cows walking under it. The umbrella did not allow rain to go through, yet it wasn't a rain umbrella. Once this umbrella had saved her from a snake. She hit the snake with the umbrella and it crawled back.

The colour of the umbrella had faded a little. Yet Ram Bharosa wanted it. One day, a village boy called Rajaram came to Ram Bharosa. Ram Bharosa told him that he wanted that umbrella. Rajaram said that if he was given three rupees, he would steal it. Ram Bharosa agreed.

Binya had gone to the forest to collect porcupine quills. When she was busy, Rajaram stole the umbrella, but was caught by Bijju who had come to meet Binya in the forest. After a long struggle Rajaram was defeated by Bijju in a quarrel. Rajaram said that Ram Bharosa had told him to steal it for him for three rupees.

When the whole village came to know about Ram Bharosa's plan, they did not come to his shop. Ram Bharosa's income became little. Many taunted him. Binya took pity on Ram Bharosa. She knew the cause was her umbrella. She did not want Ram Bharosa to feel bad. So she left her umbrella on Ram Bharosa's counter, on purpose, when she visited his shop on the pretext of buying a sweet. Ram Bharosa was excited. Then he thought how could he enjoy with that umbrella, which had caused so much trouble for him. He tried to return it to Binya. Binya refused to take it back. Binya said that he should use it for shopkeepers.

Now people visit Ram Bharosa's shop again.

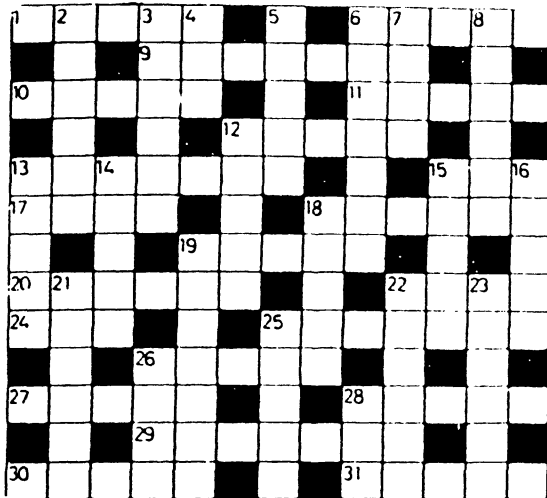
One day a bear left his claw in front of Ram Bharosa's shop. Ram Bharosa found that claw. He presented it to Binya after having it set in silver as Binya had given her umbrella to Ram Bharosa.

Binya was now happy. The claw looked beautiful around her neck.

*Milan Gupta*

\* \* \*

## Brain Teasers



### ACROSS

1 American stockfarm (5), 6 Black wood (5), 9 Prisoner (7), 10 Horse (5), 11 Oily fruit (5), 12 Shell-carrying creature (5), 13 Expressing disapproval (7), 15 Feverish disease, in short (3), 17 Formerly (4), 18 Tension (6), 19 Worries (5), 20 Say again (6), 22 Water bound land (4), 24 Fade away (3), 25 Farm vehicle (3), 26 Navigator (5), 27 Express indifference (5), 28 Removes (5), 29 Fierce canine (7), 30 Plain writing (5), 21 Untidy (3).

### DOWN

2 Reach (6), 3 Dairy product (6), Brick carrier (3), 5 Smart (5), 6 Self-centred types (7), 7 Chime (4), 8 Works of Fiction (6), 12 Breathe out violently (5), 13 Hidden supply (5), 14 Range (5), 15 Lavish meal (5), 16 Doorman (5), 18 Begin (5), 19 Tiredness (7), 21 Each of two (6), 22 Cold-period (3-3), 23 Sweet-heart (6), 25 Implements (5), 26 Drinking houses (4), Male cat (3).

### LAST TIME'S SOLUTION

ACROSS : 4 Salami, 7 Marjoram, 8 Estate, 10 Evers, 13 Alps, 14 Lira, 15 Alto, 16 Leg, 17 Cast, 19 Reed, 21 Orchestra, 23 Fret, 24 Rose, 26 Lie, 27 Iced, 29 Clap, 32 Avid, 33 Steer, 34 Skated, 35 Envelope, 36 Seamer.

DOWN : 1 Impel, 2 Order, 3 Boss, 4 Smelt, 5 Lots, 6 Matted, 9 Sports, 11 Vie, 12 Nacre, 13 Altered, 15

Ash, 16 Lea, 18 Active, 20 Erect, 21 Ore, 22 Sod, 23 Fickle, 25 Mae, 28 Cider, 30 Lemon, 31 Preen, 32 Atom, 33 Step.

\* \* \*

## Science Quiz

- QUES. 1 : How do plants protect themselves from frost?
- QUES. 2 : What is common among alligators and old people?
- QUES. 3 : Where does a hippopotamus give birth to its young ones?
- QUES. 4 : Which are the largest and the smallest eggs?
- QUES. 5 : Which are the largest and smallest seeds?
- QUES. 6 : How do scientists determine ocean depths?
- QUES. 7 : Who was the first man to set foot on the continent of Antarctica?
- QUES. 8 : Who invented the device that supplies air under pressure to underwater divers?
- QUES. 9 : When and who produced nitroglycerine?
- QUES. 10 : How can a rocket escape from the earth's gravitational pull?
- QUES. 11 : How is an iceberg formed?
- QUES. 12 : How much blood is there in the human body?
- QUES. 13 : Which is the fastest dog in the world?
- QUES. 14 : Who were the first human beings to set foot on Iceland?

\* \* \*

## Welham Now

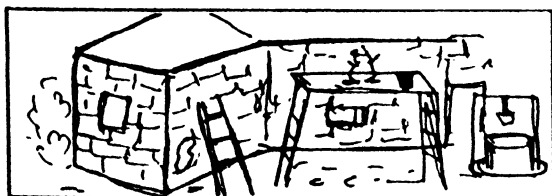
- \* The school hockey team played against Guru Nanak Academy and beat them hands down.
- \* The school hockey team lost out to Doon School in the Council Hockey Tournament.
- \* Welham came second in the Inter School English Elocution Contest. Welham was represented by Ritesh Khanna & Sudeep Chaudhry.
- \* Nitin Jain and Varun Sood gave a sterling performance to win the Inter School Debate Contest.

- \* The carpet is being laid in the upper storey of the Learning Resource Centre.
- \* The Lab and Art School building is being given a face lift.
- \* Ranjit Bedi came fourth in the marathon held at Doon Club on the 5th of May. Shiv Shankar came third in his section.
- \* The school junior hockey team won the Council Hockey Tournament in their section.
- \* Some boys of Welham went to represent Dehradun in the district basketball championships. It was held in Lucknow. Dehradun came third and Durgesh Bhatla was selected for the nationals.
- \* The hockey InterHouse tournament has commenced.
- \* The boys of 10th, 11th and 12th went to see the Rock Show hosted by St. Thomas's College in celebration of their Platinum Jubilee.



- \* Saqib Asghar came first in the A section of the district Taekwando championships. Kirtiman Singh came third. Abhishek Aggarwal came second in the 'B' section.
- \* The joint production 'Bad Seed' was staged at Welham Girls on Thursday the 16th.

\* \* \*



### BUILDING FUND

We are happy to announce that the following

Karmacharis of the School got together and donated Rs. 1780/= towards the construction of our new "Activity Centre". We are most grateful and hope that their example will be emulated by others.

1. Shri Prem Singh
2. Smt. Mary
3. Shri Manbar Lal
4. Shri Darshan Singh (Cook)
5. Shri Rajendra Prasad
6. Shri Dhyan Singh
7. Shri Dilvan Singh
8. Shri Dayal Singh
9. Shri Chandra Singh
10. Shri Abdul Rashid
11. Shri Durga Prasad
12. Shri Dilip Singh 'Raj'
13. Shri Vijay Singh
14. Shri Narendra Singh
15. Shri Raje Singh
16. Shri Vijay Sharma
17. Shri Subhash Thapa
18. Shri Mohd Ali
19. Shri Ram Singh
20. Shri Alam Singh
21. Shri Chandra Pal Singh
22. Shri Munna Lal
23. Shri Balak Ram
24. Shri Maya Ram
25. Shri Hazari Lal
26. Shri Madhu Singh Thapa
27. Shri Jagat Ram - I
28. Shri Jagat Ram
29. Shri Guna Nand (Cook)
30. Shri Guna Nand
31. Shri Shri Ganesh Singh
32. Shri Bhim Bahadur
33. Smt. Kala Devi
34. Shri Raja Ram
35. Shri Jhagru Ram
36. Shri Ram Assrae
37. Shri Moti Lal
38. Shri Ram Chandra
39. Shri Jagannath
40. Shri Ram Dev
41. Shri Jagdish
42. Shri Ram Din
43. Smt. Bimla Devi
44. Smt. Shobha Devi
45. Shri Dharam Singh
46. Shri Surendra Singh
47. Shri Ram Prasad
48. Shri Anand Mani
49. Shri Ram Lal
50. Shri Bhikhi Prasad
51. Smt. Sudambari Devi

52. Smt. Prem Devi
53. Shri Krishna Kumar Rai
54. Shri Ram Nath
55. Shri Kaushal Singh
56. Shri Devendra S. Rana
57. Shri Deep Chand
58. Shri Mohan Singh
59. Shri Abdul Hakim
60. Shri Babu Lal
61. Shri Ratan Lal (Mali)
62. Shri Sant Ram
63. Shri Balam Singh
64. Shri Shyam Singh
65. Shri Ashok Thapa
66. Shri Shri Ram (Mali)
67. Shri Joom Bahadur
68. Shri Man Bahadur
69. Shri Kishan Bahadur
70. Shri Ramesh
71. Shri Tega Singh Tyagi
72. Shri Abdul Hamid
73. Shri Darshan Singh (Balmiki)



### THE ABONIMABLE CONSTRICTORS

A cold blooded denizen of the jungle favours warm blooded prey. Special senses help find it, even in the dark. Looped on a limb, the South American Emerald Boa Constrictor can detect a nearby bird or small mammal by means of heat receptors in shallow grooves along the lips. The paired right and left pits probably help the six foot constrictor to zero-in on prey and strike with precision. Snakes lack external ears but they are sensitive to vibrations. The forked tongue is also a sensor; flicking about and carrying airborne particles to a chemical analyser (called Jacobson's organ) in the roof of the mouth.

A Python coils itself round its prey's body and then in its iron grip it starts squeezing the prey. This makes it difficult for the animal to breathe and

the python's grip only relaxes when its prey is dead. It then opens its coils and gulps down the animal head first. If the prey is rather big, the python can go a month without eating.

Pythons never break the bones of their prey even though they are quite capable of doing so. This is a thoughtful step for broken bones would pierce the hide of the reptile and create a problem in engulfing the prey.

The rate of digestion depends completely on the temperature of the place, since reptiles have no fixed body temperature and are affected by the temperature of the surroundings. After digestion, the only waste material which it throws out of its body includes the nails, scales, hair and tooth enamel of the animal eaten.

\* \* \*

### MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Muzzafar Ali Khan suggested that all the old exercise books and text books should be given for recycling. To this the Chairman replied that he had already talked to Mrs. Menaka Gandhi about this and that she should be letting him know whom to give them, soon enough. He also pointed out that a small amount could not be sent for this purpose as it would turn out to be expensive. When a large amount would be collected, it would be sent to the paper-mills at Saharanpur.

2. Sudeep Choudhary suggested that the Badminton Court adjoining the Staff-Quarters should be levelled. The Chairman said that this court was originally meant for the little girls of the junior classes and not for the boys. He has already decided to use the space between New Ground and Wood-seats hostels to construct a cemented court.

3. Sumit Virmani suggested that the water coolers in Triveni should be repaired and cleaned regularly. The Chairman said that he was already halfway through signing a contract for monthly repair and cleaning of the coolers in the school.

4. Sanidhya Sindhvani pointed out that the new generators for Triveni are still not in use. The Chairman said that if the electricity goes off after 8.30 P.M., there is no one to turn on the generators. He said that the boys of Class IX and X should

form groups and learn how to operate them. They should learn to be self-reliant.

5. Kirtiman suggested that boys should be allowed to send letters through registered post. The Chairman said if the letter is accompanied by a slip from the Housemaster, then there should be no problem. Nevertheless, all boys would not be allowed this as it would be expensive and the post office would not accept so many in a day.

6. The boys of Class X suggested that the house photographs should be coloured. The chairman replied to this suggestion that colour dyes fade away soon, and these would be expensive.

7. Himanshu Gupta suggested that the Triveni entrance should have a shutter to prevent dogs from entering. To this the Chairman replied that it was a first class suggestion, but since there would be no one to do the job at late hours, an alternative should be thought of. Apparently, an old shutter is still lying around locked up somewhere.

8. Varun Bhaskar suggested that the School Captain and the Editor should be provided with bicycles. The Chairman replied that it was a perfectly logical suggestion as they had a lot of running around to do. They could bring their own bicycles for that matter. He said that the Sports Captain may also be provided with one.

9. Sachin Karol suggested the use of the Audio-Visual room on Sundays by boys who have not gone for an outing, under the supervision of the Staff-members. The Chairman agreed and said that this would be carried out, but the staff-member should be present.

10. Anurag reminded the Chairman about the Music Teacher our school requires. Mrs. Deshpande and the Chairman said that advertisements had been given out in the newspapers and teachers had been called from Vadodara, Pune and Lucknow, besides other places.



### In the Arena of Sports

**W.B.S. v/s RIMC**  
2 - 0  
(Harjyot -2)

Welham played RIMC in the very beginning.

Both teams looked equally good, and initially it looked like a David - Goliath fight for the Rimcollians were physically certainly better off. As you know History repeats itself and so was the result. For Welham, failing to score in the 1st half, led a dramatic comeback and scored twice through Harjyot Singh.

### W.B.S. v/s COL. BROWN

3 - 1

(Ritesh Khanna -1)

(Raghav Banta -2)

In the second match Welham played Col Brown. Welham dominated the first half and was up by 2 goals, but in the 2nd half Col. Brown scored a goal. And then Raghav Banta exposed some of his hidden talent when he scored a diving goal to give Welham a clear victory.

### WELHAM v/s DOON SCHOOL

1 - 1

(Harjyot -1)

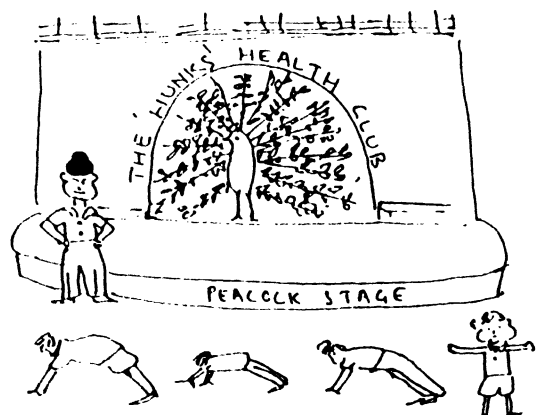
### PENALTY SHOOTOUT

3 - 4

(Raghav Banta, Harjyot Singh, Ritesh Khanna)

Welham took on Doon School in the semi-finals of the Inter-School Councils Tournament. Doon School scored in the first half. Welham instantly fought back and scored through Harjyot Singh. Both the teams were locked 1-1 and eventually led to penalty strokes. Doon School got the better of Welham in the penalty and snatched a well-deserved victory.

\* \* \*



# हिन्दी अनुभाग

## भीष्म

थी वह एक स्तब्ध शाम,  
याद आते हमें प्रभु पुरुषोत्तम राम, ।  
उनके भाई, उनके गुण और उनके काम,  
जिन्होंने रखा था सीता जी का नाम ।

पर वहाँ थे पड़े,  
तीरों की शैया पे  
इतने मौन कि,  
हों जैसे मरे पड़े ।

गंगा बह रही थी पास,  
इतनी धीरे जैसे,  
रहा हो मन में  
इन्हें देखने का उल्लास ।

मन में न थी कोई घृणा,  
और न ही कोई पाप ।  
ये खेलते रहे  
अपने ही जीवन से आप ।

इनका नाम था भीष्म,  
ओर यही थी उनकी लड़ाई अन्तिम ।  
तभी उधर आया एक रथ,  
अर्जुन थे विराजमान ।  
ये करते थे पितामह का  
बहुत ही ज्यादा सम्मान ।

आप पितामह के पास  
आँखों में आँसू भरे,  
पर ये मत सोचना प्यारे,

जब गिरा अश्रु नयनों से पग पर,  
तब उठे निद्रा से वह कराह कर ।  
बोले-"कैसे आना हुआ वहाँ,  
पड़ी है एक जिन्दा लाश जहाँ ।"

तब रो पड़े अर्जुन फूट-फूट कर,  
और कहने लगे पितामह के पैर पकड़  
"माफ कर दीजिए मुझे,  
मेरी गलती नहीं यह ।  
ये सब मैंने किया क्योंकि,  
थी कृष्ण की सलाह यह ।"

सांत्वना देने आए थे  
सुद सांत्वना खो बैठे,  
जिन्हें सांत्वना देनी थी  
उन्हीं से सांत्वना ले बैठे ।

भीष्म-"रोओ मत अर्जुन,  
मत करो ये आँसू खर्च ।  
बल्कि तुमने लाद दिया है,  
मुझपे बहुत बड़ा यह कर्ज ।  
जब तुमने मारा वह पहला बाण  
मुझे लगा कि  
कब निकलेगे मेरे प्राण ।

यमराज मुझे फाड़े खड़ा है,  
प्राणों के लिए ।

ये आँसू तुम बचाओ,  
उन दिनों के लिए ।  
अब जाओ, जाकर करो तैयारी  
अगले युद्ध के लिए ।"

ये अर्जुन एक आजाकारी शिष्य  
कैसे कहते नहीं ।  
वरना टूट न जाते,  
पितामह के प्राण वहीं?

दूर गया रथ वहाँ  
जहां मिलते हो आकाश गगन ।  
अब मैं भी करता हूँ अन्त यहाँ,  
लिए एक भारी मन ।

अंशुल अनुराग

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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