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BOOK REVIEWS

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The Musings of the Dark: Assertion of Appalling Savagery

ABU SIDDIK

(The Musings of the Dark | A Collection of Poems | Moumita Alam | Authorspress, New Delhi, 2020 | ISBN: 978-93-90155-59-0 | Page: 142 | INR: 295 | \$ 15)

Moumita Alam is a poet from West Bengal. Her debut poetry collection *The Musings of the Dark* is, according to the poet, 'a protest against the humanitarian crisis from the abrogation of Article 370, the Delhi riots, and the Shaheen Bagh movement to the unbearable sufferings of the migrant labourers due to the unplanned Covid-19 lockdown'. The book is a powerful poetic assertion of dissent. Dissent against what? Against state-sponsored violence against Kashmiris, violence against anti-CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) protesters at Shaheen Bagh, violence against migrant labourers, daily labourers during Covid 19 pandemic. She also voices her dissent against structural violence of casteism, fascism, violence against women and weaker sections of society – the poor, the minors, the marginalized, the minority, the underprivileged, victims of rapes, riots. Darkness, deaths, diseases, shocks at human rights violations, poverty, denial, disdain, blood, bullets, pain, suffering, demand for justice, a quest for casteless and a classless society, drapes her world.

CONTRIBUTORS

1. **Abu Siddik** teaches at Plassey College, Nadia, West Bengal, India. He loves to write poem, short story and article on the struggle and resilience of the Indian marginalised communities, the underdogs, the outcasts. He has 12 books. Website: www.abusiddik.com
2. **Albert Russo** who has published worldwide over 85 books of poetry, fiction and essays (35) and photography (50), in both English and French, his two mother tongues, and sometimes in Italian, (Italian being his 'paternal' tongue) – he also speaks Spanish and German and still has notions of Swahili –, is the recipient of many awards, such as The New York Poetry Forum and Amelia (CA) Awards, The American Society of Writers Fiction Award, The British Diversity Short Story Award, The AZsacra international Poetry Award (Taj Mahal Review – US\$ 500), the Books & Authors Award, several Writer's Digest poetry and fiction Awards (winner and finalist), aquillrelle Awards, the Prix Colette and the Prix de la Liberté, among others. His work has been translated into about 15 languages in 25 countries, on the five continents. <http://www.albertrusso.com>
3. **Anna Banasiak**, poet, writer, occupationaltherapist. Her poems have been published in USA, UK, Australia, Canada, India, Africa, Japan, China, Cuba, Israel. She has won many poetry competitions. She loves helping people through art therapy. Email: banama7@wp.pl