



# KUMORTULI



A PHOTOGRAPHIC VENTURE  
BY

AMLAN SAHA KUNDU



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PRESENTED BY



*Amlan's*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

2020





to Morey bhaiya, Rajeswari, Anunoy and Younus...




# A brief history of Kumortuli...



The British colonisation of Bengal and India started following the victory of the British East India Company in the Battle of Plassey in 1757. The Company decided to build new settlement Fort William at the site of the Gobindapur village. Most of the existing population shifted to Sutanuti. While such neighbourhoods as Jorasanko and Pathuriaghata became the centres of the local rich, there were other areas that were developed simultaneously. The villages of Gobindapur, Sutanuti and Kalikata developed to give rise to the latter day metropolis of Calcutta.

Holwell, under orders from the Directors of the British East India Company, allotted 'separate districts to the Company's workmen.' These neighbourhoods in the heart of the Indian quarters acquired the work-related names - Suriparah (the place of wine sellers), Collotollah (the place of oil men), Chuttarparah (the place of carpenters), Aheeritollah (cowherd's quarters), Coomartolly (potters' quarters) and so on..

Most of the artisans living in the North Kolkata neighbourhoods dwindled in numbers or even vanished, as they were pushed out of the area in the late nineteenth century by the invasion from Burrabazar. In addition, Marwari businessmen virtually flushed out others from many North Kolkata localities. The potters of Kumortuli, who fashioned the clay from the river beside their home into pots to be sold at Sutanuti Bazar (later Burrabazar), managed to survive in the area. Gradually they took to making the images of gods and goddesses, worshipped in large numbers in the mansions all around and later at community pujas in the city and beyond.



# A few words about me and this project...

Hey! Thanks for stopping by...

I am Amlan, a Mathematics undergraduate student from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. Beside this identity, I am a hardcore programmer, a chess aficionado and above all a passionate photographer.

Now, coming into the project, it is my first photographic venture. In this journey, I have decided to frame some amazing moments from "Kumortuli". But, there's a catch...

Through out this project, I have decided to use an entry level point and shoot camera [Canon IXUS 275 HS], instead of any DSLR or mirrorless camera. Almost 90% images are captured by that camera. But, to compare the result, I have also used Canon 77D. I will mention that in the description of each photo.

So, without wasting any time, allow me to dive into the down memory lane...







# Agomoni

The arrival of Devi Durga.

ISO Speed:  
ISO-800

Shutter Speed:  
1/80 sec

F-stop:  
f/5.6

Focal length:  
26.5 mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS





# Angina

Inside Kumortuli lane

ISO Speed:  
ISO-200

Shutter Speed:  
1/200 sec

F-stop:  
f/3.6

Focal length:  
4.5 mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS







# Asura

The Demon

ISO Speed:  
ISO-200

Shutter Speed:  
1/40 sec

F-stop:  
f/5.6

Focal length:  
42 mm

Device:  
Canon EOS 77 D







# Chokkhudan

The drawing of eyes

ISO Speed:  
200

Shutter Speed:  
1/125sec

F-stop:  
f/6

Focal length:  
42mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS





# Danobio

That Demonic Smile

ISO Speed:  
ISO-1000

Shutter Speed:  
1/20 sec

F-stop:  
f/5

Focal length:  
16 mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS







# Devi

The Goddess

ISO Speed:  
800

Shutter Speed:  
1/50sec

F-stop:  
f/5.6

Focal length:  
135 mm

Device:  
Canon EOS 77 D





# Doshobhuja

The All-rounder.

ISO Speed:  
800

Shutter Speed:  
1/125sec

F-stop:  
f/5.6

Focal length:  
16mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS







# Fursat

The respite

ISO Speed:  
200

Shutter Speed:  
1/250sec

F-stop:  
f/3.6

Focal length:  
4.5mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS





# Karigar

The artist

ISO Speed:  
100

Shutter Speed:  
1/100 sec

F-stop:  
f/4.5

Focal length:  
12 mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS







# Kathamo

The frame.

ISO Speed:  
800

Shutter Speed:  
1/80 sec

F-stop:  
f/5.6

Focal length:  
26.5 mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS





# Mohishasura

The Villain

ISO Speed:  
400

Shutter Speed:  
1/60 sec

F-stop:  
f/3.6

Focal length:  
8 mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS







# Mrinmoyee

Made up of soil

ISO Speed:  
100

Shutter Speed:  
1/15 sec

F-stop:  
f/5.6

Focal length:  
50 mm

Device:  
Canon EOS 77 D





## Posra

Finished goods for sale

ISO Speed:  
ISO-200

Shutter Speed:  
1/500 sec

F-stop:  
f/3.6

Focal length:  
4.5 mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS





# Rasta

The street

ISO Speed:  
200


Shutter Speed:  
1/80 sec

F-stop:  
f/5.6

Focal length:  
8.5 mm

Device:  
Canon IXUS 275 HS





Last but not least...



This was my first ever attempt to gather some memories and published as an album. So, feel free to share your thoughts. It will be awesome if you kindly share any idea regarding the improvement of this project.

Now, coming to the challenge, "using point and shoot camera to capture majority of the photos" was indeed very cool and full of fun. But, as expected, the quality of the images was far from those from professional grade cameras. But keeping an eye on the price, I think, the results are pretty amazing.

What do you think ? Let me know...

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Thank YOU.

*Anilam Saha Vunder*

