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Editor-in-Chief

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Editorial

While writing this editorial, I find myself in a pitiable condition like most of you who feel perplexed about the happenings around us. If literature happens to record the activities around, we ought to be worried about the records we are going to leave behind for our posterity. Today we are living amid instances of hatred born out of small matters that have no place for a civilized human race who can boast of ethical episodes from our scriptures. The poetics of protest may be realized even without making unnecessary brouhaha for the world at large. There is no denying the fact that protests express the modalities of human existence. But what is of immense significance is the fact that such protests should not annihilate our endeavours to 'becoming'. We have to remember that 'to be', one has 'to become'. Protests for the sake of protests have always been detrimental to the process of becoming, of development, of harmony and of happiness. Life may have a goal, but the ways to attain goals sometimes become so misleading that it affects our language and also the meaning. Language, being at the core of all human interactions, has not only the power to express but also to impress with the proper selection of words having the right intention and not the creation of contention. Both history and literature in this regard have plethora of examples how language has helped mankind come out of the predicament from time to time. Dialogue and a proper discourse have always worked as a recuperative force in mitigating the suffering and horror of all times. We have to introspect to discover that language has been lost in the conflict between our heart and mind. The materialistic attitude of huge harvest without 'proper sowing' seems to be at the root of all ailments.

Globalization, being the mantra today, should not blind us to the ancient practice of our being the proponents of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. What is there to offer to the world when we declare ourselves to be caged, imprisoned and stifled? Actually, we have been so obsessed today with the technological advances that our emotions have dried up and

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we look forward to receiving reliefs from other quarters. The mechanical life styles seem to seal our natural instincts which earlier brought us close to our fellow beings. Cyber identities, bordering on the likes and dislikes unreasonably poured on our sites, have distanced us from our insights and hence the thoughts of love, loyalty and life seem to retrograde. It is once again hightime we retreated to poetry which can help us emerge from the breakdowns and build bridges of co-existence and cordiality. History is not only repetitive, but also recreative. What T.S. Eliot wrote in his poem “The Rock” is true to all times:

Where is the Life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?
The cycles of heaven in twenty centuries
Brings us farther from God and nearer to the Dust.

All of us have to admit that every moment we are nearing death and farther from God. It is beyond doubt that while Time continues to be in a flux, the struggle between good and evil always continues. It is for us as humans to decide whether to be with the good or with the evil. While being with the good may, at times, bring suffering yet let us remember that suffering brings us close to God which is a blessing.

The fifty-third volume of *The Indian Journal of English Studies* is a collection of scholarly papers presented at the 59th AIETC held at Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, 19-21 December, 2014. The volume in your hand includes incisive papers by faculty members, research scholars and other literary lovers spread out in different parts of the world continuing their quest for authentic knowledge. It has always been the policy of the IJES to be transparent in terms of selection and inclusion of papers for greater good, keeping into consideration the real sparks emanating both from the experienced as well as from the young ones. What makes every volume of IJES exceptional is its motto of equal space and representation of several voices emerging on the literary firmament. Hence, voices of love, of disillusionment

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arising from crises of poverty, of the complexities of human relationships, of exile and anger melting into the world of acute realization of global challenges, have been registered in this issue. In addition, papers on literary theory, translation studies, language teaching and on the contemporary relevance of Swami Vivekananda’s thoughts have also been considered. The volume, apart from including scholarly articles, has also given space to a short story, twelve poems and four book reviews. Despite exercising utmost care in editing and formatting of the content, some errors might have crept in. The editor requests readers to ignore them and instead mail their creative suggestions. I extend my gratitude to all contributors of this volume and wish them my heartiest greetings for the upcoming Christmas and New Year 2016. I also look forward to cherishing the imperishable love and faith of all readers.

BINOD MISHRA
Editor-in-Chief