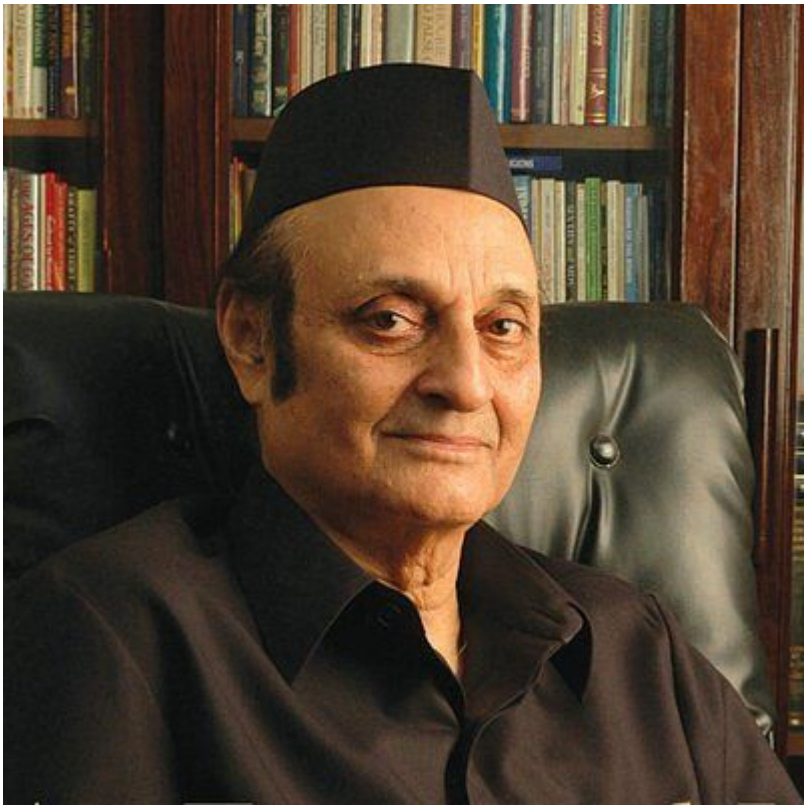
A Multilingual Recitation by Dr. Karan Singh



Dr. Karan Singh

Poetry is to be Heard

A review by **Mandira Ghosh**

READINGS: Sounds of Poetry:

CHAIR: Muzaffar Ali

COLLABORATION: The Poetry Society, India

12 December 2023

The recitations in five languages by Dr. Karan Singh brought alive the linguistic diversity of India. He shared some of his favourite poems in English, Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit and Dogri, and said that prose is to be read and poetry is to be heard; life without music and poetry is dull. Muzaffar Ali, who chaired this unique session, urged the celebration of poetry

and said that all his works, especially his unreleased film Zooni, were driven by poetry.

Karan Singh began reciting his favoured poems in a mellifluous voice and sonorous tone. He started with Wordsworth's famous poem titled 'Daffodils', and went on to read more outstanding poems by poets like W. B. Yeats and Robert Frost. While reading Frost's 'The Road Not Taken', he mentioned that he himself took the road less travelled and that made all the difference in his life. He explained Frost's famous words: 'The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep' from the poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening'. He also read Frost's 'Fire and Ice' and said that the world will either end in fire or ice. In this context, he also quoted, 'Nothing beside remains' from P.B. Shelley's 'Ozymandias'

. He also read the creations of Urdu and Hindi poets like Ghalib, Shakeel Badayuni and Kabir. He chose to recite Kabir's 'Ghoonghat Ke Pat Khol' and excerpts from Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas. Going back to his Kashmiri roots, he sang a song in Dogri quite beautifully and concluded the evening with the recitation of 'Shanti Mantra' in Sanskrit, uttering Om!

MANDIRA GHOSH

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COLLABORATION: *The Poetry Society, India*

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