

Defeated, a man sat down

Jyoti Bachani

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About the Work:

Vinod Kumar Shukla is a contemporary poet from India, whose write in Hindi, and has won prestigious awards. Organizing as a verb is coming together of people to do together what they cannot do alone. In an elegantly simple and profound way, this short poem describes the coming together of two strangers to walk together, a metaphor for organizing. I have read this poem at the Academy of Management workshops with universal resonance felt by colleagues from around the world, which confirmed my original instinct in translating it from Hindi to English, that the relevance goes beyond the Indian context to be universally applicable.

About the Author

Jyoti Bachani PhD, is an associate professor of strategy and innovation at Saint Mary's College of California. She is the founder of the US chapter of International Humanistic Management Association, where she is the flag bearer for the use of Arts to Humanize Management. She is a former Fulbright Senior Research Scholar. Her expertise in case-writing is recognized internationally. She has been reading and translating Hindi poetry into English for twenty years and in the past four years has brought poetry and improv to the Academy of Management and other conferences. In April 2017, she was a featured poet for U.K. Poetry Society's Poetry@3 at Saint Giles in London. She is the founder of a group called Poetry of Diaspora of Silicon Valley that has met monthly since 2017, and since March 2020, has been meeting weekly to read poems in all languages. Some of her poems were published in the anthology called *Celebrating Creativity*, by Kaecey McCormick, the Cupertino Poet Laureate. She earned her PhD at London Business School and Masters in Management Science and Engineering at Stanford University. She is a graduate of St. Stephens College with a BS in Physics and of Faculty of Management Studies with an MBA from Delhi University.

Defeated, a man sat down

Defeated, a man sat down
A man, I did not know
Defeat, I knew
So I went to this man
And offered my hand
He took my hand to stand
He did not know me
He knew an offered hand
We both walked together
We did not know each other
We did know walking together

Hindi original by Vinod Kumar Shukla
Translation by Jyoti Bachani

हताशा से एक व्यक्ति बैठ गया था vyakti baith gaya tha by V

हताशा से एक व्यक्ति बैठ गया था
व्यक्ति को मैं नहीं जानता था
हताशा को जानता था
इसलिए मैं उस व्यक्ति के पास गया
मैंने हाथ बढ़ाया
मेरा हाथ पकड़कर वह खड़ा हुआ
मुझे वह नहीं जानता था
मेरे हाथ बढ़ाने को जानता था
हम दोनों साथ चले
दोनों एक दूसरे को नहीं जानते थे
साथ चलने को जानते थे ।

कवि - विनोदकुमार शुक्ल
संकलन - अतिरिक्त नहीं