

PEHEL

Ek Nayi Soch



The Annual Newsletter

ASTITVA- THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

MATA SUNDRI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Issue 5 | 2019- 20

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dr. Harpreet Kaur

Congratulations.

It is with ecstatic satisfaction that I have received and read the 5th issue of PEHEL of the Department of Philosophy of our college.



Alongside the purposeful manifestation of team work between the teachers and the students, PEHEL is a testimony to the multifarious qualities of its contributors. In fact, in terms of knowledge and wisdom, it is much more than the sheer number of pages and the articles that it contains. The diversity of its topics concerning our lives in many ways makes it appealing and interesting.

I also note that PEHEL would definitely add to the intellectual inventory in the library of our college.

The efforts of the Department of Philosophy are worthy of fulsome praise and I commend all the teachers and the students in full measure.

I hope that the good work would be continued in the future as well in the larger and lasting interests of the college.

Best Wishes.

Dr. Harpreet Kaur
Principal

FROM THE TEACHER-IN-CHARGE'S DESK

Dr. Lakshmi Vatsa

Heartiest Greetings!

It gives me immense pleasure to present the fifth issue of our department Newsletter "PEHEL." This internal newsletter is one of the ways in which we can disseminate information on the life of the Department. A newsletter carries the contributions reflecting ethos and aspirations of the students and faculty members of the department. They amply demonstrate the communication skills, poetic prowess, imagination, creativity, humour and humanism of the contributors.

The past academic session was full of various activities performed by the students and faculty members in academics, co- curricular, extra- curricular as well as research & developments. As you read through the pages you will realise, that the Department had a particularly successful year. We organised the Indian Philosophers' Day sponsored by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research. We also succeeded in organising the first Inter- Disciplinary National Conference on "Professional Ethics: Theory and Practice" sponsored by the ICPR in our college.



I am happy that there is a dedicated team of staff and students who have brought out this newsletter of our department. They have presented the stupendous achievements of DoPians in the fields of academics, research and extra - curricular activities, in a nice way. Since our students have emerged as the substantial contributors to PEHEL, all teachers join to convey all our blessings, appreciation and commendation to our students.

We are grateful to our honourable principal Dr. Harpreet Kaur for her constant support and for all words of wisdom that radiated a source of energy within us.

I am sure that through these pages readers will get a bird's eye view of DoP and its wonders.

BEST WISHES

Dr. Lakshmi Vatsa
Teacher-in -charge
Department of Philosophy
Mata Sundri College for Women

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dr. Garima Mani Tripathi

It is a pleasure introducing the fifth edition of *Pehel: Ek Nayi Soch*. This is an endeavour and a handiwork of the students of the Philosophy Department of Mata Sundri College for Women.

Over the last four editions, *Pehel* provided an opportunity for the students to give voice to their literary tastebuds. Some of the works may not be completely original, but the students are like *tabula rasa* - raw minds that need shaping and encouragement.

Towards this end, I hope this edition would be liked by many since it brings together a range of poems, philosophical expressions and diversified write ups. I would request future contributors to consider writing book reviews on new books in Philosophy and short write ups on contemporary issues from philosophical and ethical perspectives.

At the end of the day, we as philosophers must do our own bit for the society and strive towards engendering an ideal society - that has been the goal of all philosophers. For example, the entire humankind is undergoing through its worst phase in its history. What can we do to heal up the wounds for the humanity at large? In our own limited manner, probably we can come together and contemplate some food for thoughts. Young students can be the best torchbearers for such an initiative. Please do give your feedback so that future editions of *Pehel* can increasingly improve.

Dr. Garima Mani Tripathi





- 02 Principal's Message
- 03 Teacher-in-charge's Note
- 04 Editor's Message
- 06 Student Editorial Board
- 07 The Union
- 08 WS1: Where Pen is mightier than Sword
- 23 AS: Create with the Heart, Build with the Mind
- 26 WS2: In Pursuit of Wisdom
- 31 The Department in Frames
- 35 Gratia Cantantes

Student Editorial Board

Sub-Editor

Divya Batra

Sectional-Editors

Shakshi Singh

Megha Sharma

Adhya

Graphics and Design

Divya Batra

Shakshi Singh

Garima Dobhal

Photography

Department

Ayushi Rajput

Helping hands

Ashmita Banerjee

“Handle them carefully, for words have more power than atom bombs” - Pearl Strachan Hurd

We agree with Pearl Strachan Hurd and definitely know that you all would as well once you go through some beautifully written pieces of our newsletter, 'PEHEL- Ek Nayi Soch' for the students have expressed some very strong emotions which will surely stir some emotion in you too.

We thank our teachers for their constant support throughout the making of the 'FIFTH EDITION of PEHEL', the appreciation & support they've shown to all the ideas without putting a limit to our imagination is commendable. We would also like to thank our fellow-mates for showing interest & giving their contributions in making this a success and bringing this newsletter to it its best.

We hope “PEHEL” serves the purpose for which it has been brought to you by our whole department.

Happy Philosophising!

Happy Reading!

THE DEPARTMENT UNION

On 31st July, 2019 the Department of Philosophy - Astitva, Mata Sundri College for Women, held it's union election through unbiased and equitable means.

The following are the functionaries for the session 2019-20:



Divya Batra
President



Shakshi Singh
Vice-President



Megha Sharma
Secretary



Adhya
Joint Secretary

The Union of Philosophy Department was formed with the fundamentals of impartiality and emancipation, with utmost determination and dedication, The union has always worked towards the betterment and glory of it's department. The Union is thankful to teachers and students for always lending us their helping hands and being our constant support system.

WRITERS' SECTION

Where Pen is mightier than Sword

PEHEL: EK NAYI SOCH

COMPASSION: A BABY OF THE OTHER EXTREME

Comparing the Human, Animal and Plant Kingdoms, a non-descript but learned and wise scholar in the recent past opined that the Human Kingdom is most selfish. No doubt. However, without assigning any reason in support.

Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi and Rajput King Prithviraj Chauhan are believed to have died at the age of twenty two and twenty six years, respectively. They could have lived longer but for the betrayal of trust, they met with premature and painful death. The historical villains are Rao Dula Ji and Raja Jaichand of Kannauj.

Both, the ancient Indian history and the modern world history are replete with many instances of wars leading to slaughter and massacre of humans for various reasons. Some horrifying examples are the epic battle of Mahabharata, Kalinga conquest of Samrat Ashok and World War I & II.

‘..... judging by the havoc that we as a species have wreaked on Earth and its inhabitants, there is no more destructive beast than Homo Sapiens.’ and, as a result, ‘..... some friends we have lost forever’ are:

1. West African Black Rhinoceros
2. One of the largest fish in the world, the Psephurus gladius, swims in the freshwaters of Yangtze River in China.
3. Catarina Pupfish, abundant in the wetlands of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, the Omega Upsilon aporus, went extinct in the wild.
4. Japanese Sea Lion
5. The glossy black Moho Bishopi bird, once found in the forestlands of Hawaii.
6. The long-legged Vanellus macropterus wading bird, sporting a remarkable plumage, was once found cross the marshes and deltas of Java.
7. The Golden Toad, once found in the cloud forests of northern Costa Rica.
8. Pinta Giant Tortoise, found abundantly in Ecuador, went extinct in 2012.’ (1)



This extreme, singular as well as in plural, is full of bloody instances of misery caused to humans and is also full of unpardonable instances of extinction caused to a number of species of animals, birds and plants. This extreme deserves to be condemned and relegated forever to fall under the wretched title Humans Versus Humans, Animals and Plants.

Other extreme is rather fortunate. It is to this extreme that Compassion owes its origin.

What, then, is the meaning of 'Compassion'?

1. '..... Sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it
2. '..... Understanding or pity for somebody who is suffering.'
3. '..... Pity inclining one to spare or help.'

It is submitted; within the bounds of any language, it is difficult to find words to encapsulate or captivate the exact meaning of Compassion. Therefore, it is imperative to give a thought to a certain spirit and a certain behaviour exhibited in certain circumstances to be somewhere near to Compassion. Following deserves a thought:

1. Constitution of India (COI) in: Part IVA: Fundamental Duties: Article 51A (g) enunciates: to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures. But, it does not define 'Compassion'.

However, a Division Bench of Allahabad High Court, inter alia, discussing the significance of the Article held that a new chapter has been inserted in the COI to regulate behavior and to bring about excellence.

..... People should not conduct themselves in a blameworthy manner. 'Excellence' means surpassing merit, virtue, honest performance. (5)

2. Short stories 'Idgah' and 'Do Bailon Ki Katha' written by Munshi Prem Chand. Idgah: Concern, care, kindness and love personified by a four year old orphan Hamid. Conquering his temptation for clay toys, joy rides and candies, he purchased a pair of tongs for his old grandmother Amina to save her from daily burning her fingers while cooking.

- Do Bailon Ki Katha: Zhoori Kachi's love for his two oxen named Hira and Moti. A neighborhood little girl who was saddened by the rebuking behaviour of her step- mother developed a loving and a caring relationship with the oxen. She stealthy feeds the oxen daily with bread. Oxen lovingly reciprocates the little girl's gesture. Oxen are friends to each other and they console each other in the face of cruelties meted out to them and together they attempt to liberate themselves.

In view of the above, it is safe to conclude: 'Compassion' is an amalgamation of voluntary and selfless traits of a person's personality which stimulates him/her to be sympathetically considerate towards those suffering and help those in distress including animals, birds, trees and plants.

And, care, kindness, charity, sympathy and humbleness in spirit and in action deserve inclusion in the constituents of Compassion.'

Is 'Compassion' a baby of the other extreme?

REFERENCES

1. 'Climate change warnings went unheeded, now Australia has lost billions of species', The Times of India, New Delhi, Saturday, 18/1/20, p. 16
2. Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, MERRIAM- WEBSTER INC., Publishers Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S. A., 1988, ISBN 0-87779-508-8
3. Oxford English-English-Hindi Dictionary, Ed. Dr. Suresh Kumar & Dr. Ramanath Sahai, Oxford University Press, YMCA Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi- 110001, 2008
4. The Pocket Oxford Dictionary, Compiled by F.G. Fowler & H.W. Fowler, IVth Edn., Oxford University Press, Amen House, London E.C.4, 1961
5. AIR 1988 All. 309 (Ram Prasad Vs. State of U.P.) & The Constitution of India, Selective Comments by P.M. Bakshi, Universal Book Traders, 80, Gokhale Market, Opp. New Courts, Delhi- 110054, 1993, p. 61

Dr. Lakshmi Vatsa
Teacher-in-charge
Department of Philosophy

मां , चिड़िया हूं मैं तेरी ,
तू आकाश की ऊंचाई मुझे छुने देना ।
परछाई बनकर जी रही थी अब तक । ,
अब ज़रा अपना आइना बनने देना ।

बचपन से पापा की परी कहलाई हूं ,
अब भाई की शेरनी मझे होने देना ।
मां , चिड़िया हूं मैं तेरी ,
तू आकाश की ऊंचाई मुझे छुने देना ।

कोसेगी ये दुनिया मुझे , हर कदम पर उंगलियां उठाएगी ,
समेट लूंगी दर्द को खुद में मगर ,
तू फक्र से माथा चूमती रहना ,
आसान होजाएगी मुश्किलें सभी , तू बस हाथ पकड़के साथ चलती रहना ।
मां गुड़िया हूं मैं तेरी ,
तू ज़माने से आगे मुझे चलने देना ।

ठोकर लग जाए जब मुझे ,
तो अपने आंचल से आंसू पोछती रहना ,
तेरा ही अंश हूं मैं मां ,
मुझे तू अपनी तरह बनने देना ।
मां , चिड़िया हूं मैं तेरी ,
तू आकाश की ऊंचाई मुझे छुने देना ।

MEGHA SHARMA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Second Year)



A rainbow is...
A 'combination of colours'.
Colours are seven,
Beautiful like 'heaven'.

Each colour symbolizes something,
Related to the 'circle of living'.
Red is a symbol of 'love',
Teaches to be with 'closed one'.

Orange symbolizes 'determination',
Paves a way to 'goal completion'.
Yellow signs up for 'happiness',
Abolishes the slot of 'sadness'.
Green refers to 'freshness',
Turns a sad mood into 'cheerfulness'.
Blue is a symbol of 'dignity',
Adds more in one's personality.

Indigo symbolizes 'wisdom',
Enriches one with 'spiritualism'.
Violet signs up to 'creativity',
Enhances one's 'dignity'.

A rainbow is...
A 'combination of colours'.
Colours are seven,
Beautiful like 'heaven'.

LIVING COLORS

PRAGATI MISHRA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Third Year)



CAN PHILOSOPHY EVER GIVE 'CONCRETE ANSWERS'?



‘What happens after I die?’, ‘what is real’, ‘what is knowledge?’ and so on are questions which one hopes would get answered while studying philosophy. Now, Philosophy is defined as the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence. But can we really know it all? Philosophy has various sub-fields which further has numerous in-depth topics and questions which it deals with. One topic or question has many philosophers or scholars giving their respective solutions, which could vary to a great degree. But how can we know who is correct or which theory to follow? It feels like the more we study, the more unanswered our questions remain. In fact new questions get raised without any hope of finding solutions. Can philosophy ever give a concrete answer or is it just a discipline which only creates questions with no intention of giving any definite answer? It can become frustrating to study such a subject which appears as abstract owing to its incapability of proving concrete answers. We have a need of having an objective, concrete answer to all the questions because that is how we have always viewed the world.

Since the dawn of science, it had and continues to hold a prominent place in everyone’s life. Thus, we consider knowledge as something which can be testable and is objective, which is what the scientific method is all about. While science started off as a way of looking at things, it soon became the only “sane” way to get knowledge about anything and everything.

It came as a saviour in the face of the unknown. It has even managed to influence few philosophers to follow the scientific method in philosophy as well. For example, for Logical positivism verification principle was the only criteria for knowledge. But even science has its limitations. There are more mysteries than we can count in the entire universe which science has been unable to explain.

It is true that science continues to try, try to develop new theories and conduct experiments. But still is unsuccessful in finding those “concrete answers” to various questions. Yet, we do not question it. We believe that even though it has not been able to explain those questions or phenomena right this second, it could always do so in the future.

Science was ‘a’ way of looking at the world; it was never the only one. Before the enlightenment period, art was seen as a way of looking at nature. Similarly why can’t philosophy be another way? Maybe philosophy is just another method to get knowledge. And maybe the different theories that we find for a single question are just different angles of the same thing. While it cannot provide us with a “concrete answer” it does provide us with a number of possibilities. It makes us think.

Studying philosophy opens our mind to different possibilities. While reading different works of philosophers or scholars on a single topic, we get introduced to that topic more deeply. We now view that topic with so many different layers, with so many different perspectives that we start to understand it, if not completely know it. Every event is caused by not one but many factors, but we often give importance to one. For instance, curd is caused by milk, but in reality there are various other factors involved in turning milk to curd. We need to know those factors as well if we wish to turn milk into curd. We cannot continue to view things as one-dimensional because that is not a world in which we live . Things are multidimensional and philosophy helps us see that. Philosophy might not give us any “concrete answers” but it does change the way we look at things. If we continue to look for those different perspectives of a certain phenomenon or some behavior or anything else, then maybe we can finally understand or even see the whole picture behind it.

SREEJITA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Third Year)



THE HOPEFUL SOUL

Even though my mind is trailed with disheartened-ness,
My heart wants to love without the body-mess,
My eyes wants to have conversations,
Not my vagina or the under neck heaviness

We call them lovable "Desires" or is it lust?
The world wants to eat up the flesh,
And no one wishes to know the soul,,
I've started fearing intimacy for a single thought,
And that is, the world is there to fulfill the bodily,
But not a single human who can calm the heart,

The universe talks about unconditional love,
And matches its purity to the happy white dove,
So, nobody wants to eat up that poor pretty fellow in the
sky,

BUT also nobody wants to spare those on the "GROUND",
Shedding clothes when matches to peeling skin becomes
poison which goes head around,

My heart wants to sense those calm eyes,
Which do not look for sucking the belly down fleshy fries,
My lips wants to talk for hours about love and life,
And do not want them to be cracked by the bites,

With a mind full of questions,
My cravings are still for "late night deep conversations"
And tight hugs which do not end up with orgasms.

If god gifts me the one,
I'll be telling him how I imagine us on the moon with his
fingers running through my hair.

SHEENA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, First Year)



GLORY

The time comes,
When you on your inside have much
more to say than the words you've
learnt can express.

When the turmoil in your brain ruins
your understanding of this vague
picture.

When you have no clue about your
present.

When you start pitying your own state
for no other reason than the
helplessness you have filled yourself
with, unknowingly.

It takes courage.

It takes courage to pretend that you're
fine, when you can barely stand.

They have always seen your stronger
stance and expect the same every
time.

You try to stop the winds from
blowing in the wrong direction.

You take the pains, the expectations,
fill them with your best.

You show more than you can take,
Mix the Moon with the Sun.

Catch the stars falling down.

Define the lines between day and
night.

Before the dropping of the last sand
grain in the hourglass,

You complete all your superhuman
tasks and set, yet, for another mission.

But then, The times comes,

When you realise that a part of you has
already faded and You are slowly
fading away into a messier world,
Which seems way too different from
the one you had fantasized.

When the time seems endlessly
prolonged,

And the tiredness leaves you in a harsh
agony.

When you don't know what you want,

Where you want to be,

Which haven of refuge your soul longs
for or when the clock will thump songs
of a peaceful life.

Then,

Do not give up, my warrior!

For it is just the beginning of the Grace
coming your way,

Vibrancy is yet to fill your life.

Get up, hold yourself straight and give
in only to the Almighty

Who will pick you up, when you fall.

Show you the path, when it's dark.

And lead His child to the best of what
He has.

Fight in his light, love

You ought to win the battles of eternity.

ISHMEET KAUR
(GE PHILOSOPHY - First Year)



DEPRESSION

My depression is not that bad,
Sometimes it talks to me when I need a
friend.
When the world is too misunderstood to
understand me.
When all around me is happiness, yet I seem
to not be able to have enough.
My depression tells me things about me,
things I'm too scared to tell the world.
It tells me the truth, even if it's brutal.
My depression is a part of me that awakens
and swallows me whole.
It demands a lot,
It leaves me exhausted and miserable.
My depression makes me cry or leaves me
numb.
It makes me feel a lot or nothing at all.
My depression is unpredictable.

SHAMBHAVI RANJAN
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, First Year)

A GEN-Z DILEMMA



We as a youth living in the 21st century exposed to liberal and progressive ideas are trapped in the dilemma of choosing whether to follow the paths made by our ancestors or choose the paths that deviate from the usual and are even considered a taboo by them. Elders are known to have a lot of experience when it comes to life. According to them if we want to have a successful life we need to follow the paths they have laid before us. Even though they may be right about some of it, that does not mean we should blindly follow everything they say. Especially the superstitions and boundaries created by them needs to be challenged and as we modernize we are becoming more aware of these and are trying our best to seek answers for it.

As we have been taught since childhood that makeup is considered only for women and if a man does makeup he lacks manliness. Sometimes people forget that make up is an art form, an artistic escape and an expression. The notion that wearing makeup makes someone less of a man is outdated and stereotypical. And as we are progressing we see that many of us are trying to normalize men in the makeup community and respect the courage they exhibit through social media and other forums.

People from the LGBTQ community are not welcome anywhere and are looked upon with nothing but disgust by many of us .All because of the teachings of our elders who never understood it and made a big deal about it and painted such a bad picture of them in our minds that we get scared of them even more than we are of ghosts. Which is why many of them end up having identity crisis and commit suicide because they are born in a society which has no understanding for their situation and are disrespected. They are made to feel like abominable beings. But as a modern generation we are trying to come to terms with everything including the issue of sexual orientation as can be seen with the rise in number of people coming out, support groups being set up and the magnificent pride parades celebrated by all irrespective of being straight or gay. We are slowly realising the fact that a person who is gay is no different from a straight person and there is nothing wrong owning to our sexualities and all this so called difference is the conditioning by our elders. In this male dominated society the women are expected to do all the household chores and look after children while the men work outside. This is again the mentality which still exists.

But as more women are being educated they are starting to realize that they have a dream which is in no way lesser than those of the men and that they have every right to pursue what interests them. Their roles are no more confined to the walls of kitchen. We see women working in diverse fields some of which were once considered unsuitable for them or beyond their capacities. Some of the biggest MNCs are providing special care and services so that women who have children do not have to leave their careers to look after them and also there are few cases where the roles of male and females are no longer the typical ones.

Even though the problems faced by women have no limits, from being a victim of discrimination at their homes to being the victims of harassment, little by little we are progressing in our attempt to make this society a better place for everyone. We can understand now that following our elders is a good thing for they know what's good for us but it does not mean that we should confine ourselves to what is ideal according to them and stop exploring because as a progressive generation we need to balance the past knowledge with the experiences we gain from the present. We need to become more aware and open minded than our elders have been because that's what helps in the development of a nation as well as an individual. We need to break free from the concepts created in our mind.

RADHIKA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Third Year)

Every burning ends up to me,
Every individual ends up to me.
Some consider me as 'Pious' ,
Others consider me as 'Impious'.

Some scatter me in fields,
Others drown me in holy rivers.
Some put me on their foreheads,
Others throw in garbage.

A pinch of me on your forehead
glorifies you,
A pinch of me in your nose
irritates you.
A flower with help of me blossoms,
An incense stick with the help of
me fragrances.

If I am retained on land,
The outcome is fruitful.
If I am blown by wind,
The outcome is dreadful.

ASH - AN ANGELIC BEAUTY

PRAGATI MISHRA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Third Year)



THE 'QUESTION' OF PHILOSOPHY

Google describes philosophy as the study of “the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence.” In simpler words philosophy is the love for wisdom. Those who study philosophy are engaged in answering, arguing and deciphering the meaning of life. As a college student who wants to pursue philosophy, I’m often asked why I chose this, at first my answer was that it was something different but as I’ve come to know philosophy more, I’ve realized how much there is to it.

As I read about various schools and teachings and their thoughts on similar concepts, I’ve realized how vast philosophy is. Taking the teachings of Buddha into account according to him, Liberation can be attained in this life but for that one has to completely withdraw from the pleasures outside and focus on the fourfold truth. A liberated person is said to achieve the state of Nirvana. Another school of thought “Charvaka” according to which perception is the only valid source of knowledge believes that consciousness ceases apparently with the body hence it is foolish to forgo the pleasure here in this life simply because they happen to be mixed with pain.

This being only a small part of the vast discussion that philosophy holds in itself shows just how many different concepts it holds within itself. Thus, philosophy is made for those who crave knowledge and wisdom and quenches curiosity. In a broad sense, Philosophy is an activity through which people understand fundamental truths about themselves, the world in which they live, and their relationships to the world and to each other.

SHAMBHAVI RANJAN
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, First Year)



WINDOW LEDGE

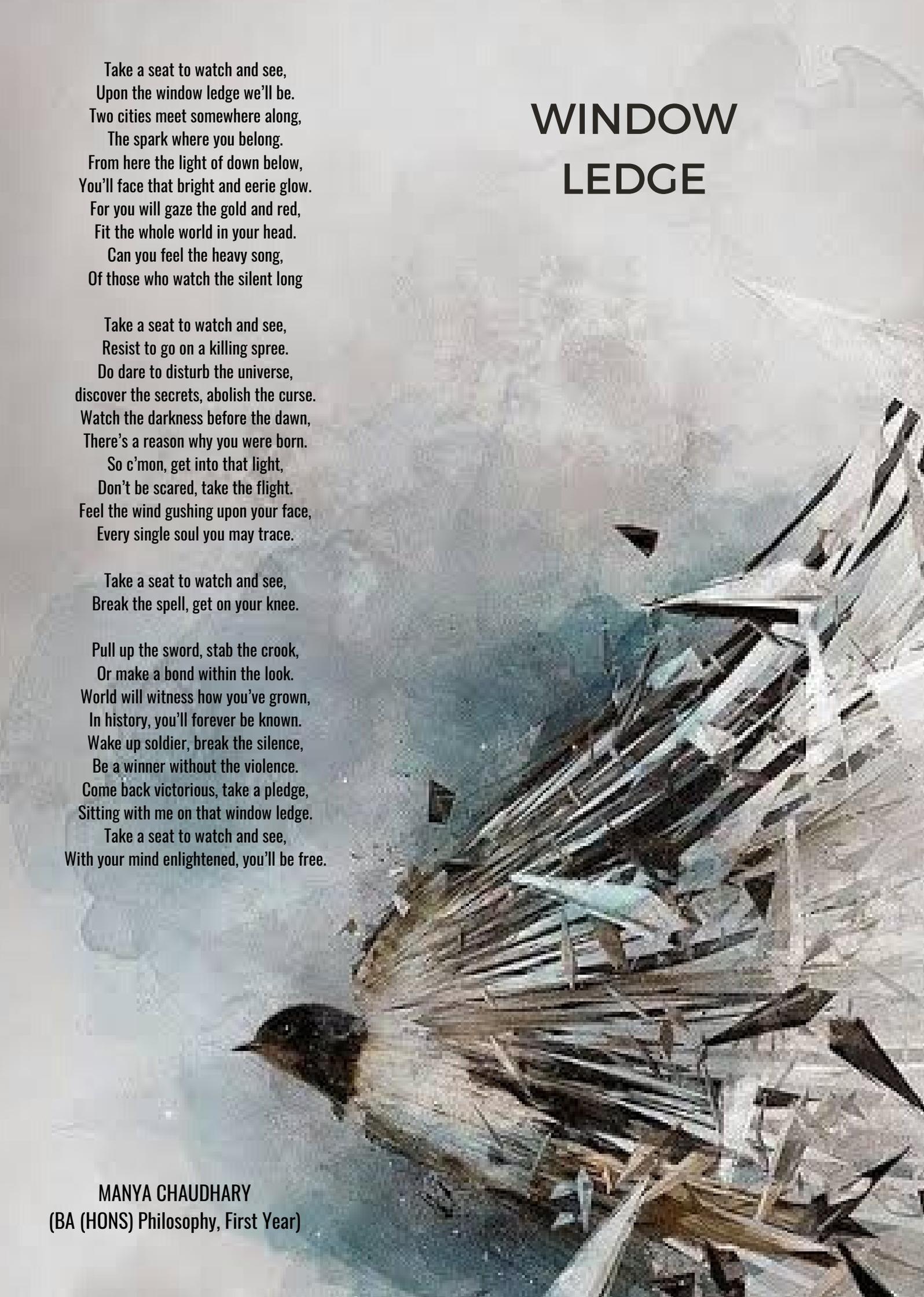
Take a seat to watch and see,
Upon the window ledge we'll be.
Two cities meet somewhere along,
The spark where you belong.
From here the light of down below,
You'll face that bright and eerie glow.
For you will gaze the gold and red,
Fit the whole world in your head.
Can you feel the heavy song,
Of those who watch the silent long

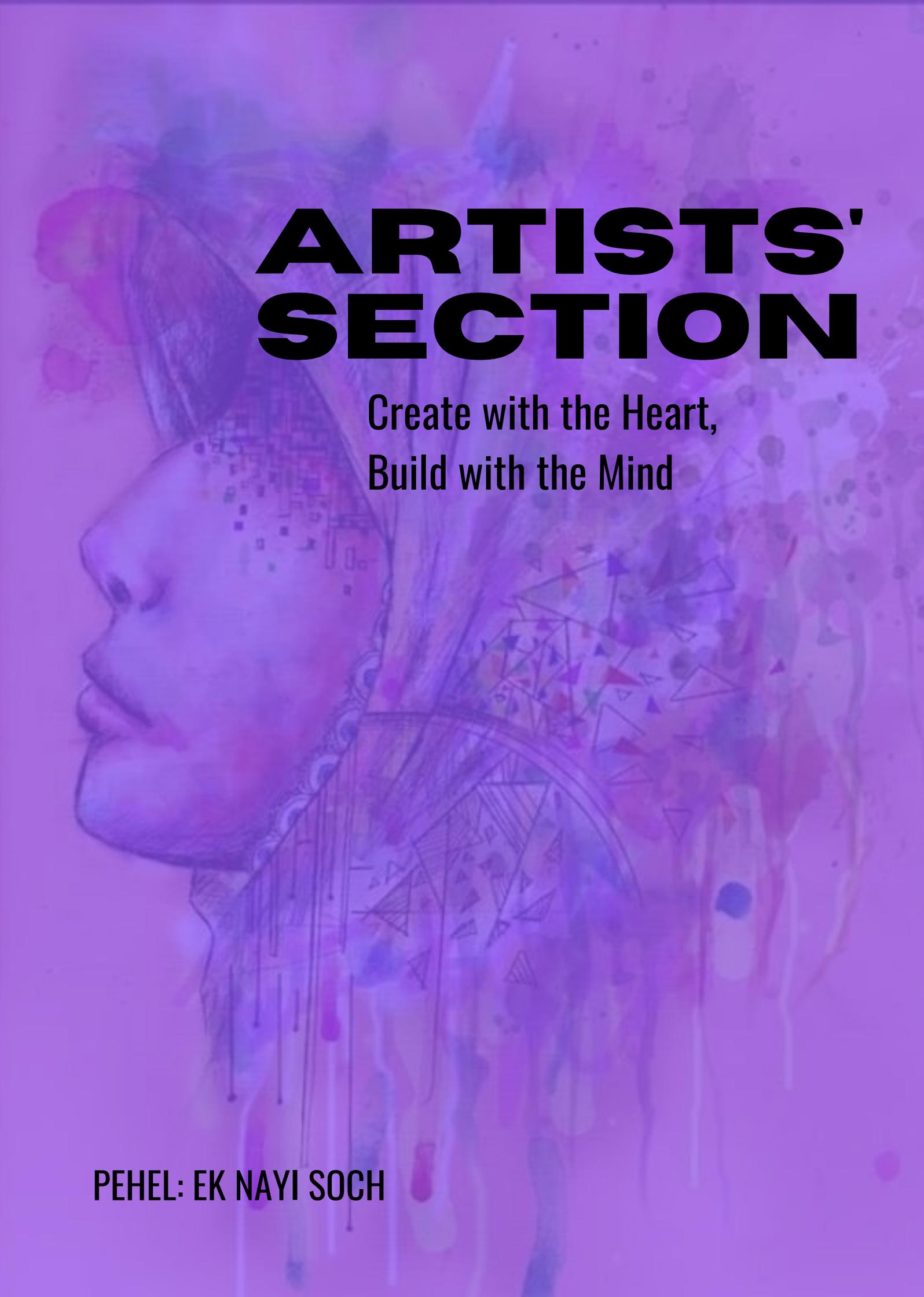
Take a seat to watch and see,
Resist to go on a killing spree.
Do dare to disturb the universe,
discover the secrets, abolish the curse.
Watch the darkness before the dawn,
There's a reason why you were born.
So c'mon, get into that light,
Don't be scared, take the flight.
Feel the wind gushing upon your face,
Every single soul you may trace.

Take a seat to watch and see,
Break the spell, get on your knee.

Pull up the sword, stab the crook,
Or make a bond within the look.
World will witness how you've grown,
In history, you'll forever be known.
Wake up soldier, break the silence,
Be a winner without the violence.
Come back victorious, take a pledge,
Sitting with me on that window ledge.
Take a seat to watch and see,
With your mind enlightened, you'll be free.

MANYA CHAUDHARY
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, First Year)





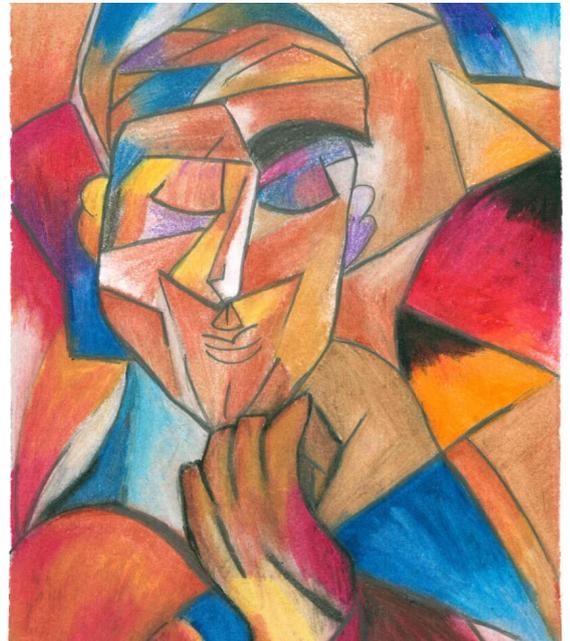
ARTISTS' SECTION

**Create with the Heart,
Build with the Mind**

PEHEL: EK NAYI SOCH



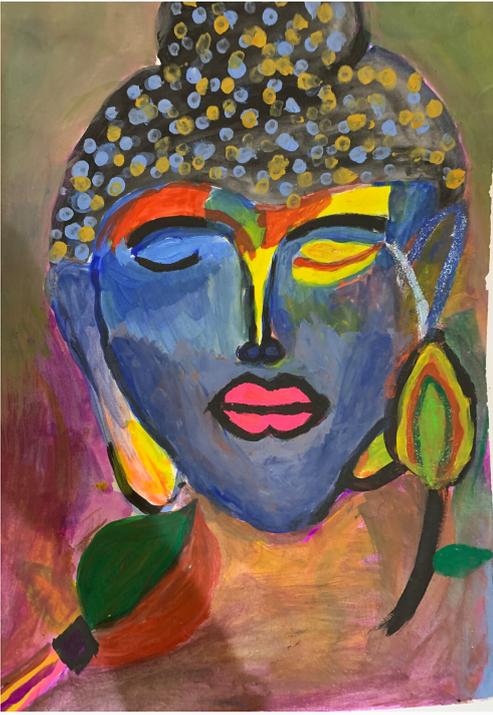
*"I found I could say things
with color and shapes that
I couldn't say any other
way - things I had no
words for."
- Georgia O'Keeffe*



First Row: SAMRIDDDHI
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Second Year)

Second Row (Left to Right) : MEGHA SHARMA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Second Year),
TANYA ARORA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Second Year)

Third Row: PRIYA SOIN
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Third Year)



First Row (Left to Right) : PRIYA SOIN
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Third Year),
MEGHA SHARMA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Second Year)

Second Row: SAMRIDDHI
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Second Year)

Third Row: TANYA ARORA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Second Year)



*“The art of a people is a
true mirror to their
minds.”*
– Jawaharlal Nehru

WRITERS' SECTION

In Pursuit of Wisdom

PEHEL: EK NAYI SOCH



SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD

Nowadays, surrogacy is a debatable and a very important issue in our society. Surrogacy is considered as one of many assisted reproduction technologies. The practice of surrogacy is largely dependent upon the legal remedies taken by the government as well as the thinking of the general public. First of all it is very important to understand the meaning of surrogacy. The surrogate motherhood is a form of collaborative reproduction that typically involves three persons - a married infertile couple and a surrogate mother. People may seek a surrogacy arrangement when pregnancy is medically impossible, when pregnancy risks are too dangerous for the intended mother or when a single man wishes to have a child. There are two basic types of surrogacy - Traditional surrogacy, where only the intended father is genetically connected to the child. The other is Gestational surrogacy, where both the intended mother and father have a genetic connection to the child. In surrogacy arrangement's monetary compensation may or may not be allowed, that is commercial and non-commercial surrogacy arrangements.

In the countries where commercial surrogacy is legal, couples may use the help of a third party agency to assist in the process of surrogacy by finding a surrogate mother and arranging a surrogacy contract with her. Surrogate motherhood has many opponent's as well as advocate's, there are some reasons from traditional philosophical perspectives and others from distinctively feminist perspectives. To solve this problem of infertility new medical techniques and medications have arised. New medical technologies such as In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) or Intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). All the aspects of surrogacy includes' the legal remedies for surrogate motherhood, its advantages as well as disadvantages involved in this process, the countries who are in favour as well as against this process and the perspectives of society on surrogate motherhood. Also we will talk about the surrogacy bill passed by the government. Last but not the least the changes which can take place in order to overcome the many ethical, personal, legal, medical and social challenges.

TANYA ARORA & NISHTHA ARORA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Second Year)

MILITARY ETHICS



“Either I will come back after hoisting the Tricolor, or I will come back wrapped in it”, beautifully encompasses the true essence of the Indian army! only soldiers are real life romantics... living embodiment of promises that people make to their paramour, living for the love of their country and dying to prove it! The military is formed to protect one's territory from conquest by someone more powerful. It has been in existence for centuries even when the concept of nation-states was not developed. Military acts as a powerhouse of any country and the amount of power it wields could be a matter of concern as absolute power has the potential to corrupt absolutely. Thus, the differentiation between what is right and wrong for the military becomes essential. Thereby, this paper aims to highlight the significance of military ethics and how an absence of morality in the military could harm the countries in general and people specifically. It begins with defining what constitutes military ethics, then goes on to explain what it takes off the various philosophers on military ethics. Moreover, this paper contains a case study of India regarding the presence of military ethics since times of Mahabharata till the thought that how in the absence of the same could be detrimental for everybody. Major general Sanjay Soi sir also stated that ethics is part of army life. It cannot be separated. We probably have no choice. We are demanding supreme sacrifice from an individual for his nation. We cannot do it if we are morally not right. We do not possess compassion and empathy.

We have to be leaders not managers. Besides we ask our soldiers to do things which in normal life he may not even think of doing i.e. killing some one whom he does not even know. He may not be able to kill an ant at home. We charge soldiers up so much and lead by example that he performs the impossible.

Poem by a soldier

If I die in a war zone, box me up
And send me home.
Put my medals on my chest, tell
My mom did her best.
Tell my dad not to bow, he
Won't get tension from me now
Tell my bro to study
Perfectly, key of my bike will
Be his permanently.
Tell my sister not to be upset
Her bro will take a long
Sleep after sunset.
Tell my nation not to cry,
“Because I'm a soldier born to win”

SIMRAN SINGLA
(BA (HONS) Philosophy, Third Year)



MARKETING ETHICS: TODAY'S NEED

Business has its origin in early humankind. Humans evolved from their needs to wants and so the businesses. Business creates market offerings through marketing only. Without marketing we would never be able to know what products have already existed, which products have been modified and which products have been introduced in the market. According to PHILIP KOTLER, marketing management is the art and science of choosing the target markets and getting, keeping and growing customers through creating and communicating superior customer values of management. With marketing comes different marketing philosophies.

- **Production philosophy-** The main focus of this philosophy was to earn profits which can only be maximized by producing at a large scale and thus reducing per unit cost. This philosophy was appreciated by customers because they prefer those products which are widely available at affordable rates. But it did not focus on the quality of these products since their aim was only profit maximisation.
- **Product philosophy-** This philosophy ensured good quality products since they believed that customers would favor those products which are superior in quality. But this philosophy focused so much on superior quality that they forgot about the customer's earning capacity to buy that product.
- **Selling philosophy-** This philosophy understood that customers would not buy any product unless they are attracted to the product. Thus this philosophy focused on pushing the sales forward by using aggressive promotional efforts including the methods of manipulating people towards the product by whatever way that was possible.
- **Marketing philosophy-** This philosophy understood that organisation can achieve its objective of profit maximisation by identifying customer's needs and wants and satisfying them better than its competitors. Although this philosophy looks the best among all but this philosophy also accepts customer's unacceptable demands.
- **Societal philosophy-** Now this philosophy also understands that the task of organisation is to identify customer's needs and wants but in such a manner so that well-being of the customer as well as of the society can be well taken care of. Any demand that satisfies customer needs but is harmful for the society as a whole cannot be justified. Societal philosophy is the only philosophy that is accepted till now while all other philosophies failed. The reason why societal philosophy was a massive success is because it is the only philosophy that took ethics into account.

Marketing ethics can be used as a marketing strategy but more than that it is a philosophy. Marketing seeks to lay down some basic rules of fairness, responsibility, honesty etc. but ethics is a difficult subject. There is a constant debate whether ethics is subjective or objective in nature? Most of the people believe that ethics is subjective in nature which makes marketing a difficult undertaking but it also does not provide any hard and fast set of rules. But it may be difficult for companies to be ethical or unethical all the time. Nowadays it has become a social responsibility of businesses to provide its consumers with ethical content in any of the marketing techniques they use. But there are various unethical practices in marketing that are very evident these days. Most some those are stated below:

- Concealing dark sides of products or services: Most of the time, many manufacturers deceive their potential buyers that their products have no side effects but in reality, when used over a long period of time, the user can be found having side effects. In fact, there's no product without side effects, it's just that it is better to say there are no side effects rather than saying there are no known side effects.
- Bad-mouthing rival products: Focusing on the bad side of the rival products to turn their potential customers towards your own product is actually a common unethical practice which can lead to legal suit. So, instead of this, companies can offer such a product that stands out against their competitor's products.
- Demeaning references to races, age, colour, or religion etc.: if any marketing messages contain statements that place people of certain age, colour, race etc. at a higher level than the other, then the company is crossing the bounds of ethical marketing.

But the biggest question that we have in our mind is Why do companies try to avoid being ethical? Is it really tough to be ethical? Businesses are tempted to gain large market share which is fine but not at the cost of manipulating the customers. Various people judge a product or brand by its advertisements in the TV, newspaper or magazines and when that source becomes unethical, people can no longer trust that source. Businesses should understand, until and unless people don't trust their product no matter how attractive advertisements they make, they can't earn a single penny.

Since by this time we do not have an organisation that regulates the whole marketing process but only a part of it that is, advertising, it is the duty of customers also to carefully evaluate and analyse the product before buying it. It does not take so much effort to be ethical. It is not that, if a business is ethical it cannot survive for a longer time but if it makes appropriate claims without demeaning people's sentiments, people will definitely buy the product. Ethics is a mixture of both subjective and objective opinions. Obviously it is difficult to approach and understand millions of subjective opinions but we can follow a simple utilitarianism principle which states maximum good for maximum people. We can't look out for each individual but what we can look out for is a common ground that the majority of the people share which thus helps us to guide which marketing strategies we should adopt. Marketing can be effortless when both Businesses and customers realise that they depend on each other and exploiting one another will only dis-balance the society and nothing else. Thus An ideal marketing strategy is that which showcases their product perfectly without any false claims and with some ethical content that tries to make our society better.

RITIKA AGGARWAL
(BA (HONS) Philosophy,Third Year)

A group of people, mostly women, are gathered in a room, possibly a department or office. They are dressed in a variety of styles, including traditional Indian attire like sarees and modern Western-style clothing. The scene is dimly lit, with a dark, moody atmosphere. The text 'THE DEPARTMENT IN FRAMES' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

THE DEPARTMENT IN FRAMES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-20

The Department of Philosophy hosted a variety of events in the Academic Year 2019-2020.

These events ranged from seminars to national conferences. The students were able to learn about different subjects, directly from the experts.

The events aimed to inculcate a better understanding of philosophy and its related fields.



**EVENT- ORIENTATION
DATE- 20th July 2019**

Astitva, held it's Departmental Orientation on the 20th of July 2019. During the departmental orientation the new students were introduced to the professors of the department and they were also informed about the schedule of the year. The fresh minds also got to know about the various co-curricular activities and societies active in the college. The event was a success and was attended by 50 new students as well as the professors and the senior students.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-20

EVENT- DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIONS

DATE- 31st July 2019

Astitva held its Departmental Elections in a very fair and unbiased manner. The students of the department voted & supported the candidates they believed were the best candidates. The elections were held keeping in mind the importance of democracy. The union was formed in the spirit of democracy and has since upheld and stuck to its values.



EVENT- INDIAN PHILOSOPHER'S DAY

TOPIC- The Mystery of Self

DATE- 16th August 2019



Astitva organized a seminar on the topic 'The Mystery Of Self', sponsored by Indian Council of Philosophical Research on the 16th of August 2019 in the Mata Gujri Hall. Eminent speakers Dr. R.C. Sinha., Prof. (Dr.) Shashi Prabha Kumar, Dr. B.G. Devarakonda. and Dr. Sushim Dubey presented their talks on the same. After the discourse by the speakers, followed a question answer session. Dr. Lakshmi Vatsa, missing none and adding all, extended her vote of thanks to the speakers, the principal, the teachers, the non teaching staff, the participants and the volunteers for making the seminar a huge success.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-20

EVENT- INTER-DISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY

TOPIC- Anxiety among Youngsters

DATE- 27th August 2019

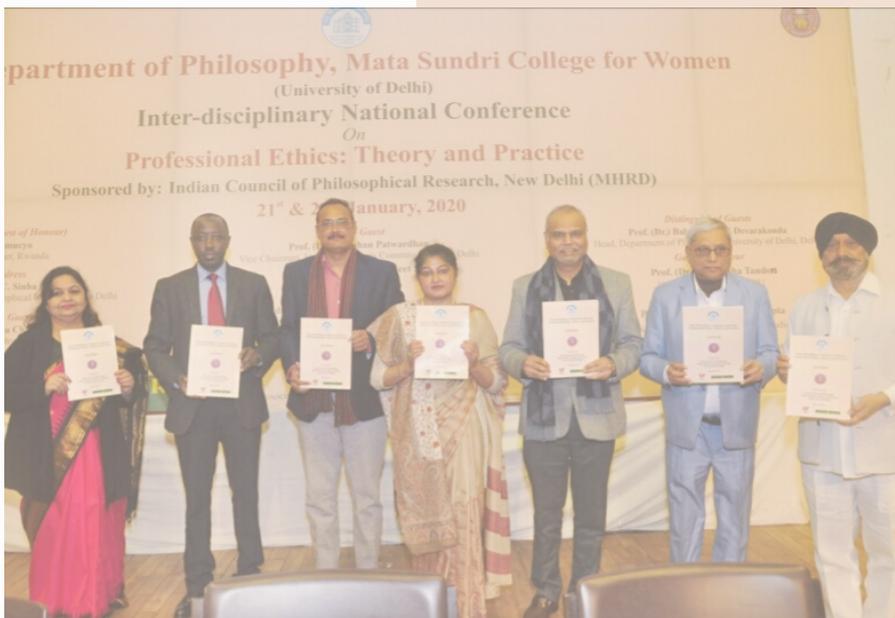
An inter-disciplinary activity was organized where Dr Pooja Jaggi from Psychology Department was invited for a guest lecture with the third years of the department. Since phenomenology and existentialism is an integral part of philosophy, Dr Pooja Jaggi talked about anxiety from a psychological point of view. She discussed the issue of anxiety among youngsters. She conducted a test on the students and interacted with them on how to cope with anxiety. She opened the house for questions. It ended with a session of relaxing meditation.



EVENT- INTER-DISCIPLINARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

TOPIC- Professional Ethics: Theory and
Practice

DATE- 21st and 22nd January 2020



The Department of Philosophy, Astitva organised an inter-disciplinary national conference on the topic 'Professional Ethics: Theory and Practice'. It was sponsored by Indian Council of Philosophical Research. The conference had in attendance many eminent speakers. The invited speakers addressed the audience of varied spheres on numerous subjects relevant to the theme of professional ethics which included medical ethics, sports ethics, military ethics for instance.

Thank you for taking out the time to go through our newsletter.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude towards each and every person who helped us in making this e-newsletter this amazing and helping to make it reach its full potential.

We also thank our teachers for their constant support and students for their respective contributions for “PEHEL”.

The primary and secondary sources from which references and work was used, played an important role and we are thankful for that.

Thank you!