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On Poetry

By AMRITA GOSWAMI, *FINAL CHE, HBTI*

Pretty much anyone with any interest in the literary arts has, at some point or another, taken a stab at writing poetry: for the irate girlfriend, to vent feelings in a more productive form than a Facebook status, to put some abstract form of longing or philosophy to paper, or even for one of those unconventional writing assignments in school.

But very few people manage to write poems which reach out to the reader, and are *likeable* or *memorable*, technical skill notwithstanding. How many times have you suffered through interminable stanzas, checked up words on your phone on the sly, and then feigned comprehension at the end? Here are some tips and tricks to avoid some common pitfalls, and write poetry that is understandable and meaningful:

- **Metaphors are your best friends.**

Poems don't necessarily have to be about anything, but they are usually more appreciated if they express a certain thought, image or feeling. Don't just string together angsty, melancholic words and call it a day. Try to find an analogy, metaphor or some other creative way to tell your story. Don't worry if the imagery

doesn't make sense all at once: write it down and then improve the word choices and flow.

- **Chuck the dictionary and the thesaurus.**

Poems are not meant to be exercises in vocabulary. If a simple word expresses your ideas better, use it instead of the GRE word. However, feel free to use unconventional word pairings and an odd oxymoron or two. Get creative!

- **To rhyme or not to rhyme?**

Everyone enjoys a good rhyming poem, but not everyone can pull it off like Wordsworth. If your rhymes are forced, and deviate from the central idea of your poem, or if you have to change your theme to fit in a rhyme, accept defeat gracefully and drop it. Or you could change the rhyming scheme to make it easier to find rhyming words, for example:

“ Her heart is a ribbed prison,
Of vanishing stories, *half-penned*,
All but forgotten in her laughter,
Too many for you to *mend*. ”

These are just guidelines to streamline your thought processes. The important thing to keep in mind is to enjoy your melancholia, distress, pangs of heartbreak, or whatever emotion is prompting your poetry, and let it speak for you.

Happy writing!

Poetry excerpt taken from the *Mobius Strip*. <https://dreamwalkeramrita.wordpress.com/>

“A poet can survive everything but a misprint.”

– Oscar Wilde

Google Makeover

By KARTIK MATHUR, *FINAL EE, HBTI*

Google's new logo evokes more than just shock: there is something ugly and classless about the thick overly-simplified letters. The typeface is reminiscent of Comic Sans, Mc Donald's, children's alphabet printing.

Any resemblance to Comic Sans is unfortunate. Comic Sans has become one of the most widely hated fonts, with websites dedicated to opposing the use of Comic Sans, like 'Comic Sans Criminal'.

Comic Sans is a casual script typeface inspired by the graphic novel *The Dark Knight Returns*. As the name suggests, it was developed for use within speech bubbles, in comics, and other informal documents. Comic Sans has never suggested elegance, and is almost never used for formal or serious work. For ex-

ample, Comic Sans should never be used in reports, papers, or even in a newsletter.

The old logo, with its delicately old-fashioned typeface, was reminiscent of printing, books, literature. The font was a nod to formal and elegant typefaces, used traditionally in professional publications. The old logo was not patronizing; it was an honest, handsome representation of a fast and accurate search engine, whose results spoke for themselves.

Even the beloved little blue 'g' icon that appeared on tabs has been replaced. The new four-colour 'G', matching the new logo, is clumsy and unappealing. At every level, distinctive elegance and whimsy have been replaced by commercialization and a depressing uniformity.

The new logo came just a month after a major restructuring of Google was announced. Google is now

owned by a new holding company named Alphabet, to separate the profit-making search engine company from loss-making projects, like robot cars, medical research and internet-delivering balloons. It is believed that this move will allow greater transparency of how investors' money is being used.

However, Google's new logo is indicative of more than just bad taste. The problem runs deeper. It is a sign of how times have changed, with an emphasis on corporate uniformity, patronizing slogans and logos. Aggressive advertising drowns out brilliance, lovable eccentricities and differences. This is an age of omniscient companies and governments, with technological surveillance, Internet spying and prying at every level. And all of this is masked by a banner of condescendingly childish logos and taglines, meant to foster a false illusion of security and friendliness.

"I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better."
– Plutarch

Hedonism & The Death Of Dreams

By ROHIT GOSWAMI, II CHE, HBTI

"The only way to get rid of temptation is to yeild to it."
– Oscar Wilde

The pursuit of endless pleasure. This, along with the minimization of any and every pain, defines the hedonistic school of thought. Dreams are the imposition of the imagination upon reality.

"Spanning the gulf between the endless possibilities of the imagination and reality involves riding a boat of pain upon a sea of failure."

The hedonist would never dare to even look across that ocean, and is content to wallow in the trappings of achievable success.

"A man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry."
– Hebrew Bible

This age-old parable relates equally well to all living beings, yet it is only mankind which has planted its

flag on the moon. Ours is a civilization advanced on the browbeaten and bloody backs of innovators. The flights of fancy which birth dreams in our childhood are shot down by a refusal to mature, and a constant child-like avoidance of pain. The inertia offered by the world to any change, let alone dreams, is immense.

"Life is but a wait in the antechamber of Death."

Being born implies eventual death. Only successful dreams bridge, by collective memory, the divide between life and death. Dead authors and poets speak to us; their dreams engulf us. Hedonism itself was the dream of the overworked erudite scholars, as a vision of utopia for all. This school of thought meant to bring about social equality and harmony, but now encroaches upon our continuing humanity and innovation. In today's more modern, mechanized world, hedonism encourages the bare minimum of work, and the death of the imagination. Finally, a dream fuels itself. The world is not built upon reaction, but upon action. Today, it is unheard of to die for a dream. Yet, we would do well to remember that hedonistic dreams end before encountering any pain, let alone death.

“You have to dream before your dreams can come true.”
– A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

The Great Grexit Crisis

By DIPANSHU YADAV, *III BE, HBTI*

Greece has become the only developed nation to default on its debt to the IMF {International Monetary Fund}. With the water rising over the bridge we are to witness a major economic and political catastrophe. The odds of Greece leaving the Eurozone and the reintroduction of Drachmas {their old national currency} strengthen with every passing day.

• Causes:

- In the Infamous Schuman Declaration of 1950, the European leaders declared that peace among their nations can be achieved only through economic integration as the countries that trade with each other, out of mutual benefit would be less likely to fight amongst themselves.
- In order to make business easier, a common currency, the “Euro” was introduced. Countries which adopted the Euro formed the Eurozone. These countries abandoned their former currencies and allowed the newly formed European Central Bank (ECB) to make economic policies.
- After the creation of the ECB, small countries like Greece could borrow large amounts of money at very low-interest rates. Interest rates for loans to smaller European countries which were above 20% became less than 5%.
- Greece borrowed recklessly primarily to use it for popular programmes like high pensions, low taxes, higher wages for government officials etc. This led to increasing debt which was repaid with even more borrowed money.
- After the Wall Street implosion of 2008 the globe became engulfed in the largest financial crisis since 1929, and the world

faced an acute credit crisis. In October 2009 Greece stated that it had been understating its deficit figures for years, and presented fake evidence to make Greek debt 5% when it was 35%; all done remain a part of the Eurozone which led to a condition wherein no more money could be lent to Greece, which had been using loans to not only power its economy but also to pay off the existing debts.

- Basically, Greece could no longer repay its debt nor pay for all the new jobs and social initiatives it had recklessly spearheaded. This led to soaring unemployment levels, a crisis of confidence, decrease in foreign investment, and political uncertainty. Severe repercussions echoed across the entire Eurozone.
- Barred from borrowing in financial markets by the spring of 2010, Greece veered towards bankruptcy, which threatened to set off another financial crisis. To avert calamity, the Troika (popular name for the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission) issued the first of two international bailouts for Greece, which would eventually give relief of up to more than € 240 billion, or about \$264 billion at today's exchange rates.
- However, with bailouts came austerity measures involving spending cuts, wage cuts, tax raises, pension reforms and the privatization of Government assets. Greece was also required to overhaul its economy by streamlining the Government, ending tax evasion and making Greece an easier place to do business.

• Current Status:

- Greece has received 2 major bailouts till now, and both involved severe austerity measures, but Greece is still in debt and has been unable to stay solvent. It has

become the first developed country to default on a bailout when it failed to pay €1.6 billion to IMF.

- The money was supposed to buy Greece time to stabilize its finances and subdue market fears that the Euro based union itself could break up. While it helped, Greece's economic problems haven't gone away. The national GDP reduced for five years, and unemployment is still above 25 percent. The bailout money was mainly used to pay off Greece's international loans, rather than making its way into the economy.
- Yet the Greek Government still has a staggering debt of nearly 175% of its GDP that it cannot even begin to pay off unless an economic rehaul is realized. Greece needs another bailout to avoid defaulting, but its creditors are refusing to give more money because they haven't paid off the last two bailouts.
- If Greece defaults on its debts, it will likely be removed from the Euro-zone. With an anti-austerity party in power, the bailout was delayed till 30th June to renegotiate the aid terms and reforms which did not result in any fruitful outcome.
- The Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras called for a referendum on 5th July on the latest EU-IMF proposals to save Greece. On 28th June 2015, the Greek Government announced a shutdown of all banks in the country for at least ten days (six banking days) and the imposition of capital controls; stating they would re-open on 7th July. The Athens Stock Exchange (ATHEX) was also to be closed for a week.
- Greece became the first developed country to fail to make an IMF €1.6 billion loan repayment on June 30th, 2015. At that time, Greece's government had debts of €323bn. If Greece remains a defaulter to the IMF it will have to exit the Eurozone, which will have crippling effects on the world economy.
- The Greek's have also returned a majority vote of NO in response to the referendum called, Greece is desperate for a third bailout to avoid bankruptcy and possibly

crashing out of the Euro currency. An emergency summit involving all 28 European Union members - not just the 19 eurozone countries - took place on 13th July. Greece would "file new concrete proposals, credible reforms, for a fair and viable solution."

- On 20th July, Greek banks finally re-opened with capital controls; and the Greek Government repaid two loans to the IMF and ECB.

• Currency Effects:

- The movement of the Euro's value post the June 30th deadline has far reaching consequences. It is always difficult to predict an impact of and on currency, where there are many factors to consider even in an economically stable environment.
- The most obvious effect is that the Euro will tumble if Greece is unable to secure a bailout. This means the dollar will gain strength, and the basket of currencies linked to the dollar will all bear the brunt of the dollar's strength. Which simply means that importers will rejoice and exporters will scurry for help.
- Inversely, if the market deems the Greek tragedy warrants an exit beneficial for the rest of the Union, then the Euro will strengthen. This means the dollar will weaken and as an effect, export-oriented countries like Japan will do extremely well, while *India*, which is a major importer of defense equipment from the US will have to eat into its defense budget or cut spending. A weakened dollar will also eat into US's import budget and make things more expensive.

• Worldwide Repurcussions:

- If this continues, Greece could default permanently (meaning, be declared bankrupt). Normally, a small country like Greece defaulting wouldn't cause international concern. However, due to the Eurozone, if Greece defaults, Spain or Ireland could be next.
- This would begin a domino effect and might be followed by, Italy, then Portugal, France and then Germany – and with that

the entire world will be dragged into this horrific economic crisis.

• Indian Stakes:

- India tracks international economic indicators as well, and the value of the dollar; as a fringe effect of the Greek crisis is bound to impact the Indian stock market.
- The Indian Industry body Assocham says that the effect of Greece failing to pay its debts by the due deadline has already been factored in by the markets.
- However, there might still be an immediate jolt to the Indian stock and debt market. Assocham published a report dated 25th June cited below.

“For some time, the markets would stay in a state of flux and the rupee (₹) may lose ground if the situation in Greece worsens”

– Assocham Secretary General, D. S. Rawat

Smarter Cities For India

By SHUBHAM GUPTA, *IIT, HBTI*

A smart city normally uses digital technologies or information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance quality and performance of urban services, to reduce costs and resource consumption, and to engage more effectively and actively with its citizens. However, in terms of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi's government, it means that “smart cities are those which are able to attract investments globally.”

The project is structured as a challenge to states, as Mr. Modi's government has decided to involve only 100 cities of our country as the candidates with a three-year competition cycle for upto Rs.48,000 crore of central funds. Out of the 100 cities required, 98 have been nominated by the Ministry of Urban Development with two still to be decided.

The smart cities are to undergo a redevelopment plan involving 10 infrastructure elements including adequate water supply, robust IT connectivity, electricity availability, etc. One of the most notable changes will be in the transportation sector with the introduction of Metros in the cities.

The cities were picked by a particular procedure. During stage 1, the Union Government sent a letter to each State and Union Territory for nominations. The criteria for the selection of the cities was based on a Specific Scoring Formula by which the cities were evaluated. After this, each state passed on the highest-scoring candidates.

The centre used another formula in order to decide the number of potential smart cities from each State and Union Territory. This formula gives equal weightage to the urban population of the state and the number of statutory towns. With this formula, Uttar Pradesh came out with a maximum of 13 potential smart cities while Andhra Pradesh came out with only 3.

The two cities which are undecided are being held back by politics. From the Jammu & Kashmir valley, only one city can be selected, so, it is taking some time. The second undecided nominee is from Uttar Pradesh. This is because Meerut and Rae Bareilly both have equal scores, but due to politics, the decision is pending.

The second stage of the challenge involves the selected cities working with a consultant and a hand-holding external agency to prepare a smart city proposal. A series of elements which must be a part of the initiative, have been selected by the Center including that: 10% of energy should be from renewable resources, 80% of the buildings should be green, and of the total greenfield development, at least 15% should be in the affordable housing category.

About 20 cities are expected to be selected in the first round by December. The next 20 or so will continue competing before the final set of 20 cities from the first round are announced by March or April. Cities that don't make the first cut will be encouraged to work on their proposals for the second round, to be held across 2016-17, and even a third round will take place over 2017-18.

The cities selected in the first round will be

funded Rs.200 crore by the Government in the first year to redevelop themselves, followed by a fund of Rs.100 crore each year for the next three years, based on certain conditions. However, the Government has been very clear also, that they are to follow the bard, as:

“What is the city but the people?”
– William Shakespeare

Alan Turing

(23rd June, 1912 – 7th June, 1954)

By SHAIVYA ANAND, II CHE, HBTI

“Science is the differential equation and religion is the boundary condition”

The above words are of the “Father of computer science, mathematician, logician, wartime code breaker, victim of prejudice.”

• Fame:

- He was highly influential in the development of computer science, providing the formalization of the general concepts of algorithms and computation with his eponymous Turing machine, which is a model of maximum computational ability.
- He also developed a test for artificial intelligence in 1950 and Turing was responsible for breaking the Nazi enigma code during World War II.
- His work gave the allies the edge they needed to win the war in Europe. It has been estimated that this work shortened the War in Europe by as many as two to four years, saving fourteen million lives.
- This father of computer science also dabbled in physics, biology, chemistry, neurology and was an avid marathon and ultra distance runner.
- Turing has had an important role in founding morphogenesis, which is acknowledged as a new field of mathematical biology.

• Societal Shaming:

- Homosexuality was still a crime in Great Britain and in spite of his pioneering work in the field of computer science, Turing was convicted of ‘criminal indecency’.
- He was outed and convicted for being gay in 1952; two years later, he died. It’s still a mystery whether he committed suicide or “accidentally” died of cyanide poisoning.
- On 31st March, 1952, when Turing was convicted, he was given a choice between imprisonment and probation. He accepted the option of treatment via injections of synthetic oestrogen which rendered him impotent and caused gynaecomastia.
- Turing’s conviction led to his security clearance to be revoked and was barred from continuing his cryptographic consultancy for the government communication headquarters (GCHQ).
- He was denied entry into the United States. He was also prevented by the Official Secrets Act from discussing his war work.

• Response:

- Even after the chemical castration and humiliation, Turing refused to let the treatment sway him from his work, keeping his lively spirit afloat. He openly talked about trial, even in the ‘Macho environment’ of the computer lab.
- He mocked the laws’ absurdity. In defiance, he travelled abroad to Norway and the Mediterranean where gay rights movements were budding.

• Posthumous Pardons:

- In 2009, following an internet campaign, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown

made an official public apology on behalf of the British Government for “the appalling way he was treated”.

- Sixty years later, Queen Elizabeth II granted him a posthumous pardon in 2013.

This great mind died at the young age of 41. Had he been not subjected to this societal prejudice, he could have contributed unimaginably to the fields of science and technology taking us decades ahead of our times.

“The public is wonderfully tolerant. It forgives everything except genius.”
– Oscar Wilde

Love, Interrupted

By CHETAN DUBEY, *FINAL EE, HBTI*

This is a love story of a girl. A girl whose life is a façade. The body of lies craftily placed under the hood of truth. Because she loves, not a man but a monster in the disguise of a prince, her prince. She sees through his eyes what he shows her. With boundless trust, she becomes a puppet in his hands; her dark master. A master, in masquerade, wearing an impeccable expression of love on his charming face but cruel intentions lurk underneath. This is a story of a beauty and a beast.

She has a pretty smile but her eyes do not match. Her trust is a little broken, and her heart is a little broken too. She thinks of him unintentionally, unconsciously and unwillingly. Her mind is flooded with thoughts of him. Unwillingly she wants to be with him. His existence has put her at odds with herself, fighting every day, every hour, every minute and every second of her life to stay in his present and not in her fantasy world where she finds herself lost in him. The two undisturbed in their frenzied world, her love feeding his soul and he fuelling the fires of her heart.

His love is no different. If she shows him her tears, he collects them as pearls of pain. He traces their tracks, from her eyes down to her cheeks as they write their stories and then stops them with passion; gently holding her face, damming her tears with his insidious passion. Then whispers in her ear, “You are too precious to cry.” I yearn to share her tears as he sheds his falsely, sweetly faking to prove to her that though

they are lonely, they are never alone.

To her, home is nothing but two arms holding her tight when she is at her worst. But the Gods cannot see too much happiness amongst their poor creatures, it seems. Atë is always searching for innocent victims. His hapless love’s time, a part of her life is being stolen. As she is letting him rip her soul apart just because he can.

One might wonder as to what is wrong in her life. Her sin was the choice she made. She chose him over everyone. Her prince reflected light by dint of eternal darkness within was not her innocent monster. Under those rugged looks lurks a heartless devil. She fell in love with his impatience; he fell in love with her youth. She fell in love with his scars; he fell in love with innocence. Her soul is a canvas to him and his fingers yearn to trace inky patterns of sin across her bared fabric. She fell in love with him, hook, line and sinker and he did not love her at all.

I wish you could wake up from your nightmare. I wish you could show you the reality of your world; a fallacy. When you know what your man truly is, you will shatter. You will hide in your world of laughter and friends but when you are alone, the pain will never end. Sometimes memories will trickle out of your eyes and roll down your cheek. Yes, you will be broken. The thing with broken clocks is you can tell exactly when they stop ticking. With people it is not so easy and sometimes one cannot even tell that they are broken. Yet, in love it is better to know and be heartbroken than to remain ignorant and always wonder. I wish you could learn to kiss away your blues, the kiss of goodnight.

“Women are meant to be loved, not to be understood.”
– Oscar Wilde

Outrage

By VARTIKA SRIVASTAVA, *III CHE, HBTI*

Born in enlightened times, heralded as her family's star. Performing exuberantly at every turn, through childhood to the cusp of adulthood. She was poised, ready to enthusiastically embrace her life's new phase, curious, innocent, eager to know new things. Her age brought freedom, she thought, her blossoming womanhood, a very big thing: a thrilling adventure. Her belief made in innocence, in safety, would not be swayed. It was atypical, though she thought everyone had this gentle adventure but, only later, she found herself trapped in it. Trust, as rakes say, is just a trademark thing, fickle and easy to gain; naught but an invitation in reality. One trusts others only for everything to shatter. She trusted freely, idolizing; she believed earnestly that in a world of liars only her choices would be true to her. She knew that she would be safe.

A night of "romance" came but with it entered inky darkness. She followed in her last flush of innocence, in sweet denial, trusting in respect for her denial, into beckoning arms. No one helped, later; just spectators saying, "Why this crime?!" She recuperated but her soul fled the light. She wanted to live but she had to face it: because she was "a woman." She remembers her worthless denials before Eros. Haunted by her blackened memories. She wishes not to sleep but she can't stay awake either. She visualizes what her life could have been "if she were a boy".

In this world where the majority opinion is misogynistic: her anxiety soared. She lost her trust, lost her faith. She was never to fly into the clear social sky because she had been buried deep. They say, "feel ashamed", for being victimized but her soul soars, burning, saying "what if I were a boy". She tried, and built a stockade, putting herself behind a veil, but her story went viral. She never understood why she had to go through this but always questioned "what if she were a boy?" and knew to give solace to those who questioned; moving forward into the light daily.

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."
– Mother Teresa

Blinded

By KANTSHRI BARONIA, *III IT, HBTI*

A dying soul, a shattered heart,
A crumpled paper, a burning cart,

The crumpled paper of your
words to me,
The cart of my fairytale dreams.
I sit on this known grey stair,
Voices resound, whispers from
the past blare,
Breeze, warm, on my ear blows,
Is it you to exhale once more?
I prefer to walk away for sure this

time,
Can't feed a dead child, any more.
Fingers I cross but this time only
mine,
Fly, fly far my heart, it's a world
full of lies!
"Love is Blind"
And now that you don't exist to
me, I wonder if I am blinded!

मेरा भारत

By AKSHAY SONI, *FINAL BBA.LL.B, AMITY LAW SCHOOL, LUCKNOW*

आज सोचा, अपना देश देखूँ
दिल्ली गया, मेट्रो देखी,
लालकिला, चाँदनी-चौक और इंडिया गेट देखा, फिर देखा शहीद पथ,
जलती हुई लौ, बन्दूक और टोपी,
दिल में हुई हलचल लगा यही भारत है।

आज सोचा अपना देश देखूं,
कश्मीर गया, झीलें देखी खूबसूरत वादियां,
दिल को भाते झरने, और उचाईयों पे बने मंदिर देखे,
फिर देखि कारगिल की वो चोटी, आभास हुआ खून, तड़ितझाती गोलियों और
बिखरी लाशों का,
दिल में हुई हलचल, लगा यही भारत है।

आज सोचा अपना देश देखूं,
मुम्बई गया, भीड़ देखी,
ऊँची इमारतें, दौड़ते लोग और आलीशान बंगले देखे,
फिर देखा शिवजी टर्मिनल पर लोगों का सैलाब,
अविरत - अविराम चलता हुआ सैलाब,

आभास हुआ २६/११ का शहीद कामटे,
हेमंत करकरे और विजय सालस्कर का,
और मौत बरसाती कसाब की गोलियों का,
और फिर ध्यान गया दुबारा उस सैलाब पर,
दिल में हुई हलचल, लगा यही भारत है।

आज सोचा अपना देश देखूं,

हर तरफ दौड़ाई नजर, उम्मीद देखी,
तरक्की, उन्नति और उत्पत्ति देखी,
फिर देखा एक माँ को भूख से जूझती वो, लड़ रही थी दाने-दाने को,
स्तन से दूध गए थे सूख तो पिला रही थी अपने बच्चे को चावल का पानी,
और सीखा रही थी उसे, हर परिस्थिति से लड़ना,
आई तरस, सोचा थोड़ा दर्द बाटूँ पर उस माँ की खुदारी ने मुझे रोका,
दिल में हुई हलचल, लगा यही भारत है।

हर मुसीबत से लड़ता,
हजार कठिनाइयों से जूझ के भी विश्व में अपनी अलग पहचान बनाता,
हर मुश्किल से लड़ता और उस पर विजय पता।
विश्व गुरु भारत मेरा देश भारत।

आज सोचा अपना देश देखूं गुजरात गया,
कल-कारखाने देखे, उन्नति करते इंसान और खुश चेहरे देखे,
फिर देखा बीते हुए कल का एक दृश्य, इंसानो को तोड़ते दंगे और बंटती दीवारें,
और देखा आज हिन्दू-मुसलमान को करते साथ साथ काम,
लगा कल तो था बस झूठ जो आज है वही सच है,
दिल में हुई हलचल, लगा यही भारत है।



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