

Never Ending Longing

Reviewed by

Mubarak Ali Lashari

A debut novel of Hamza Hassan Sheikh, a young poet from D.I. Khan is a fine addition in Pakistani English novels. The tradition goes back to the initial periods of UK colonization of the sub-continent and encouragement of local people incorporating their literary creative faculties in English language and literature. Entering into the queue of international writers writing in English, Hamza had already presented his first two collections of poetry titled “*Some Moments of Love* and *Museum of Reminiscence*. But in fiction/novel, *Thirst All Around* is his first prose writing in English, whereas he has been writing prose, short stories and blank verses in Urdu for a long time. His 3 books in Urdu are already published and well-appreciated.

The novel *Thirst All Around* is a story of a university student, the protagonist, Mohsin, and his experiences of university life, he sees himself as a person who is mocked and played with by not only his beloved but also others, like Shiza and Sabahat, university girls keen to have interactions with male students for the sake of deriving pleasure. Story has an abrupt opening and it continues to explain about incidents and characters in the same manner, brief and comprehensive.

From the very first chapter readers come across the personality of Mohsin that he loves literature and that is one of the reasons for taking admission in a English literature class, there we are introduced to another character named “Shiza”, she has a strange personality, a kind of selfish girl.....

Slowly and gradually both came closer and their relationship flourished, it was time of fine, hot, sunny and long days of summer when their relationship becomes talk of the town, everyone in class talked and were familiar about their intimacy; their concentration used to focus on each other during the class.

This story reveals to us an urge to have a beloved, a life span where everyone is interested in having an affair, the charms and fantasies keep on haunting us. Everyone in class was after some other, group making was in progress resulting many being confused and annoyed as well. By the way, all the charms and fascinations of youths and university life are woven very closely and in a touchy way.

Along with Shiza and Mohsin, there come more characters to enliven the story of novel with allures and the magnificent part of life, though deceiving and skeptically as Mohsin’s friend Farhat confesses Shiza’s interest in him. The sequence of entering one character in another’s life is goes on until the end of the novel when the readers reach to the realistic point that all was romance of the age. The novel as gathers all the participants in its lap, by the same way scatters

all of them in the end awaking them of the real practical life. Thus, many of the characters feel nightmare and awake to see the road that where it was supposed to lead and where was their destination.

The slim novel of 143 pages and of 9 chapters in all with beautiful romantic and dreamy coloured title is worth reading and preserving in the fiction faction of a library. On the back title of the novel there is a note of appreciation by Dr. Stephen Gill from Canada. In conclusion one it can be said that the words from author are mirror of the story and romantic life given in the beginning of the novel and an opening window one is forced to read it.

Thirst All Around

(Novel)

By Hamza Hassan Sheikh

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