

# AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

– Abha Mittal, NOIDA

Human beings pass through various stages of development; life grows inch by inch every day and it is difficult to choose one incident as more important than the other. However, certain experiences leave a lasting impression on us and we are never able to forget them. This happened with me also.

I was facing some problems regarding my growing teenager and the experience being different from my own process of growing up, was making me very nervous. I was finding myself unable to tackle the situation.

Then an incident occurred which drew instant media attention. A teenager shot dead his one year senior friend in a school at Gurgaon. Editorials were published showing concern over the rising violence among our teenagers and mails were exchanged among parents, who tried to make their suggestions. I was also a part of this discussion. There I met some very nice people, one of them being Mr. P.V.

Raghunathan. I was very keen to do something for giving right direction to our youth. I once thought of starting an NGO for the purpose but things didn't work out. However, during an exchange of mails over this subject with Mr. Raghunathan, he saw some spark, some fire in me to write poetry. I myself was unaware of this God-gift of mine. On his constant motivation and help, I wrote some poems and posted them on my blog. He was guiding and supporting me. I felt very comfortable taking his guidance.

My poems when posted were greatly appreciated by readers; this encouraged me to write better and better. On Mr. Raghunathan's prodding, I tried to get them published in some journals/magazines. Fortunately, they were immediately accepted by one Mr. S. Krishnan of Chennai to be published in his poetry journal 'Poetry World'.

In November 2012, there was an online creative poetry competition organized by the Brahma Kumaris organisation

and their prestigious monthly publication, "The World Renewal". The Competition was popularized on Facebook and I came to know about it through one of my Facebook friends. The participants had to write on one of four given themes and I submitted my poem, "Father God or Godfathers" on the theme 'Inter-Religious Harmony'. Since the organizers received very good response from seven countries, including many poems written by students, a separate evaluation was arranged for students. I got acknowledgement of my entry through email.

To my surprise, my entry won the first prize in the senior category. Since then, there has been no looking back. I am constantly being inspired by their literature. B.K. Ranjit Fuliya, Associate Editor of 'The World Renewal', has been regularly providing me with the material having knowledge gained through meditation by the people associated with the organization. I am feeling a deep sense of satisfaction with this association of mine with the Brahma Kumaris organization. I am really thankful to Incorporeal God Father Shiva for gracing me with His blessing, though in a subtle and sublime way.