Preface

The main purpose of my thesis on *The Poetry of Jayanta Mahapatra: A Critical Evaluation*, will be, in whatever detail possible, a chronological study of Mahapatra’s poetry leading to a complete analysis of his mind and craftsmanship through which his Indian sensibility is perceived. Mahapatra is essentially an Indian and his Indianness is felt at its best in his poems on and about Orissa through which the local and the regional ideas are raised to the level of the universal.

In this treatise I intend to pursue a systematic and comprehensive evaluation of Jayanta Mahapatra’s poetic achievement. In order to establish my point of view of the subtle nuances of Mahapatra’s poetry, I shall make a thorough study of his poetical works to carry out a critical evaluation of his mind and art.

This dissertation is a humble attempt to introduce the admirers of poetry to Mahapatra’s poetic genius through a critical study of his poetical works, the references of which are given at the end of each chapter. The work consisting of seven chapters – The Poet and His Locale, Theme and Technique, Theme of Love with a Difference, His Social Concern, Imagery and Symbols, Philosophy and Psychology, Conclusion: Mahapatra’s Poetry: “Monuments of unageing intellect” – will lead to the emergence of ideas enshrined in his poetry. His concern for and preoccupation with contemporary situation, life, history, tradition and ethos of his country make him describe his poetry as being very close to the earth because his concept of a poet is that ‘he is a man speaking to men’.

In preparing this dissertation, I have, apart from having a thorough reading of the poetical works of Jayanta Mahapatra, studied a number of secondary critical books on the poet and his works by eminent critics and commentators to whom I acknowledge my indebtedness. A select bibliography is given at the end of the thesis. The quotations from

The poetical volumes of Jayanta Mahapatra, referred to in this thesis, have been used in parentheses. They belong to the following editions:


................................. *Svayamvara and Other Poems.* Calcutta: Writers Workshop, 1971

................................. *A Father’s Hours.* Calcutta: United Writers, 1976

................................. *A Rain of Rites.* Athens (USA): The University of Georgia Press, 1976

................................. *Waiting.* New Delhi: Samkaleen Prakashan, 1979


................................. *Relationship.* Cuttack: The Chandrabhaga Society, 1982

................................. *Life Signs.* New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1983


Bare Face. Kottayam: D. C. Books, 2000

Random Descent. Bhubaneswar: Third Eye Communications, 2005

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