

# VMS MAGAZINE

A Vakta Mandir Sydney Publication

Issue 1 vol 1, 2011



.....A Mandir For All

ভক্ত মন্দির সিডনী

**“Arise! awake! and stop not till the goal is reached”!**

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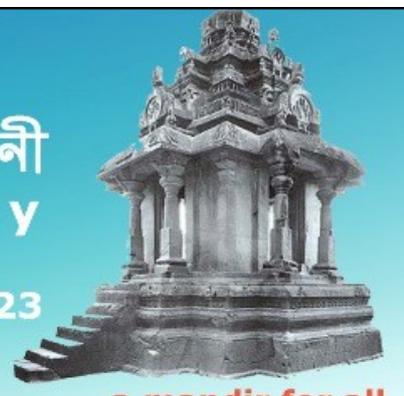
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# ভক্ত মন্দির সিডনী Vakta Mandir Sydney

ABN 671 80 595 323



.....a mandir for all

যে করে ধর্মের নামে

বিদ্বেষ সঞ্চিত

ঈশ্বরকে অর্ঘ্য হতে

সে করে বঞ্চিত ।

-রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর

## Editorial

Life is always beyond everyone's control point but **Karma** is something which always waits for our execution and we certainly have a power over this. We cannot live forever but our good Karmas stay ever on the earth. Every path towards making good soul starts with one step. We have stepped out of our closed barriers and comprised our mindset together to retain our customs and religion by building a temple for everyone in Sydney.

This is certainly a massive job to do and not impossible at any means. So please join us and extend your helpful hand towards the goal that everyone needs from our community.

By means, we could be from different choice, knowledge and place but spiritually as well as

scientifically we all are from the same root and we are human being. Our thoughts might be poles apart but in terms of worshipping the God we do exactly the same. For an instance, we all share our sorrows and unachieved desires to the God and become happy when some of them come into true. Like-wise we can all now desire a temple for our well known community as well as for our descendants.

**Vakta Mandir Sydney** is a name that is now persisted in our mind and soul. We now would like to encourage you to come and help us in achieving this goal. We strongly believe in 3-5 years' time we will be having one common place where we can carry on with our cultural means and so do the practises.

**Bidhan Chakraborty**

## Vakta Mandir Sydney Committee

Suman Saha	Ashoke Kundu
Suman Paul	Ashutosh Das
Bijoy Kumar Gupta	Shuvagata Roy
Bidhan Chakraborty	Bijoya Debnath
Subir Chakraborty	Urmi Talukdar
Gowtam Das	

## Message from the President

সঠিক জানা নেই কবে থেকে সিডনী, অস্ট্রেলিয়ায় প্রথম বাঙ্গালী হিন্দুদের বসবাস শুরু-কিন্তু প্রতিবছর যখন দুর্গাপূজার আয়োজনে যাই-তখন অনুভব করতে পারি- খুব কম নই-বেশ বাঙ্গালী হিন্দুদের বসবাস এই শহর সিডনীতে। কিন্তু প্রতিবছরই পূজা উৎসবের জন্য আমরা ভিন্ন ভিন্ন কমিউনিটি হল, ক্লাব বা স্কুল প্রাঙ্গণে মিলিত হই। আবার কারো পরিবারের কোন ধর্মীয় কার্য বা শুধুমাত্র শনি-রবিবারে ভগবানের দর্শনের জন্যও যে মন্দিরে যাই- সেখানেও নেই কোন বাঙ্গালী মন্দির। তাই দুধের স্বাদ ঘোলে মেটানোর মতই এই সব অবাঙ্গালী মন্দিরে যেয়ে মন্দিরের মূর্তিগুলোর মধ্যে ছোটবেলায় দেখা সেই বাবা শিব ঠাকুর বা মা কালি বা মা দুর্গাকে খুঁজে বেরাই। মনে যেন সেই শান্তি পাই না। তাই সিডনীতে বাঙ্গালী হিন্দুদের জন্য মন্দিরের উদ্যোগ-ভক্ত মন্দির প্রতিষ্ঠার-সকল ভক্তের মন্দির-“ভক্ত মন্দির”।

সিডনীতে বসবাসরত সকল বাঙ্গালী হিন্দু ভক্তদের প্রতি আমার একটিই অনুরোধ থাকবে-“আসুন সকলে মিলে একসাথে ভক্তমন্দির তৈরিতে কাজ করি-যাতে আমাদের ভবিষ্যত প্রজন্মের কাছে আমাদের আর এই প্লেনের সম্মুখীন হতে না হয় যে কেন সিডনীতে কোন বাঙ্গালী হিন্দু মন্দির নেই!

সবশেষে ধন্যবাদ জানাতে চাই তাদেরকে, যারা প্রত্যক্ষ ও পরোক্ষভাবে ভক্তমন্দিরের এই প্রথম

ফান্ড রাইজিং অনুষ্ঠানে সাহায্য করেছেন- আপনাদের সাহায্য ছাড়া আমরা কখনোই এই অনুষ্ঠানকে স্বার্থক করতে পারতাম না। ধন্যবাদ জানাই আমাদের সকল স্পনসারদেরকে, সকল শিল্পী, কর্মীকে যাদের অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রমেই সম্ভব হয়েছে ভক্ত মন্দিরের এই আয়োজন। আর গুরুজনের কাছে থাকবে একটা অনুরোধ-সিডনীতে এই প্রথম কোন বাঙ্গালী মন্দির প্রতিষ্ঠার জন্য ফান্ড রাইজিং অনুষ্ঠান- আর যার আয়োজক সিডনীর তরুন প্রজন্ম- অনুগ্রহপূর্বক আপনাদের সাহায্যের হাত বাড়াবেন এই তরুনদের উদ্যোগের প্রতি- পথ দেখাবেন আপনাদের মূল্যবান উপদেশ দিয়ে।

Vakta Mandir Sydney (VMS), a common place for worship and gathering for all Bengali Hindus in Sydney, is a concept and dream of a group of young Bengalis. The initiatives come from the young generation, but we want everyone to join us and drive this journey towards building the temple. On behalf of VMS, I would like to request everyone in the Bengali Hindu community to come forward and join this journey.

I would like to thank all our sponsors for their support, volunteers for the hard work, all the artist and performers, all the guest who came forward and support VMS to organize this musical night to raise fund towards building Vakta Mandir Sydney.

**Suman Saha**



“You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but your own soul “ -

**Swami Vivekananda**

# Vakta Mandir Sydney Incorp Journey

## OBJECTIVE:

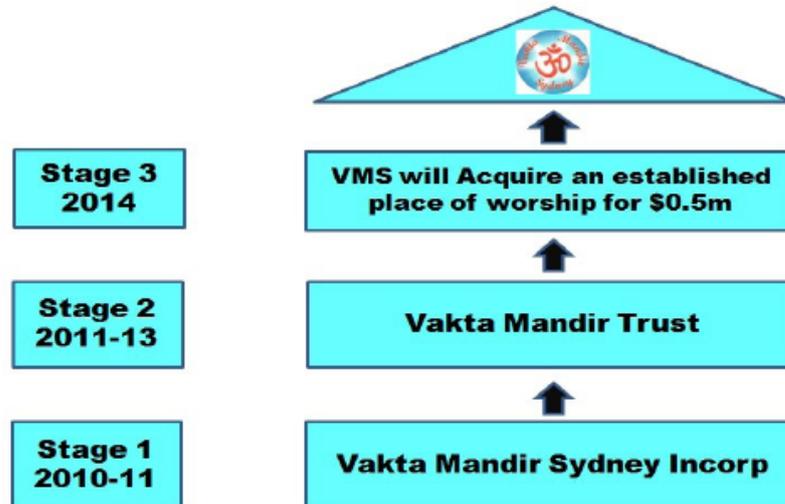
Work together to establish a temple in Sydney, Australia within 3-5 years & administer the temple thereafter.

## OUR VISION:

Establish a common place for Hindu devotees in Sydney, Australia.

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Vakta Mandir will be a source of spirituality, inspiration and wisdom of the greater Hindu community of Australia. It will enhance Hindu culture and heritage, thus will show the path of illumination to the generations of Australian Hindus in coming ages.



**Vakta Mandir Sydney** has started this journey as a not for profit charitable organisation in 2010 and like to acquire an established place of worship (estimated value \$500K) in 2014. This is a three stage process.

In the stage 1, we managed to collect fund and inform all the devotees about the journey towards building **Vakta Mandir Sydney**.

In stage 2 (Jul 2011 – Jun 2013), we will form **Vakta Mandir Trust** and will request all the devotees to join the trust and we will collect fund in the trust to show a clear savings pattern to the lender for borrowing money towards acquiring an established

place of worship in the final stage 3 (Jul 2014). We have started this journey and like your whole hearted support towards building **Vakta Mandir Sydney**. Together we will build this temple for the future generation of Bengali Hindus in NSW, Australia.

## Message from General Secretary

Vakta Mandir Sydney has started its journey since 13th October 2010. Our vision is very obvious, to establish a common place for Hindu devotees in Sydney, Australia. We will work

together to establish a temple in Sydney within 3-5 years and also administer the temple. To ensure this great cause we will be appreciating for any contribution either through fund or moral support to establish VMS. To raise support, VMS will be organising 2-3 fund raising events in a year to

generate funds for VMS. We necessitate more devotees to support and contribute to reach our mission.

Vakta Mandir will be a source of spirituality, inspiration and wisdom of the greater Hindu Community of Australia. It is important to pass Hindu Spirituality, concepts and traditions to the

coming generations. We are delighted to have you here to participate and share in the fund raising event for a great cause.

**Sumon Paul**



chances for people from throughout the world. As long as people respect our fundamental, democratic, pluralist values they are free to practice their religious or non-religious beliefs, preserve their language and culture, thereby adding to Australia.

An instance of this is Vakta Mandir's attempt to raise money towards a temple for Sydney's Bangladeshi Hindi community. I am pleased to be associated with their proactive endeavours.

Yours sincerely

**Laurie Ferguson MP**  
Federal Member for Werriwa

My new role as MP for Werriwa has intensified an already existing, long-term connection with Sydney's Bangladeshi diasporas. It has been a worthwhile life experience bringing me knowledge and pleasure. Australia is for all its faults an essentially tolerant society providing new



tackle some of the problems the community has faced, to enjoying many of the wonderful events hosted by Bengalis.

Vakta Mandir, a new, ambitious organisation is a central hub for many Bengali Hindus. They are a group of mainly young Bengali Hindus working to see plans for a new temple for the community come to fruition.

I commend their efforts in working to provide a central place of worship for many Hindus in my electorate and wider Western Sydney. It is a privilege to have such a proactive Bengali community within my electorate and I appreciate its positive impact on Parramatta.

I look forward to working closely with the Bengali community now and into the future and I thank every member of this community for their ongoing support.

With kind regards,

**Julie Owens MP**  
Federal Member for Parramatta

The Bengali community in Parramatta is a large vibrant community which has a lot to offer to Parramatta and Australia. Our cultural diversity in Parramatta is our essential strength. Growing communities like the Bengali community add energy and life to our region and deepen the cultural fabric of our city.

I have been involved closely with the Bengali community throughout the years: from working with Bengali leaders to

"Life is a song - sing it. Life is a game - play it. Life is a challenge - meet it. Life is a dream - realize it. Life is a sacrifice - offer it. Life is love - enjoy it" - Sai Baba

## Supporting the creation of a common place of worship

As a person of faith, I can appreciate the desire for a common place of worship. The creation of a Mandir for Sydney's Hindu community is a development that I am very supportive of and one that I am confident will work to strengthen the Hindu community throughout the Sydney area. Australia's cultural landscape is a

beautiful mosaic of rich cultures and traditions, diverse in their customs, but united in their love for Australia. The Hindu community is a big part of this multicultural Australia and without their contribution to our community we would lose an important part of this diverse landscape.

The Hindu community in my electorate of Greenway and in the wider area do a fantastic job in contributing to the community. Their commitment to local initia-

tives and fundraising is greatly appreciated and is recognised by all.

I thank the Hindu community for their steadfast commitment to the betterment of the Greenway community and the wider community, and I call on all to help support the creation of a Mandir in Sydney.

Yours sincerely

**Michelle Rowland**  
Federal Member for Greenway



## Background of Vakta Mandir Sydney (VMS)

Vakta Mandir Sydney started its journey since 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010 through the formal registration as a non profitable organisation of Australia (ABN 671 80 595 323). After several meetings, discussions, planning between a small young friendly group of people, Vakta Mandir Sydney (VMS) got its name and organisational status.



*The First 11 volunteers of VMS*



*The first 6 woman volunteers of VMS*



*A few moments during the Family fun day with BBQ at the Parramatta Park on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010*



VMS volunteers were having fun at the Family Fun day at the Parramatta Park

VMS Volunteers had organized a stall at the Bangla Mela 2011 held at the Sydney Athletic stadium on 9<sup>th</sup> April. A few moments captured below:



*VMS Stall "Banglar Shad Tok Jhal" at the Bangla Mela April 2011*



*Few Woman volunteers at the VMS stall at the Bangla Mela April 2011*

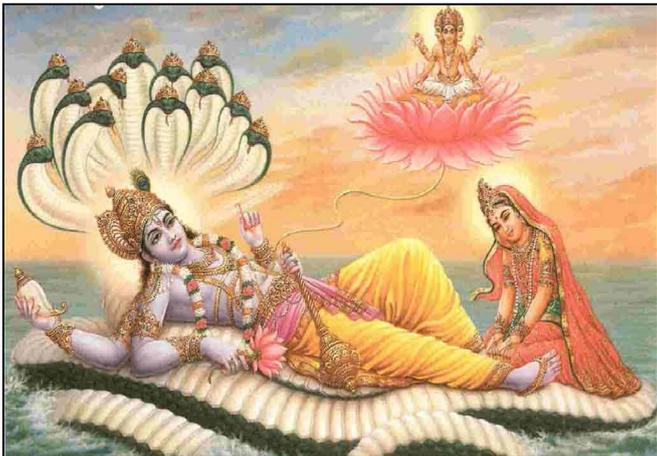
VMS will be organizing two three events each year to generate some funds for its great cause. This is a great project to be part of and to be supportive. Please join us by extending your potential help and supports towards its goal. VMS can only achieve its destiny when each and every members of our community wish to carry across the purpose and solidarity for VMS.

"God can be realized through all paths. All religions are true. The important thing is to reach the roof. You can reach it by stone stairs or by wooden stairs or by bamboo steps or by a rope. You can also climb up by a bamboo pole" - Sri Ramkrishna

## The History of Hinduism

*There are several creation stories in Hinduism. Hinduism believes there are times when the universe takes form and times when it dissolves back into nothing. The in-between times are known as the days and nights of Brahma, who is the Hindu god of creation.*

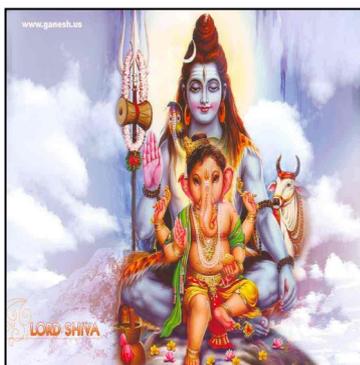
Before time began there was no heaven, no earth and no space between. A vast dark ocean washed upon the shores of nothingness and licked the edges of night. A giant cobra floated on the waters. Asleep within its endless coils lay the Lord Vishnu. He was watched over by the mighty serpent. Everything was so peaceful and silent that Vishnu slept undisturbed by dreams or motion.



From the depths a humming sound began to tremble, Om. It grew and spread, filling the emptiness and throbbing with energy. The night had ended. Vishnu awoke. As the dawn began to break, from Vishnu's navel grew a magnificent lotus flower. In the middle of the blossom sat Vishnu's servant, Brahma. He awaited the Lord's command. Vishnu spoke to his servant: 'It is time to begin.' Brahma bowed. Vishnu commanded: 'Create the world.'



**Brahma,**  
God of Creation



**Moheshshor**  
God of Devastation

A windswept up the waters. Vishnu and the serpent vanished. Brahma remained in the lotus flower, floating and tossing on the sea. He lifted up his arms and calmed the wind and the ocean. Then Brahma split the lotus flower into three. He stretched one part into the heavens. He made another part into the earth. With the third part of the flower he created the skies. The earth was bare. Brahma set to work. He created grass, flowers, trees and plants of all kinds. To these he gave feeling. Next he created the animals and the insects to live on the land. He made birds to fly in the air and many fish to swim in the sea. To all these creatures, he gave the senses of touch and smell. He gave them power to see, hear and move. The world was soon bristling with life and the air was filled with the sounds of Brahma's creation.

## History of Temple

A characteristic of most temples is the presence of Murtis (images) of the Hindu deity to whom the temple is dedicated. They are usually dedicated to one primary deity, the presiding deity, and other subordinate deities associated with the main deity. However, some temples are dedicated to several deities, and others are dedicated to Murtis in an aniconic form. Many temples are located in key geographical points, such as a hill top, near waterfalls caves and rivers; because some believe the Puranas mention that "the gods always play where groves are near rivers, mountains, and springs". Many Hindu temples are known by different names in different parts of the world, depending upon the language. The word *mandible* or *mandible* is used in many languages, including, Hindi and is derived from a Sanskrit word, *mandible*, for 'house' (of a deity by implication). Temples are known as *Audi*, *Devasthanamu*, *Kshatriya*, *Mandible*, *Kshetralayamu*, *Himalaya*, *Devastation*, *Hypothalamus*, *Punyakshetram*, *Punyakshetralayamu* or *Novella* in Telegue, as *Devastating* or *Gui* in Kanada and *Mondrian* (মন্দির) in Bengali, as *Kshatriya* or *Jambalaya* in Malayalam. Temple construction in India started nearly 2000 years ago. The oldest temples that were built of brick and wood no longer exist. Stone later became the preferred material. Temples marked the transition of Hinduism from the Vedic religion of ritual sacrifices to a religion of Bhakti or love and devotion to a personal deity. Temple construction and mode of worship is governed by ancient Sanskrit scriptures called agamas, of which there are several, which deal with individual deities.

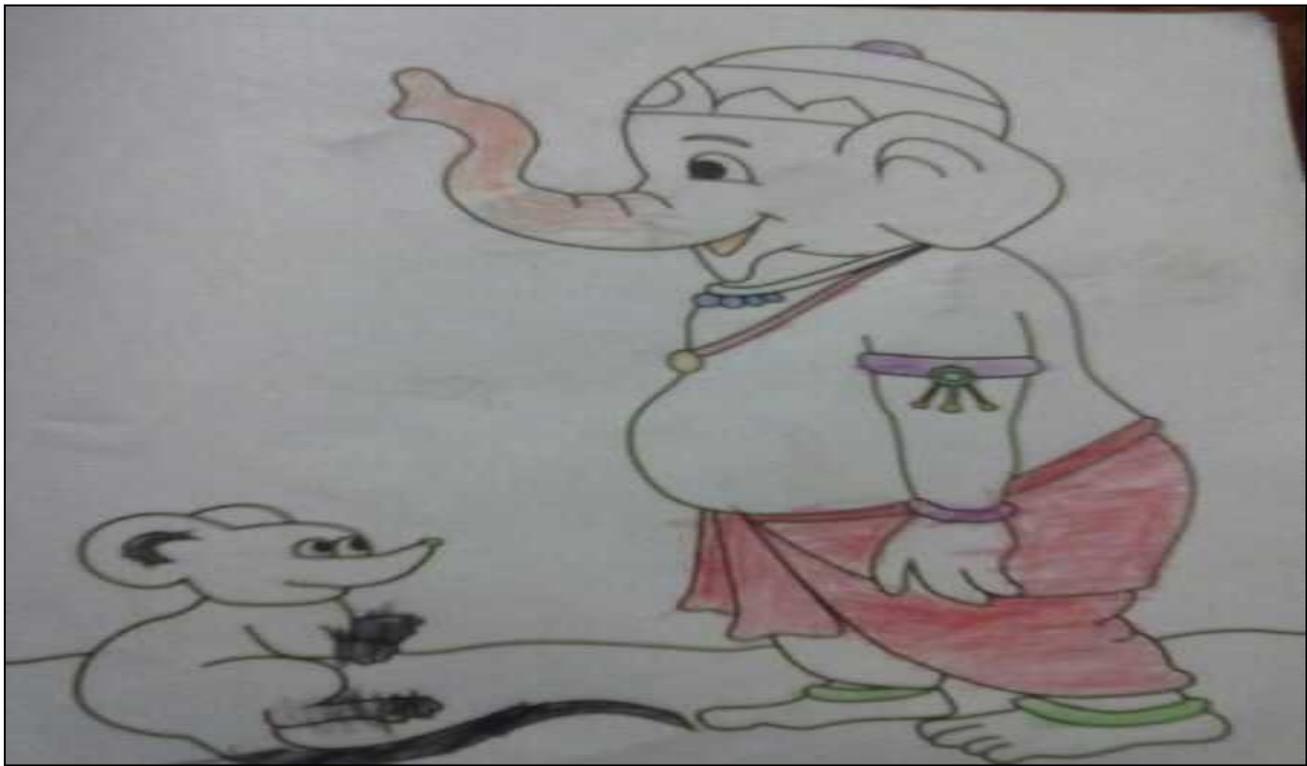
There are substantial differences in architecture, customs, rituals and traditions in temples in different parts of Bangladesh/India. During the ritual consecration of a temple, the presence of the universal all-encompassing Brahman is invoked into the main stone deity of the temple, through ritual, thereby making the deity and the temple sacred and divine. In West Bengal and Bangladesh, temple architecture has assumed a unique identity. Due to lack of suitable stone in the alluvial Gangetic delta, the temple makers had to resort to other materials instead of stone. This gave rise to using terra cotta as a medium for temple construction. Terra-cotta exteriors with rich carvings are a unique feature of Bengali temples. The town of Vishnupur in West Bengal is renowned for this type of architecture. Usually a part of the intended total motif was carved by hand on one side of a brick and then baked. While under construction, these carved bricks were arranged to make up the entire motif. The Bengali style of temple is not luxurious. Rather, most are modeled on simple thatched-roof earthen huts used as dwellings by commoners. This can be attributed to the popularity of bhakti cults which taught people to view gods as close to themselves. Thus, various styles like *do-chala*, *char-chala*, and *aat-chala* sprang up. However, there is also a popular style of building known as Navaratna (nine-towered) or Pancharatna (five-towered) in Bengal which is more luxurious than the Chala buildings. Simple thatched-roof earthen huts used as dwellings by commoners. This can be attributed to the popularity of bhakti cults which taught people to view gods as close to themselves. Thus, various styles like *do-chala*, *char-chala*, and *aat-chala* sprang up. However, there is also a popular style of building known as Navaratna (nine-towered) or Pancharatna (five-towered) in Bengal which is more luxurious than the Chala buildings

Ashutosh Das

“মা”  
জীবনানন্দ হয়ে সংসারে তুমি আর নেই  
আছো শুধু আমার এ মনে,  
তোমার সাথে নেই কোন লেনদেন,  
কেন যে এমন করে চলে গেলে?  
রেখে গেলে তোমার চরণচিহ্ন, মিষ্টি মধুর হাসি।।  
যে হাসি দিয়ে তুমি জয় করেছিলে সকলের মন।।  
“মা” তোমার স্নেহ যেন,  
পৃথিবীর সকল মায়ের স্নেহের প্রতীক হয়ে,  
রইল আমার এ মনে।।

মালবিকা চক্রবর্তী

“All action results from thought, so it is thoughts that matter”– Sai Baba



Drawn by: Ohona Kundu age:6



SHOP 1: 108, RAILWAY ST ROCKDALE, NSW 2216  
SHOP 2: 11A QUEEN VICTORIA ST, KOGARAH,

**Art Competition Participants:**  
Pranotsh, Priyotsh, Ohona & Nova

**Dance Performers:**  
Arunima Basu, Sanjita Jyoti Roy, Trina  
& Mausumi Saha

শুভকাল্পিনের আয়োজনে ২০১১ সালের ৪ জুন Concord RSL Auditorium এ অনুষ্ঠিত  
VMS MUSICAL NIGHT এ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য তোমাকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও প্রানচলা উষ্ণ অভিনন্দনা  
নতুন প্রজন্ম মানেই অনাবিল আনন্দশাস্তিময় ত্বনাস্বপ্নিল সোনালী জীবন উজ্জ্বল ভবিষ্যতের যাতচাণি  
আনন্দ অবগাহনে বেড়ে উঠা তুমিসুন্দরের অতন্দ্র প্রহরীরূপে নব নব আবিষ্কারে গড়ে তোলা নিজেকে  
ক্ষুপদী কর্ম হোক সার্বক্ষনিক সঙ্গী ভবাবধ্য হোক জীবন তোমার এবং আশপাশের সকল মানুষেরা  
"শুভকাল্পিনের জয় হোক, তোমাদের জয় হোক, জয় হোক মানবের ও মানবতার"

শুভ কাল্পিন সিডনী

**AccoTax Consultant**  
Public Accountant and Registered Tax Agent

Ashoke Kumer Kundu  
Tax Accountant

Tel: (02) 8338 9550  
Fax: (02) 8338 9510  
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## Porcelain & Pomegranates by Anindita Basu

Death was brutal and did not forgive. She was insidious, was invidious, and theoretically occurred only once.

Or so Elizabeth had thought.

For as long as she could remember, she had been a synthetic doll, stitched up at the seams, so beautiful, so untouchable. A child, she danced gaily in the poppy fields behind her country home when the news of her father's death arrived.

She hadn't even recovered from the shock, when her mother married *him*. He was vile and loathsome and teetered on heels etched with sin. Elizabeth was not amused when her mother abruptly left her in his care, one year later. Nor was she amused when he touched her. Especially since she had not agreed, with her skirts hitched up, she was defiled in the graveyard, behind the cathedral.

Where her mother lay...

Grief was an immurement of its own accord (trifle and writhing, like a powerless incubus, like pearls sunk in vinegar), but intoxicating too, addictive, like all things surreal.

He had been surreal too. She had met him in the orchard, gathering apples of the brightest shade of vermilion and of the sweetest scent.

Emile, who haunted her thoughts, her dreams... Emile who belonged to Persephone now...

And it was his death that was the final trigger, a bullet to her heart.

What day was it? The lines beneath her eyes wouldn't tell; tear stains ingrained on her cheeks, loneliness at its peak, and hollow parts for an empty heart. She looked towards heaven—"what have you done?" Staring into the crimson horizon, she held her arms closer to her body; cold, so cold--just like a corpse, and just as terribly alone. Dawn's slow promise of warmth would go unfulfilled.

She tried to end it all, and they locked her into this cage. She was not alone, the past lingered still - nostalgia for an entire pendulum of emotions that ran so far away from her. Memories plagued her incessantly and so she wrote. Wrote endlessly, restlessly in a small black book.

*Dear Diary,*

*Am I immune to the past?*

*This déjà-vu that's sweeping me,—I'm falling distances unsought. A cacophony of birdsong echoes in the soft early morning light – the same sonata, echoes in my ears as I run through the valley blindly.*

*High above the summit, the sun soars, mountains alive with wonder. A blanket of mist envelops the rows of pine and the lone olive tree on the steepest hill. There is an open valley leading to an ancient path, under the veil of the misty woods. I am running faster.*

*A rushing stream carves the woodland floor and gracefully flows down a step of stones. Golden light is peeking through the green foliage as I follow the path.*

*The water leaves the woods behind, uniting with the lake, sleeping serenely, sparkling in the sunlight like crystal. Softly the breeze dances through the stalks of the reeds, whistling a playful melody, caressing his face.*

*He is sitting on the green banks, surrounded by scarlet poppies, beckoning to me. Calling for me. I reach out to touch him, only to have him melt under my fingers, leaving me bereft.*

Tattered and torn, she laid on a shelf—someone's beloved, forgotten, thrown away.

*Dear Diary,*

*The taste of grapefruit fills my mouth, tang permeates my breath. I am waiting for him to arrive.*

*There is an infinite expanse of nameless lands around me. Perfect symmetry hangs, high above black ocean waves in the early evening. She dips her silver hair in Poseidon's wide basin. It is wavering—transitory. It is beautiful and mysterious, and I feel closer to God here on this hidden shore.*

*Sitting on cool sand dunes, I build a castle, like the ones father and I used to build when we went to the beach in summer.*

*I look at my reflection in the water. His smiling face stares back. Gasping, I aim for his flesh, but my hand instead plunges into icy cold water. I am overcome with grief as my golden castle crumbles, he is gone again.*

*And I'll watch him go. Forever walking in circles-paths that have no true beginning or end. Are you lost, lonely boy? I could help him find his way, or I could teach him how to spiral downward with tact.*

It was her imagination that was her survival, but she was hanging on by a weak thread. The doctors monitored her, the nurses fretted, and her condition worsened progressively.

She walked alone in the damp room, trailing down boulevards of never-ending dreams, dreams that were as bright as the light in his eyes--the ones that went out the night that he died.

*Dear Diary,*

*Love is, love fades. Love was, love aches...*

*I am so alone...and I desperately want to tell him, "the world is ending, so won't you sit down and fall in love with me again?"*

*My mind constantly battles now between this dark room and my mystic island prairie. I am searching for him again, but my feet are heavy and my vision blurred as I stride through the fog. Opening up ahead, the mouth of the valley yawns, breath salty and tempestuously wet, dampened the crashing of water. The changing tide lapping, devouring my secret shore, where the rest of the world is remote and time is quietly still and endless.*

*Chasing phantoms, endlessly to find the answers to my questions, I run after him but he disappears, a tempting mirage.*

*Desperation weighs heavy and I fall to my knees, sinking as though in a pit of quicksand. My spirit is broken and I need answers. From him, from God.*

*Where was God, when I needed him most? Is this another trial? I felt your presence in the woods, in the water, but why do you turn away from me now. Have I offended you?*

*It is unbearable, this living death and I know he is suffering too - without me.*

*And he can't escape- but I can...*

Elizabeth was fate's marionette, dancing to its tunes, waiting impatiently to be reunited with the people she had lost and now, as she struggled to breathe, she felt that perhaps God was finally intervening. He had answered her prayers.

There wasn't much longer till the end.





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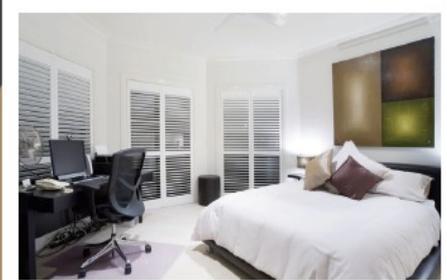


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