



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## Selected Poems From “Icicles Of Insight” By Dr. N. Ravi Vincent

V. Chetan Sri Satya,  
M.A English student  
Andhra University,  
Visakhapatnam

### Abstract

This article discusses the poetry of Dr. N. Ravi Vincent, who is an Indian English Poet; in particular, three poems of him, namely, *White-Turbaned Man and Yellow-Saried Lady* and *The Cruel Cries of Monster and Whiter Than Snow* from his first volume of poetry, titled, “**Icicles of Insight**”, which have uniquely universal themes like hubris and humility; love and hate; familial bonds and break ups and consciousness of conscience; Indianness; the diverse traditions; violence ; universalism; misconceptions in family and society; the right solutions for many problems in the society and many other such themes.

**Keywords:** Hubris, hate, universalism, misconceptions, violence, conscience’s pricks.

### The Text

#### White- Turbaned Man and Yellow - Saried Lady

The ricks he makes, are certainly his skill,  
On the floor, he stretches the straw with sweat,  
The strength, he pours out into it is unimaginably well,  
Stops not his work, though strenuous and wet.  
Highly silvery, the white- turbaned man in the scorching sun,  
The straw, layer by layer, he puts in order with commitment,  
Hydrates himself often and happily utters hum, hum, hum,  
Splashes water with short breaks on his face for rest.  
What a dexterity! what a labor! and what a joy!  
finishes his hard work with a great delight,  
Smilingly he In his hand, he has a nicely-carved bamboo stick to enjoy,  
Wisely he adjusts the straw in the rick at the height.

Yellow- sariied lady's equal share always with him with bliss,  
 Equally she craws up to ricks like mountains to help her mate,  
 Cautiously he manages these unmanageable ricks with great guts.  
 The equal sharer is she—always with him without late.  
 Beautiful is their joyful share in meeting their woes of life,  
 Dutiful is she—and vigilant is she always for his health,  
 Watchful is he also on her health and shares everything in life,  
 Unique union of this kind in the scorching sun is their wealth.  
 Breakfasting and lunching have they together with scarcity,  
 Having been tired , they gaily sleep on the same straw,  
 How great, their work! —It is indeed imitable unity.  
 Hard work, subsumed in their lives—they together trow.  
 Hard - working are they, but they are least- bothered,  
 In spite of having high- values, they deemed insignificant,  
 Though idealistic in all means, they are never bothered,  
 Inspirers are they, they are to be reckoned to be perfect.

### Cruel cries of the monster

\*\*\*\*

It would have been better,  
 If Austrian prince withdrew his trip to Serbia.  
 It would have been better,  
 If Bosnian Serb acted with Sophia.

Like a little leak In a Dam, spread,  
 Unprecedented, this sort.  
 Bizarre cry of monster heard,  
 Continuous cry of this sort.

Bleeding atmosphere fully dense,  
 Thoughtless mind's hysterical laughs,  
 Boisterous Bosnian Serb's mess,  
 Tender prince's pains.

A storm in the tea cup,  
 Virulent like a whirlwind,  
 Metamorphosis into a torpedo,  
 Monstrous humans' grind.

Allied Powers,  
 USSR, USA, France and Britain,  
 Axis Powers,  
 Germany, Italy and Japan,

It would not have befallen,  
 It would have remained as one world,  
 India in alignment with allied powers beholden,  
 Humans made two worlds from one world.

Warped Jingoism,  
 Crooked Imperialism,  
 Arrogant Militarism,  
 Epoch modernism.

Usurping,  
 Inhumanity,  
 Hubris,  
 Ruthlessness.

Ottoman Empire and Hungary on Axis side,  
 Hundred scores mercilessly killed  
 No man was on human side.  
 Soldiers and civilians equally killed.

Reconciling Versailles Treaty arrived too late,  
 Like holding leaves after the hands burnt,  
 Mechanical and futile human attempts were too late,  
 Frenzied Cries slowly calmed.

Allied powers-controlled Germany with ulterior notions,  
 With a subtle plan, divided Germany,  
 Allied powers arranged League of Nations,  
 Began taming of Germany.

The monster opened its mouth second time,  
 Germany demanded for Poland's Danjing Port,  
 Russians' support of Poland, high time.  
 Poland into Allied powers at its height.

The fondling child of monster,  
 Founded Nazism,  
 He, like a hungry monster,  
 Began swimming in the ocean of nihilism.

Jewish massacre,  
 Horror holocaust,  
 Images of Auschwitz, sombre,  
 Twain into two, the tender heart.



Germany slipped into Russian's hands,  
 Stalingrad became Russian's part,  
 Russians occupied Berlin with plans,  
 Many Nazi soldiers killed without any thought.

Japan's drop of bomb at Pear Harbor,  
 America, in return, dropped a nuclear bomb,  
 On Hiroshima and Nagasaki with horror,  
 Millions were killed with one jab.

Lakhs crippled ghastly,  
 Negative impact perennially,  
 Wounds fresh, glaringly,  
 In fine, UNO formed to deal things permanently.

It would not have befallen!  
 It would have stopped at its sprout,  
 It would not have at all befallen,  
 I wish, again at all, it would not repeat.

### Whiter than snow

\*\*\*\*

I am whiter than snow,  
 Present in both Country side or urban side.

I have a demand high,  
 The farmers rely on me.

Ever demandable,  
 A young chap learns milking business from parents.

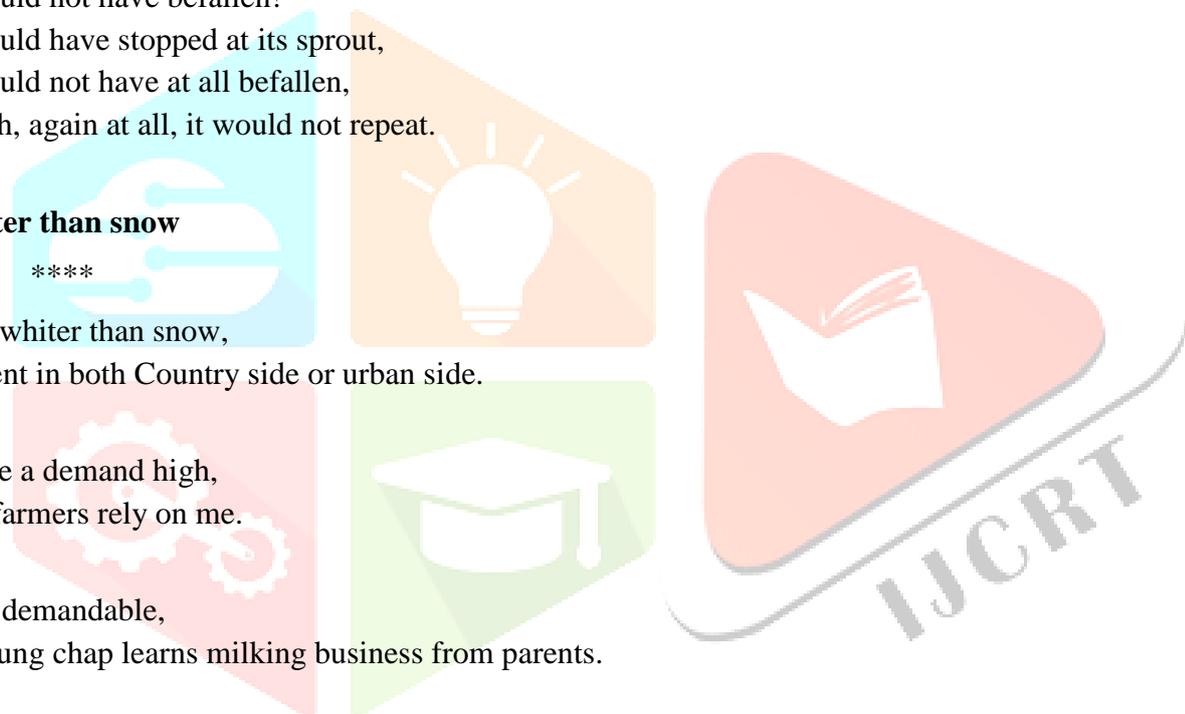
I forcibly flow into all corporate sectors,  
 Employers and employees gets benefitted.

The employees of milk rarely get edified,  
 Made unreachable to the poor and the needy.

Aches to the poor and the needy,  
 Forced to escape from their hands to silver spoons.

The laborers are strenuous and awake day and night,  
 They are away from the labor of their hands.

I am the product of the following.  
 Foreign breed, jersey, Holstein Friesian,



Red poll, English long horn, Brown Swiss,  
Gir, Sahiwal, Ongole, Punganuru, Tharparkar, Halikar

Red Sindhi, Delhi buffalo, Murrah,  
Graded Murrah, cross breed,

Science has invented Butyrometer to test me,  
I am tested, smoothly skimmed and imported.

I produce Fat, fructose, cream, ice cream,  
Paneer, kheer, milk shakes, Doodh peda,

I am the product of grazing,  
And green pastures and fields.

I am unkindly kind,  
You are kindly unkind,

### About Author

**Dr. N. Ravi Vincent**, who is an Indian born English poet is a well-reputed and respected Assistant Professor with a wealth of many years' experience in English Literature at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, South India. And he is a global traveller, which experiences, in fact, gave him direct access to people and diverse situations, through which I feel, he could become one of the most admired writers of this century. His academic background covers a diverse range of subjects including English literature, linguistics, education, philosophy, history, and psychology and theology. Impressively, he holds a Ph.D. English literature and now he is pursuing Ph.D in philosophy. In addition to his academic pursuits, as coordinator at American Corner, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, he plays a crucial role in fostering cultural and academic exchange between India and the United States. It's a true privilege for me to have the opportunity to write about Dr. N. Ravi Vincent's poetry, especially considering him as one of best my teachers. His advocacy for a life filled with humility deeply resonates within me, and I believe that it truly stems from his inherently humble nature, evident in both his words and actions. I would like to dive into the profound lines of Dr. N. Ravi Vincent's three poems namely, *White-Turbaned Man and Yellow-Saried Lady* and *The Cruel Cries of Monster and Whiter Than Snow*. In the forward of *Icicles of Insight*, a doyen of literature, **D. Pedda Raju** rightly opines that “ *Dr. N. Ravi Vincent is a man of many parts, who uses Shakespearean expression and eloquently articulates his expression in well— chosen words from spiritual to physical. His poems are graphic, scintillating and directly appeal to a sensitive mind, just like a blood transfusion. When a sensitive human being is replete with life experiences...* ” (P. 111)

The present volume. *Icicles of Insight* holistically gives us the insights on social issues, historical reminisces, ethical contexts and every single aspect that is quintessential for an individual in understanding the sordid realities of society. It is quite apparent that the book's main agenda is to explore society and its realities as they are . I would strongly recommend this book as it could certainly help everyone to advance in Society as

an Individual. *Icicles of Insight* not only speaks of social Issues but also reflects the simplest of joys, the beauty of experiences, memories, and nostalgia. It is a deeply insightful and the most profound collection that I would certainly recommend to all the lovers of poetry. The book leads the readers to explore society from ethical, philosophical, metaphysical, and psychological perspectives. And coming to the literary context of the book, it totally comprises 52 poems covering all the major themes of society, as well, major poetic forms using many poetic techniques such as internal and end rhymes and figures of speech like oxymoron, simile, metaphor, alliteration and personification. In fact, while going through the contents of this book, I randomly choose to read all the interesting titles. As it is rightly quoted by Williams Wordsworth, “*Poetry is a Spontaneous overflow of Powerful Emotions that are recollected in Tranquility*”<sup>2</sup>, I too spontaneously chose the poems based on the emotions at the moment out of inner joy. The first poem, that I have chosen to analyse is *White-Turbaned Man and Yellow Sareed-Lady*, which title signifies the typical Indian dressing style of a Man and a Woman. The man and women this poem is of the country side, who represent all men and women that involve in making ricks skill fully. The poem beautifully describes the hard work of man; his determination and the joyful strain that he experiences throughout his life- time by laboring relentlessly. The woman, who equally works with the husband by arranging the ricks into the skillful order. She is the epitome of the elegance and the beauty of the bond of marriage, who dedicates herself in fulfilling the duties along with the husband by working hard along with the husband. Express expressions; the description of rick-making; the responsibilities shared by the wife and husband, the apt words employed are superbly interwoven. The poet, Dr. N. Ravi Vincent, vividly says how contentment is very prominent in human lives and proves it through the couple in the poem though they have the dire economic crisis, still, they find happiness in working together to eke life out really.

The next poem which I would like to analyse is *Cruel Cries of the Monster*, The Poem is a beautiful fusion between a significant historical incidents and literature. Being a former student of political science, I couldn't but appreciate the efforts taken by Dr. N. Ravi Vincent in composing such a fascinating and artistic presentation, this poem is musical to my ears, soothing to my soul and instructive to my life. While reviewing, renewed and rejuvenated deeply. It has sequentially covered all the prominent occurrences that have played a vital role in both directly and indirectly, explaining the aghast atmosphere of the two world wars, comparing them to monsters in the whole gamut of human history. The first stanza of the poem clearly speaks of all the incidents that have made the Nazis a superpower. Later the misconceptions have been compared to a leak in a dam, which led to the utter destruction catastrophically. The thing that has surprised me most is that the poem did not even miss a minute detail about the historicity of two world wars. It has mentioned of all the minutest details of wars and the most notorious tyrant Hitler.

The poem also has pointed out the reasons for the fall of the monster due to arrogant militarism, inhumanity, ruthlessness, usurping and many more such traits. The poem also speaks about the ‘Versailles Treaty’, the Jewish Massacre and Germany's fall into the hands of Russia. The poem finally ends up with the bombing of ‘Hiroshima and Nagasaki’, which has caused irrecoverable destruction. Finally, the poem greatly highlights the formation of ‘UNO’, which has taken the responsibility of stopping war in the world.

Finally, I want to speak about another poem which I felt attracted towards is ‘*Whiter than Snow*’. The poem is the countryside and the urban area, which speaks how the farmers rely on the cows. It has beautifully

mentioned of the names of the different breeds and how science has even invented a tool to test it and skimmed it to import. The poet intentionally states how through milk, fats, fructose and many other products are made. The narrator expresses his deep sorrow as milk is unable to reach the needy and the poor and milk is personified and says that it is forced to escape their hands to reach 'silver spoons'. The anguish of the poor and their supporters is clearly transparent as milk has failed to feed the much needy. P.S. Kasture opines that "Culture, preservation and transfer of culture is processed through language". (P. 139)<sup>2</sup> This is what exactly Dr. N. Ravi Vincent has done by introducing culture in which he lived through the transparent expression of language.

### Conclusion

By reading intensively and extensively, I could draw the conclusions, which have been mentioned above. The poems are lyrical, full of the diverse themes, they are as natural as the leaves to the trees, the flow of diction, syntactical and semantical approach of the poet is highly commendable. The uncommon words which the poet has chosen to compose really interests the readers to learn more apt hidden meanings. The figures of speech are profusely and rightly used based on the context to imply the right meaning. By reading Dr. N. Ravi Vincent's poetry, assuredly I can say that one can be richly benefitted.

### References

1. Dr. N. Ravi Vincent: *Icicles of Insight*, Rosen Publications, 2023, Print.
2. *Cultural Interaction between Marathi and English Poetry*: P.S Kasture (50 Years of Indian Writing) ed. by R. K Dhawan

