

Midnight Diary : A Review

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‘Real’ is what we see, feel, hear, or otherwise experience physically . But what about the ‘interior experiences’ when we can’t detect with our five senses? When writers get into the inside scoop on characters’ internal experiences, they resort to psychological realism, which is the consistent depiction in a brand of literature . This type of honest portrayal of reallife human emotions got its start in the late 19th century with the works of Henry James. Bibhu Padhi, an engaging enigmatic soul maker from Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, traps his readers through his beguiling poetic tentacles. His images unlock our hearts. Bibhu Padhi’s poems are collage of varied impressions, psychological imprints, and moods. They invoke many lived moments, small acts and psychological views like ‘wish of leaving amid familiar faces (is) an ancient design of return to the body’ and ‘a longing to forget all that the heart holds dear’, and bring to our attention. Reading Padhi is like reading all-time great late poet John Keats who will never disappoint us. The poet’s creativity and imagination are reflected in careful use of metaphors that evoke incessant images of hope and picture of life’s daily course in the readers’ minds. At times, Poetry for him is an expression of the non grammar of being: a journey beyond the physical parameters and social contexts. Like Keats, Padhi is a sensuous mystique. He writes from the seat of consciousness:

“Nothing is what you
cannot have. Nothing is
what you are not, already.” (‘A Few Things About You’, p 130)

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