

# Poet & Novelist Mr. Hom Nath Subedi's Interview - By Kamala Sarup

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## 1. How did you start writing?

In 1967, I was studying higher secondary in New Delhi. At that time, I published 'vivek' story in a Nepali Students Union magazine named 'imal'. I can exactly tell how or why I wrote this story. After 35 years, I have found that I wrote to express my impression to the society, while working with the union. In 1970, 'riteeya Biswa Udhda' was published in 'Lachana Sangraha'. In 1971/72, while studying for MA in literature at Tribhubhan Univeristy, I even wrote 'hyam' 'huteka Ankha' 'hasyauliki Randi' plays but these didn't get published. This is my story of how I got started.

## 2. Why do you write?

To write insightful literature that can change corrupt society's face.

## 3. What would like your readers to get out of your writing?

Let me put it this way.

High-schoolers will get exposure to nature of women as reflected on the novel 'yauli'.

Intermediate scholars will like 'ajar' for it reflects humanity's mistreatment of freedom.

Bachelor level scholars will like 'rimurti' for its philosophical treatment on interaction of personas that deny once, deny twice and deny again the orthodox way of thinking and do finally achieve freedom.

'eena' reflects the fact that humans have been conditioned with such thing as love. Readers should get the message that even in contemporary times, Love is truth, without which there's no life, there's no story and there's no misery. Masters level scholars will like 'atna' for it presents revolutionary

women's character. This level of scholars can even learn unique way of writing a novel. 'atna' is a voluminous representation of vision, letters, dreams, journals and thoughts that can be analyzed by psychologists from Eastern and Western worlds. Below average scholar should stay two miles away from this novel.

'yourali' reflects unattainability of the ultimate goal. It demonstrates how a human can achieve one milestone after another only to find out he has next goal lined up for him.

'nkur' represents the nature of young people's struggle with grown ups, representation of more powerful authority. There's a lesson learned here for every type of youngsters that has to fight against the status quo.

## 4. Who inspired you to write?

I write to contribute to the society. I contribute to many social organizations' missions; by writing. My father Mr. Harilal Upadhaya inspired me to be involved in service for society in general.

### 5. What makes a book great?

I think it is the one that creatively reflects reality, or truth, and provides seed for establishment of novel philosophical insight.

### 6. Are you involved in writing any literary work, currently?

Yes, I am working on a novel titled 'Samo Samaj'. Parts of it have been already published on nepalipost.com. Voice for this epic represents the cause of civil war in Nepal. My wish is that oppressed win over oppressors and bring forth a new kind of peace and order. When all parts of the epic are published on line; this will be first of the Nepali literary work of this type ever to be published on-line.

### 7. What kind of reactions do you get from your readers?

Rather than toot my own horn here; I invite you and readers to read research material published by Tribhuvan University, titled 'Nath Subediko Jivani, Byaktitwa ra Krititwa ko Adhyaan' (translated as 'Nath Subedi: A Study of His Life, Personality, and Works'). Let me just mention some highlights here though [translated from Nepali to English]:

- a. Mr. Subedi's main talent is to be able to fulfill audience, both inside and outside Nepal, with progressive thoughts and principles.
- b. He has notable ability to use correct and classical Nepali language elements even if he has been living in America for long period of time.
- c. His greatness lies in the fact that his novels present maturity of his thinking and depth of his philosophy as represented by study of characters' mentality and psychology.
- d. He is well established in creating novels that contain illustrate subconscious nature of the characters.
- e. His unique ability as a novelist is that he can present human needs, denials, and achievements due to his/her activity with insightful thoughts.
- f. To summarize, he is a scholar of human knowledge and psychology and presents existential thoughts and physical view of the world, as well as love of his nation, in his novels.
- g. His relentless dedication to Nepali literature, even living far away from Nepal is his unique value.

With that I won't say any more to answer this question.

### 8. Who do you like as writers?

For rhyme Laxmi Prasad Devkota, for knowledge Agyeya, for seriousness in writing Gorki, for thoughtful writing Camus, Sartre, for writings related to social control Kafka; I like these writers.

### 9. Do you have any regrets?

I am a social animal that is full of regrets, denials, hopelessness, and underachievement. For these, I feel better than regular animals. These make me special social animal. I never became impatient to gain anything and from time to time hopelessness has made me realize existence at newer level. This has made me oppose social oppressors and live a life that is driven by purpose and goals. Society is a hell; that makes many humans regretful. I am one of

those characters. I do want to be with others; I to fight for freedom with others.

#### 10. How would you like to be remembered?

Sarupji, answer to this is very tightly related to observer rather than myself. You e asked ?I will answer. When I came to America in 1981; people here used to think that speaking English well and forgetting Nepali was in fashion. Even in those types of environment and living far away from Nepal; I persistently continue to contribute to Nepali literature. I wrote and published Nepali novels like Nyauli, Ratna, Beena, and Trimusti on 80 from USA. I kept writing and I encouraged others to service Nepal and Nepali literature. I lead to foundation of International Nepali Literary Society, Washington DC. INLS got registered the organized a literary seminar called Literary Island on the site of ANA convention in Merymount college at Washington DC. I wanted to establish the system to have at least one Nepali Program in each Nepali Convention in North America. It developed the tradition of Poetry Festival in ANA. ANA conventions is notable item ?that is a formalized celebration of Nepali literature; informally begun Dr. Amar Giri with his agat? I got much help of Dr. Kumud Sharma, Dr. Amar Giri, and Dr. Hari Sharma for this. I have received many support and help to further Nepali literary field to develop and established a history in the land of Fare West. I like to believe that I started organized activity to development and protection of Nepali language in North America. If people think of me as a pioneer in this effort; that is more than enough. With the help of organizations such as ANS, ANA, INLS, NAC, and NCNC etc. a Nepali literary world has been created. Nepali literature history is being made in this new land. We must take pride in this.