



# TINY TREASURE

UNFURLING GEETARTHA BARUAH'S LIFE

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

- Bhrigupati Hazarika
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- Ratnasree Borthakur

**"Tiny Treasure - Unfurling Geetartha Baruah's Life"**, a book on life and works of Geetartha Baruah depicting his thoughts, emotions, struggle and conviction in the form of art and poems; compiled and edited by a board of editors and published by Biplab Barua on behalf of Bedakantha Books and Publications, Jorhat, Assam, India.

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# FOREWORD

Arup Kumar Dutta

Perusing the volume, titled *Tiny Treasure -- Unfurling Geetartha Baruah's Life*, I had found myself at a loss for words, so moved was I. For one who fancies himself to be a writer, that was supremely ironical. That I had been asked to write the foreword to the book deepened the irony.

The book, indeed, proved to be highly emotive. It comprises a number of pieces by relatives, family-friends and well-wishers of Geetartha Baruah (Pompom), youngest son of Dr. Paran Baruah and Dr. Smriti Rekha Baruah. It also includes some artworks by the youngster, as also a few of his poems.

Among the pieces are a poignant tribute to Geetartha by his elder brother Dr. Siddhartha Baruah titled *The Bond Beyond Bounds*, and a retrospective piece by Gargi Baruah Bose titled *Geetartha Baruah An Achiever against all Odds*. Gautam Baruah, in a piece titled *An Unbridled Wave in the Ocean of Technology Enthusiasts*, dwells on Geetartha's dexterity with gadgets and love for new technology.

No less than six of the essays, written by experts

in the field, are devoted to the artwork of Geetartha. These are, *A Painting is Never Finished: Geetartha and His Soulful Creations*, by Shyamali Chaliha, *Art as the Therapeutic Medium for Living: the Art works of Geetartha Baruah*, by Dr. Moushumi Kandali, *Exploring the Life of Geetartha through Paintbrushes*, by Prakash Jyoti Borah, *Geetartha in the World of Paint and Brush*, by Bijoylaxmi Borthakur, *A Glimpse into Geetartha's Creative Journey* by Bhrigupati Hazarika and *Technical Creativity of Geetartha Baruah* by Saurabh Jyoti Baruah

The final pieces, *Geetartha's Poems* by Dr Devabrata Sharma and *Geetartha's Songs of Innocence*, by Subhrojyoti Chanda, acquaints readers with the poems written by Geetartha. Reproduction of the youngster's artwork and poems impart a holistic dimension to the book.

The portrait which emerges from the writings is of an incipient genius whose life was tragically cut short by fate. One can only wonder what Geetartha would have matured into and the plethora of additional contributions he might have made to society had he not died at so young an age.

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# GEETARTHA'S SONGS OF INNOCENCE

Subhrojyoti Chanda

Geetartha's poetic reflections reveal a mind that is beautiful, sensitive, imaginative, full of sympathy and possessing the ability to understand the little joys of life which are often overlooked by most individuals. In fact, even a casual glance at the titles of the poems bring up a world view which is an accomplishment in itself it begins with 'Maa' and 'Family', opens up to through 'My Bedroom Window', empathises with the little 'Birds', tries to perceive affliction the struggles of the 'Hawkers' and 'Daily Wagers', partakes of the joys of friendship with 'Friends', goes on to embrace the elemental forces of 'Nature' and finally touches the unknown and the sublime in 'The Faraway Land'.

The life of the little poet obviously revolves around his mother and his family. His mother, to him, is simply the 'greatest human being' and the memories of early childhood with his father and elder brother the long walks in the RRL campus grounds, badminton matches, the bliss around the bonfire at night and the many little incidents bring up a train of old memories which appear to stand together as a bulwark against the hardships of the present. Undoubtedly, the open window in the house is very special to him; it not only allows the light and the wind from outside but frames the eternal goings-on of the world:

"My bedroom window is always there to be my eyes to the world outside!  
Through those, I can see a beautiful bird, sitting on the lemon near the gate.

I can see the leaves changing colors and falling to the ground..."

The birds that come hopping to his open window gives him great joy; he values the freedom of the birds and cherishes their relation and drawing motivation from them the motivation to bond together, to be in close touch with nature, to aim high and big despite all odds:

"We get to perceive their beauty  
And their glory, which tells us  
We have only one life,  
We should keep flying higher!"

While he enjoys the beauty and the motherly love of nature, his heart weeps to see the gigantic power Mother Nature unleashes through storms. A sensitive mind is aware of the both sides of the story, it is aware of the brute force that beautiful nature carries within her bosom:

"The wind comes every year this time  
Blowing away rooftops and huts to make many  
homeless"

The poems 'Daily Wagers' and 'The Hawker' in a way mark his coming of age he now understands the material struggle of the real world. The labourers engaged in construction work find time to smile and converse with

him through the open window giving him glimpses of their lives of immense adversity. Life's battles are incessant, but there is always a lesson to be learnt specially from these labourers- to subsist in the moment and not remain unduly worried about the imaginary fears of the mythical tomorrow. They stare at the challenges of life with all smiles and laughter:

"Even in the middle of all the pain,  
Happiness resided in their eyes."

The poem titled "The Faraway Land" has something of a supernatural element in it a magical tone of the English Romantics. The place in the poem is Edenic, there is the angelic presence of little children, the sky is forever blue, and the jovial spring the season with clear streams running musically down the beautiful green meadows. The little poet cannot help but go along with his friends to the wood and spend the night gazing at the stars. It is in contrast to the concrete hard life of the daily wage earner or the hawker a surreal place that one sees only in a dream vision.

The immense sensitivity and empathy that Geetartha carried beneath his ever-smiling, beatific face makes us really speechless! It's awe-inspiring!

## ABOUT THE WRITERS

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