

# Krysalis

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Kristu Jayanti College

AUTONOMOUS

Bengaluru

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



I am pleased to present another issue of Krysalis, created with engaging designs and intriguing content. Krysalis 2022 has been designed with the central theme of the 'New Normal' and within its pages, the students of MA English Literature have assiduously encapsulated various facets of our responses to the Covid pandemic. Krysalis 2022 stands testimony to the enduring nature of the human spirit and its many methods of coping

not only through aesthetic forms of art and poetry but also through the resourcefulness of ubiquitous technology in its avant garde forms. They have attempted to record and capture a time in history, within these pages when the Normal transitioned to the New Normal.

I would like to congratulate the Department for their commendable work, and I trust that Krysalis 2022 would remain a treasured memento for all of us.

Fr. Dr. Augustine George,  
Principal

Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, Bengaluru.



## OUR DEPARTMENT

The Department of English (PG) offers its Masters programme with the primary objective of acquainting students with a wide gamut of emerging areas of literary study and inculcating them with a propensity towards critical exploration. An emphasis on the cultural, intellectual and political progress of a humanity inspired a curriculum that serves the needs of its students, offering them relevant course choices and electives within a structured and well thought-out framework. Upon completion of the programme, students are enabled to engage in comparative analysis of texts, understand and apply various theoretical approaches and also appreciate a variety of perspectives in the teaching works. Students are also trained to develop specialized reading skills and attain an ability to place literary texts in their wider intellectual and historical contexts, fostering critical processes of systematic analysis. Experienced faculty members mentor students and uphold the ethos of the college striving toward excellence and innovation, while remaining open to the winds of change orienting students to be able to meet the challenges of our rapidly evolving world. Students are provided intensive mentoring both inside and beyond the classroom in a wide variety of forms. Guest lectures, Workshops, Film screenings. Conferences and Research colloquia are regular features in the Department and are in fact a part of the academic calendar. Students of the Department are equipped to discover their innate potential, realize their prospective contributions to the world and are taught to be good stewards of their unique talents. " Krysalis 2019 " is one such initiative taken by the department to provide its students with the much required creative platform to refine their talents toward finer intellectual and creative expression.

Greetings!

Kristu Jayanti College (Autonomous), Bangalore has always been supportive of the various student oriented accomplishments which eventually augment their holistic growth for future. Students' magazine is one among those endeavours which put together the experiential and participatory learning of students with the industrious reassurance of faculty members. I am truly delighted of the 2020 batch students of Department of English (PG) who spearheaded the efforts towards the publication of Krysalis 2022. They have worked together on this issue with so much obligation and zeal and the result of their collective exertions is perceptible to the readers in this edition. I wish the student contributors, editorial team and faculty members all the success for this endeavour.



Fr. Joshy Mathew CMI  
Coordinator  
Dept of English (PG)

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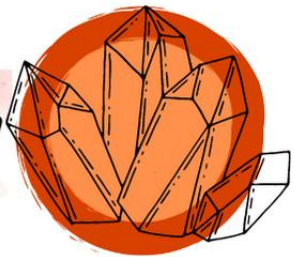
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# EDITOR'S *note*



Krysalis 2022 has the New Normal as its theme. The cover page and the inside pages reflect the multifaceted challenges the world faced as we struggled with the pandemic and recouped. These pages mirror the despair and reflect the hope of the times and we bring it to you with a fond aspiration that this issue will stand as a testimony to the times and signal the beginning of a better world in the New Normal.

- Dr.Lyola Thomas  
Faculty Coordinator

## EDITORIAL



Krysalis was a splendid opportunity for us to delve into the world of editing and experience its various aspects. The editing work seemed similar to the way in which a sculptor chisels the unwanted parts of a statue to give a definite form to it, challenging yet rewarding. This journey was eventful and it gave us many memorable moments along the way.

-Ardra Therese, Hridaya, Jisha

## LAYOUT



Krysalis is a child that we nurtured into completion. In each step we learnt how we challenged ourselves to bring out the best in us. It paved way for enlightenment creating a new experience and it helped us realise that "Krysalis" is more than just a word. It is a symbol of hardwork and dedication. It was not just poems and articles that we had put together, rather it is our dreams and soul that each page carries.

-Sreelakshmi, Arathy, Sheryl

## DESIGN



Krysalis was a splendid opportunity for us to delve into the world of editing as well as designing and experience its various aspects. The designing work seemed similar to the way like giving a shape and form to an unstructured sculptor and giving it a smooth finishing. It was challenging yet rewarding. This journey was eventful and it gave us many memorable moments as well as knowledge along the way.

-Krishnaveni, Pancinovia, Jeethu

# Why Krysalis?

It was a languid Monday afternoon when four first year students from the PG Department of English sat down in their classroom to brainstorm and decide on the name for their in – house magazine. Many names were thought about, read out, sounded out and abandoned ... until finally the name Krysalis came floating in as it were on that eventful brilliant afternoon. The name Krysalis was a perfect embodiment of the core purpose of the magazine even as it carried with it overtones of our college name, Kristu Jayanti. The name Krysalis was decided on without any hesitation because it beautifully communicated the scope of the magazine while also encapsulating the transitional stage of the PG students. Krysalis was conceptualized as a space devoted to Transformation and Mindfulness. Conceived by the students of the Postgraduate Department of English as a platform to showcase their creative contributions and aspirations, it hopes to remind its readers that each of us is still a work in progress even as it attempts to inspire and transform its readers toward living with a heightened sense of consciousness.



**Chrysalis:** A chrysalis can be defined as a transitional state; a process of developing. It is the journey between the cocoon state of a caterpillar through to the transformation of a beautiful butterfly.





# *Kareer Counsel*



## How about being a curator?



Curators are those in charge of the exhibit collections in the museum or an art gallery. They focus on building up collections, often in the specialized areas. They work to come up with ways in which the artifacts and archives are interpreted and are presented before the audience via exhibitions, archives, events etc. If you are a person who cherishes the old and the antique, this definitely is your cup of tea. Career is not always about money it's also about one's interest and passion. Here are some responsibilities that a curator is meant to fulfil:

- Developing and organizing collections of various artworks and pieces.
- Extensive research, compiling and preparing the written information about catalogues and publishing the same on the official website- if you are a person who is interested in extensive reading and research this is really something to look forward to.
- Raising funds and grants
- Writing review reports, grant proposals and publicity materials.
- Ensuring the proper preservation of the collections
- Collaboration with other institutions

There is a strong competition when it comes to curatorship and therefore the ones with postgraduate degree irrespective of the discipline is always preferred. There are several internships and volunteer programmes being offered by the museums which can be an asset in the resume when applying for an actual job. There are certain key skills that are to be possessed

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills which is actually a plus point as far as the ones from language background are concerned.
- Ability for teamwork
- Thorough knowledge regarding the fundraising especially for a cultural event
- Basic IT skills

For a person who is detail oriented with tremendous interest in the element of antiquity and who wishes to cultivate a habit of the robust collection of pieces, this is definitely the one which they should try without a second thought.

-A N Sreelakshmi

# *Kreativität*





## Burden of Touch

I see stories spun through the windows  
Of my eighth floor apartment,  
With walls in an odd coffee shade.

Phantoms of past swirl in  
The corners of stained buildings-  
Of flashing yellow buses by the road,  
Of aged bodies striving for lost youth  
In their walk through the diving sun,  
Or of lovers bargaining time  
For Sunday coffee dates.

But now, the dull canvas of streets suddenly  
Seems to lose blotches of such busy life,  
That I once found too normal for my taste.

NORMAL? Isn't it a word  
That got suddenly slipped off from its meaning.  
What's normal when humans are put in safety boxes?

What's normal when measure of life  
Lies in the distance we share with others.

Touch becomes a word of absurdity,  
So we miss assurance in such a dire life.

We miss poetries written by fingertips  
And those promising arms

That once hung around our drooping shoulders.  
And yet, I still lie with terrors of uncertain dreams,  
But on the lap of cold and empty spaces.

Can you hear the midnight cries of whizzing ambulance?  
What about the popping numbers of thirties and thousands

Fueling the Breaking News day and night,  
Or about pastel food trucks now carrying lifeless bodies.

And amidst these horrors, I too am guilty  
Of desperate search for a comforting hand and soft warmth.

Yet now, strangely enough we find...

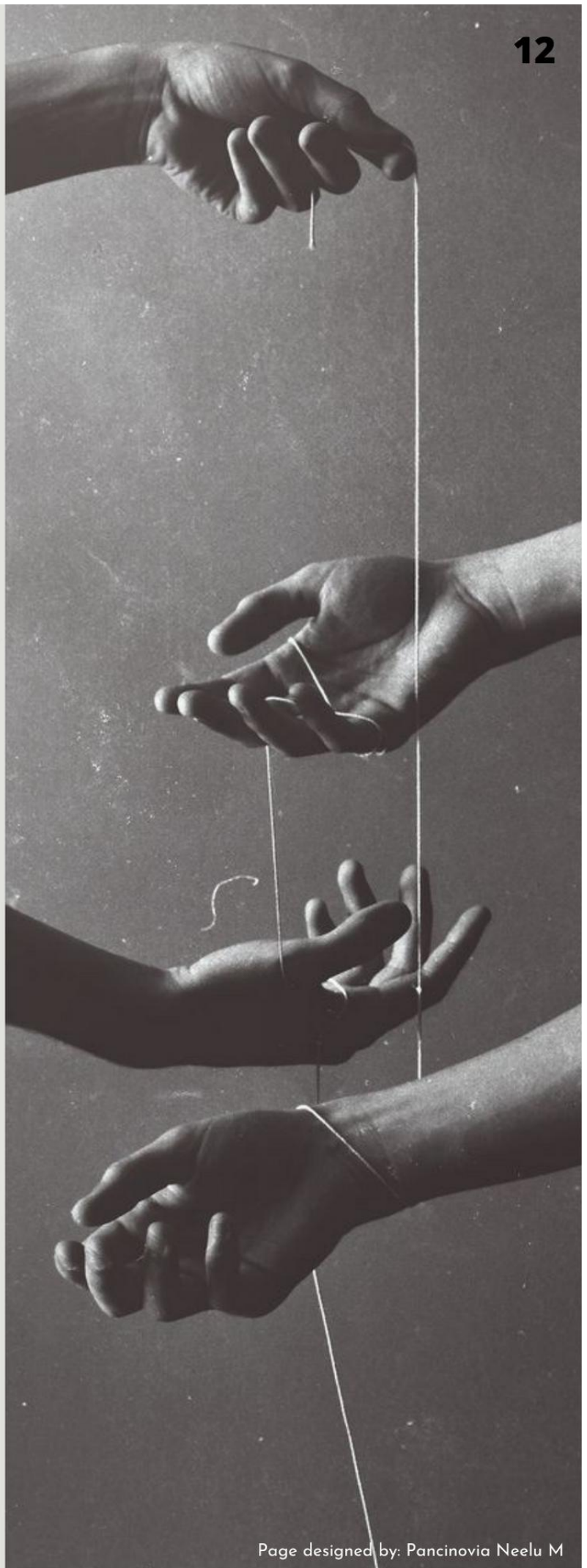
In Touch, a sense of freight.

- Sheryl Anna Anil

# Yet to be Free

One morning I woke up at half-past eight,  
 Was very tired as I finished my studies late at last night.  
 I saw my warden standing at my door-step at my first sight.  
 Came, to inform us about one disease spreading extensively  
     by every new date,  
 Explained its symptoms, precautions and effect.  
 Meanwhile, I saw half of my hostellers, with their baggage,  
     marching towards the main gate.  
     Only five of us left,  
     Stunned!  
 Our warden gave us the last date, when tickets are to be  
     done.  
 Bags were finally, packed temporarily and with a confidence  
     to meet up soon again,  
     None of us knew that this confidence for the prevailing  
     situation was in vain.  
 All this was happening, when it was two months to go for my  
     convocation,  
     Who knew it will be an unending vacation?  
     All reached home safely,  
 Switched on news channels, telecasting that this disease is  
     spreading so very quickly.  
     First step taken by the Government was Lockdown,  
 The only safety measure and solution which includes all the  
     qualities of noun.  
     India was daily witnessing Balkan Wars,  
     Cases reaching like uncountable stars.  
 When mind was in fear of death and screams of mother  
     Earth's children,  
     Was this not enough then,  
     Hunger dominated lives of poor again,  
 The rate of unemployment broke the record chain.  
     Some lost their member,  
     Some business lost their tender.  
     Some house lost their family,  
     Some became drained emotionally.  
 Mother Nature couldn't digest artificiality, and stood up for  
     revenge,  
 An experiment of the third largest country on a flittermouse  
     brought up a medium  
     of expressing nature's rage.

-Tanushree Roy



## A Tree's Prospect

When I open my eyes, I see the light,  
The chirping of the birds and the joy of their flight.

When the world moves round ,  
I wonder why I am sticking to the ground .

when I stretch open my arms,  
I feel the breeze come.

When my head get raised,  
I see the happiness expressed.

I have heard many rains  
But still I am given a free reign.

Even they think that I am free,  
But they don't realize the world is on me.

Guess me ? try me?

I am a flourishing and blooming tree.

- Liss Mathew

## Better tomorrow

Eyes will hurt bad sitting there,  
Lungs waiting to breathe the fresh air.  
Why cry for the dead and antecedent?  
while we ourselves can stay resilient!  
An opportunity, a chance convenient  
To stitch a new virtuous garment  
For ourselves and the ones we adore  
to be in this virtual world we fall for  
Every new day will be a hope, a blessing.  
So no more turning back, no more chasing,  
Set the funeral pyre, let the ashes float  
cried the blood, hurting the throat.  
The vexed ghost of a deceased one  
Haunting the descendants of a million?  
Far have we come from all those traditions,  
The society erstwhile infringed upon us.  
Long lost are the days of inhumanity  
Let us embrace the new born generosity.

- Dhanya Pankajakshan

## 15 My Eternal Rose

I still have your Rose, my love,  
The one you gave me years ago.  
Though it has lost its colour  
And all those, soft petals have faded  
Yet every time I look at it;  
The memories carry me away,  
Leaving me broken down in tears.  
It reminds me of those days,  
you came back home,  
Holding them gently in your arms;  
protecting them against the winter cold,  
A symbol of beauty, a symbol of love.  
It reminds me of all the love,  
that will last only as a Memory.  
Now I am pricked by the thorns,  
As you lay, cold as the winter snow;  
Now, these Roses lay on your cold body.  
Why did you become my fallen Rose?  
Who will protect me from this bitter cold?  
All these years that I am destined  
to spend away from you ,  
Forcing myself to live in these memories,  
Which we created all those years ago.  
I will wait for you, my eternal love,  
For though you have passed today;  
Yet our love will always stay,  
just like this Rose.  
You will be my Aphrodite,  
My forever Juliet Rose;  
My Symbol of immortal love,  
a union that will never fade away;  
For I will meet you one day.

- Arathi Cynthia Andrews



Page designed by: Pancinovia Neelu M



# ALL I DO IS WAIT

16

Curled up inside my quilt  
Rhapsodic music playing in the background-  
comforting my drowsy head into hibernation.  
And then a notification suddenly popped up on my phone.  
What number could it be today?  
Lesser than yesterday I hope.  
Amidst all this chaos happening in my brain,  
I grabbed my phone and opened the screen.  
It said thirty seven thousand four hundred and sixty.  
A pain of numbness engulfed my body.  
Does this have an end?  
I shrieked deep inside!  
The whole world is panic stricken  
and nothing can be done about it.  
This petrified my nerves, ached my head and made my lungs  
breathe melancholy.  
I sat there with a cup of dalgona in my hand  
And like one among the millions, I also waited for the next  
new normal day.

- Aiswarya Raj

## Go Corona Go

The world is hit with coma,  
 By the dirty crazy corona.  
 Our lives hang in a chance,  
 Like Thanos, wants the balance.  
 Pausing the whole world's dance,  
 Maybe we should dive into this trance.  
 Revelation of the chaos in advance,  
 Seems like the time of some glance.  
 Introspect yourselves for a change,  
 When we are locked up in our own cage.  
 Outlive this, defeat this epidemic,  
 Crush your negativity, or call a medic.  
 Wish your neighbors with a bang,  
 You made when the curfew made you clang.

- Liss Mathew



## Illusion

The air is filled with delusion,  
 As we supplanted care with illusion.  
 Nature loans her mirror of profusion,  
 Hazy fantasies coated in sweet confusion.  
 Pouring out sentimental effusion,  
 Exhibiting maniacal intrusion.  
 Solid heart siphons delusion,  
 Feels like a magical illusion.  
 Desires of profusion,  
 Wrapped in confusion.  
 Bubble over in effusion,  
 With the fear of intrusion.

- Ashitha Anna Regis

# Our New Normal

A lot has changed around us, leaving us upset,  
casting a spell of uncertainty with dreams being  
slaughtered

and yet the skies remain yellow and red every  
sunset.

Many have accepted that which can't be altered  
and work robotically, going about their daily lives,  
their unshed tears let out as sighs.

Some enhanced their skills,  
ways to cope with all this they were devising.  
But that's because they had sorted their bills.  
But when the poor looked up into the skies, saw –  
the rising

smoke from pyres, the last of their beloveds,  
blown away like dandelions in a tornado and  
The rich, like migratory geese, flying away  
somewhere safer, somewhere faraway.

The warriors in white keep trying and yet  
crumbling efforts cease in last breaths as if in a  
horror lore.

Like a film on a dystopian society filled with tears  
and sweat.

The reel and real don't seem different anymore.

But then, if so, all this would end, wouldn't it?

And so, hands of different colours and sizes

But with the same wish, from their eyes lit,  
hold onto hope, wishing when the next sun rises,  
the horrors would remain in the pages of their  
journal.

And all of this have become our new normal.

- Jisha Jijumon



## Inevitable Change

I still remember the day  
 Which gave immense power to my soul.  
 The day that made me to believe  
 That a withered flower could bloom again.  
 Six months ago  
 A message on my phone.  
 From the one I loved more than anyone.  
 "Sorry", I never loved you"  
 That day I realised nothing  
 Last forever.  
 My castle built so strong,  
 Toppled with just one strong wave  
 I was dying bit by bit while  
 The world was craving for breath.  
 Yes, it was the same time of the pandemic  
 With the viruses spreading all over.  
 My whole body too was getting  
 Infected with negativity  
 While everyone around were praying to live,  
 I was praying to die.  
 Death was the only thing I thought  
 Which could help me to get over this pain  
 I could never recover

I could never come back.  
 Forced to stay inside  
 With family around added to the trauma  
 Seeing my mom's face,  
 Added regret to the intolerable pain  
 Around me a new world emerged  
 The New Normal was being created  
 everywhere  
 Yes, I too needed a virtual mask,  
 A mask of happiness.  
 I started coaching myself,  
 That's how I myself became  
 My own role model.  
 Slowly the virtual mask  
 Got grafted on my face  
 And gradually became what I am.  
 I decided, everyone should see me in a crown.  
 A fearless change arose in me  
 Which killed the sweet girl  
 And birthed a brave girl.

-Ashly Ann Binu



## Hold on

This hand seems to be precious.  
The ones who have it, don't want to leave.  
The ones who want it, desperately crave.  
My hands are tied,  
For I am a puppet, in the hands of destiny,  
Moving, the way the strings are pulled.  
The story is with the writer  
The story that I do not know  
But the story I am part of.  
As the world's a stage  
And we all actors  
For I do not know if my story ends with you  
Or if there would be a scene for us together,  
again.

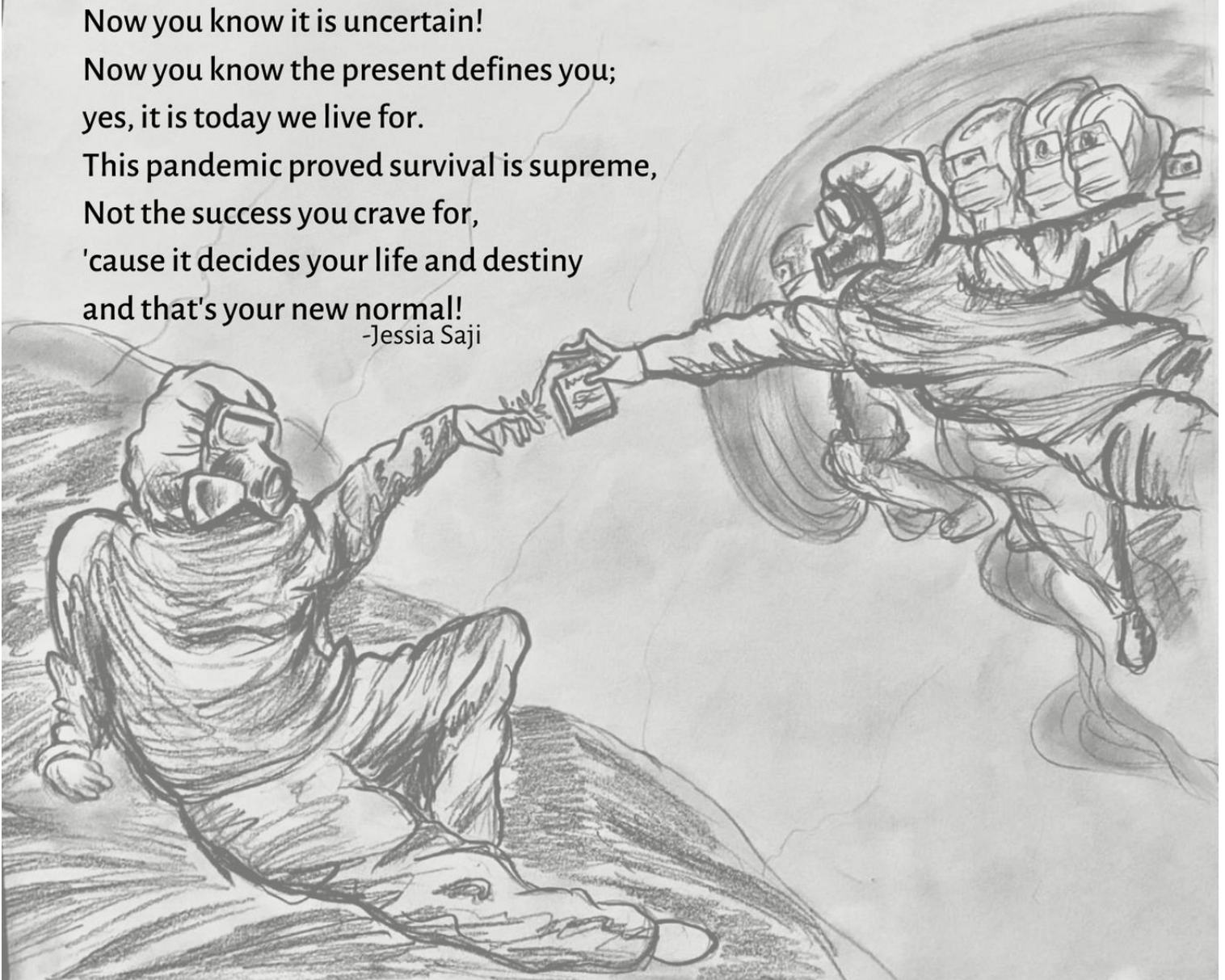
- Hridaya B



## SURVIVAL

This pandemic clutched many lives  
But not the memories of them,  
This pandemic exposed the real ones who hid beneath masks  
This pandemic taught, life is not in the past regrets;  
This pandemic paved a way to a new life with no expectations.  
This pandemic introduced a transformed living,  
A life full of ventures and revelations  
Is it wrong to believe this is good  
Even after it took so much from you?  
I think it is not, 'cause it also moulded a new you, a strong you, a better you.  
In the midst of those twist and turns,  
You mustn't ignore the little things that cheered you  
Now you know to stop searching for tomorrow  
Now you know it is uncertain!  
Now you know the present defines you;  
yes, it is today we live for.  
This pandemic proved survival is supreme,  
Not the success you crave for,  
'cause it decides your life and destiny  
and that's your new normal!

-Jessia Saji



# Battle for Survival

The super humans of the world  
Started fighting with a virus .

The battle for survival.

At first the virus won,  
It killed many of us.

But the super humans  
Fought the battle with courage and unity.

They are working hard,  
They fought with all their might.

The fight is still on.

Masks and Sanitizers-  
Are the shields of survival.

The super humans are fighting the virus,  
Without fear as it is a matter of life.

Freedom was curbed.

People were all shut in their homes.

Due to a small virus,

There are no social gatherings and enjoyment.

Yet we stay together with our families.

The fight is still on,

We will win the battle for survival.

- Athulya Bhaskaran



# Krysp Genre





# Reshaping the Life Post-Pandemic

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The COVID-19 pandemic made a huge impact on human lives. In many sectors, including agriculture and education, the economic impact is quite devastating. People are struggling due to poverty, unemployment, and numerous other issues. There was a time when school and college were considered as the turning points in the life of every individual but that has changed now. Living in a world where humans are supposed to stay inside the rooms, closing the windows and doors shut, is indeed something that was never imagined. But now, all are forced to rethink about most of the common ideas that are passed on to generations. Every culture follows a death ritual which they consider significant. While Hindus believe in the concept of Moksha, Christians believe in soul resting in peace, and likewise every religion has different concepts and opinions when it comes to death and afterlife. It is quite interesting to notice that these customs and rituals became a question due to the pandemic. People started burning dead bodies together, mixing the ashes as one single entity and not as different individuals. The friends and relatives no longer visit the family of the deceased. In other words, even though the clashes between religion continue, there emerged a certain idea of unity which is still unnoticed. The pandemic can be considered as an eye opener. Those who consulted doctors for curable diseases started practicing home remedies. Those who were forced to stay at home due to lockdown, started communicating more instead of continuously staring into android phones. But every change in the world involves positive as well as negative sides. The continuous use of laptops leading to eye strain and other serious post-COVID-19 health issues and side effects can't be neglected. Many died, many suffered the loss of their dear ones, and the fear of death became a prevailing idea in human minds. In the case of the pandemic, it was indeed the consequences that outnumbered the changes. In spite of all the struggles, people are still finding ways to overcome those consequences. It is true that life is not going to be back to normal in the near future but the quest for reshaping life continues....

- Dhanya Pankajakshan

Page Designed by: Krishnaveni



"We cannot re-write the chapters of history but we can learn from them, evolve and adapt." - Anonymous.

The Coronavirus pandemic has changed, and will keep on changing the world and the manner in which we work, rest and play. Returning to the ways of how things were before the pandemic isn't a choice. The test is to begin the way towards contemplating the 'new normal'. Gan Davies, in his article "The New Normal" summarizes that most people are peering through the fog of uncertainty thinking about how to position themselves once the crisis has passed and things return to normal. The question is, "What will normal look like?". While no one can say how long the crisis will last, remembering that we have survived numerous difficulties is vital. This pandemic too is something we should confront and get past. Our new post-pandemic thinking should accompany the thought that we need to simply accept the way to look at things in an unexpected way, think and act anew.

The current circumstance is heartbreaking, appalling and loaded up with dread and nervousness.

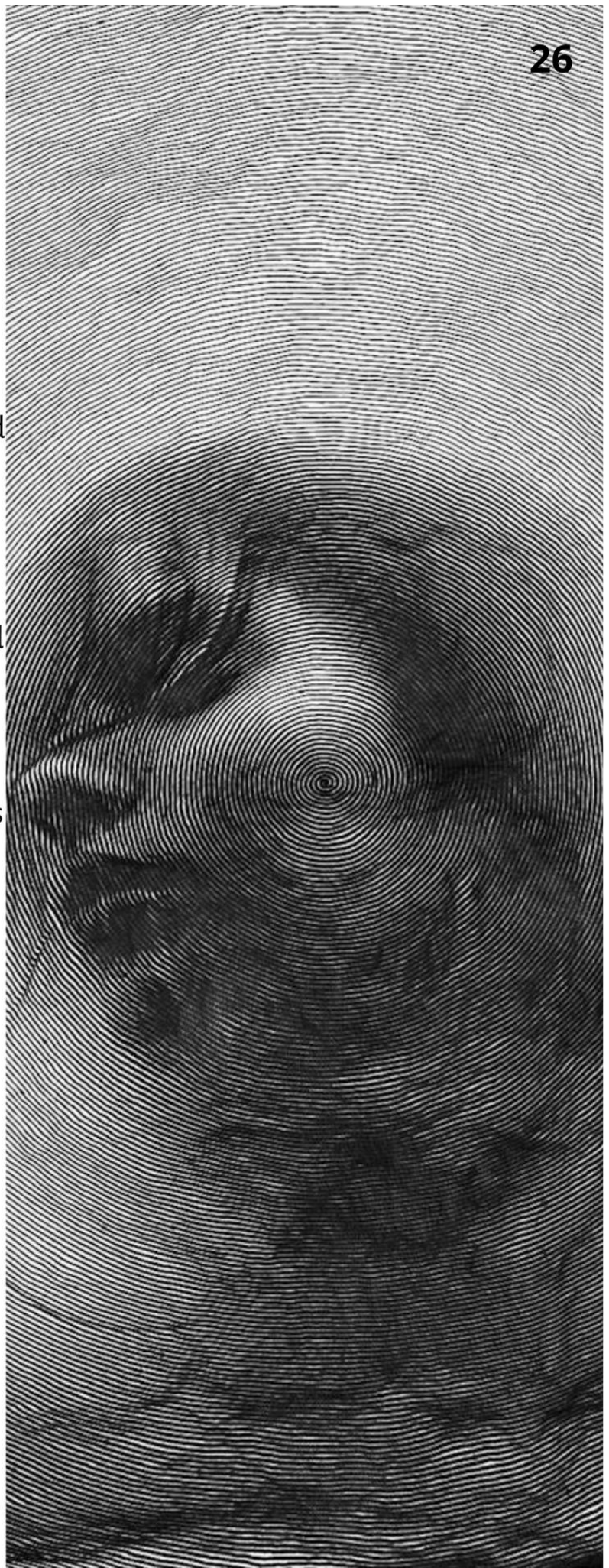
Nevertheless there are slim silver linings which will appear once you search for them.

-Akhila Koovackal

# SHADOW PANDEMIC

The term “new normal” has been something that has been wildly used to refer to the current situation. But the actual question is: what is normal in the “new normal”? With the onset of the pandemic, a majority of the people saw drastic changes in their lives. Things that were considered to be impossible seemed possible now and people started looking at life with a whole new perspective, and for some people the pandemic provided them with happiness and more family time, whereas, for another group of people, the pandemic has been harsh and punishing.

Taking the Indian population into consideration; there are many different groups and communities in the Indian scenario and one such large community is of the Indian women. Gender-based violence is nothing new to the Indian community. But the fact that there was a major hike in the percentage of gender-based violence in India is quite heart-breaking during these difficult times. UN Women coined the term “shadow pandemic” which means the intensification of gender-based violence during COVID-19, which has cast a dark shadow amidst the already darkening situation as a result of the pandemic. While violence is globally recognized as a serious public health concern, it is quite pervasive in India. India speaks highly about its women and always tend to put them on a high pedestal, which is in fact, a faux that is used to control them. The real question that we need to ask ourselves here is that: are we really going to turn a blind eye towards this and pretend its normal in the “new normal”?





## GOING BACK TO OUR ROOTS

I was talking to my mother in the early morning when she said that, “Maybe, this is the time to go back to where we have come from”. I, with my little knowledge, thought that I am already where I have come from. Where do I go from here? But obviously, that's not what she meant. She meant going back to our original thoughts without filtering them. She was talking about how her grandparents or her father used to wash their feet and hands when they came from somewhere, how hygiene was maintained and our homes were considered no less than temples. It was a sacred place and if someone travelled, they straight away went to shower after entering the house, so maybe, COVID-19 is teaching us this. The things we have forgotten. The things our grandmothers always knew on which the scientists are spending billion dollars to discover. It is really a tragedy!

"Forgotten" - stressing on this word, we are reminded of so many things and the things we have revived during this lockdown. How we have forgotten the importance and value of living! Just "living"!

When asked, “What's the greatest lesson you have learnt in your life?”, my 90-year-old grandfather would say– “Just keep living. And the rest will take care of itself”.

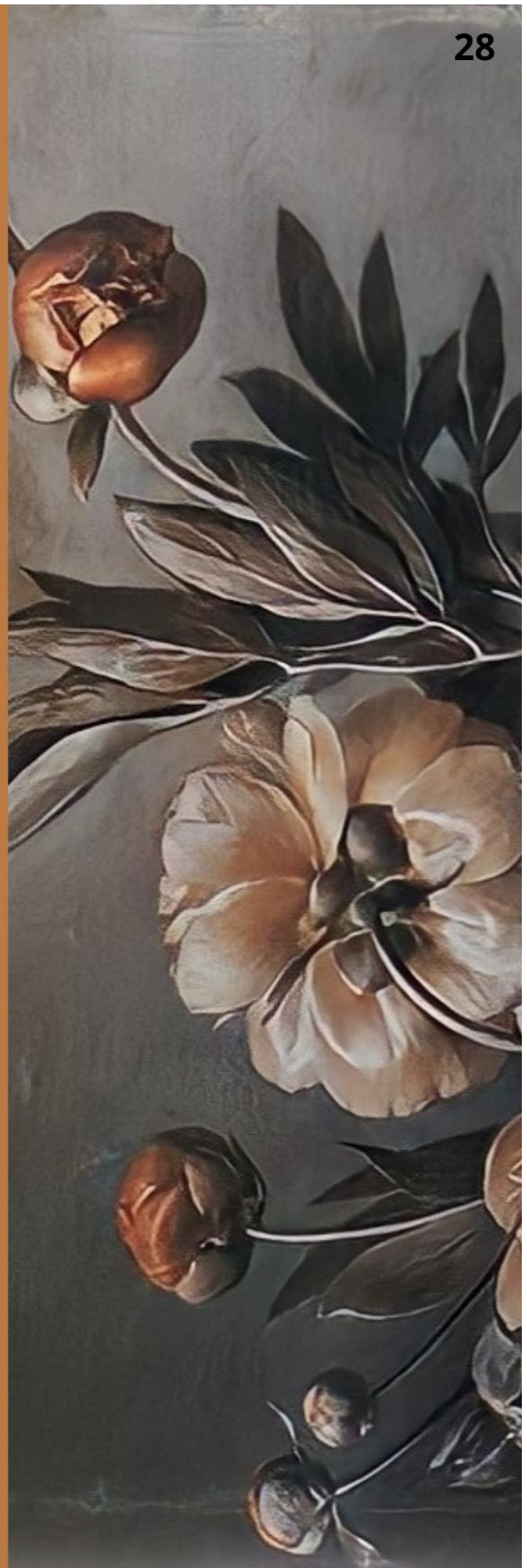
Self-realisation:

We can call it the presence of ourselves. To know, that we are here. To love and feel the warmth of a loving home, to respect each being around us, and to feel the guilt that we have been neglecting some people and not thanking them. As the great philosopher Bulleh Shah says, “Bulleh Shah attempts to grab flying objects of the sky but, fails to grab the object sitting at his home.”

This pandemic has made us cry, made us laugh, made us think about what's really important.

I never thought I would be part of something so huge. It feels like we have got a lot of stories to tell our children. And if you come to think of it, it's not something that only one part of people know about; it's something universal. It's what everyone, every being is going through. The whole world is a part of it.

-Nandini Nagar



# LIVING THE 'NEW NORMAL'

Covid-19 came, saw and conquered India in the beginning months of 2020 and then life became too unexpected and uncertain. A lockdown came and went but life didn't return back to normal. The heavy shadow of the disease was still lurking around, waiting for an opportunity to hunt us down. It struck back even more fiercely. People will gradually get used to lockdowns and periods of normal life and then we will be living the New Normal.

We need to be grateful to our doctors, nurses, other medical staff and policemen who devotedly work for the welfare of the public. We should make sure that we do not add to their already increasing burden. We can only conquer this pandemic by collective effort and not sinking under a false sense of security whenever the disease seems to be abating.

- Ardra Therese Joseph



# NEW NORMAL

Adjusting to change can be tough but it's a part of being human. Pre-COVID-19 times were totally different as we were busy with doing our own things, living our own lives. Humans have always been known for taking everything for granted. Over the years, we have exploited our mother earth and now she is revolting. Many people lost their loved ones in this pandemic. Before COVID-19, who would have thought that toilet paper could be as precious as gold!

Apart from all the negativities, there are some positive sides also. People are valuing relationships more now. A sense of understanding also developed among people. As human beings, freedom is an important aspect of our living. But because of the pandemic, we are forced to stay at home as that is the safest thing to do right now. Nowadays, going for grocery shopping seems like an adventure. Who knew a day like this would come! This is the new normal.

The pandemic also made us realise the power of touch. Because of the virus, we have to maintain distance from our loved ones. The virus turned our lives upside down but it also made us realise who we really are. We are humans, we are social beings. We are made in love, to give love and to be loved. During pre-COVID-19 times, people didn't have the time to talk to their family or friends. They were living a monotonous life with work as their priority. They had lost touch with their human side. Everything is different now. Masks and sanitizers are our new essentials.

We have shifted to online education as offline education seems impossible these days. Online education is the new normal. People have started working from home to avoid using public transport and gatherings. The way we used to socialise has also changed. For now, we have said our goodbyes to restaurants, theatres, etc. We all should learn to be happy wherever we are or whatever the situation is. As for now, this is our new normal.

We should teach our kids that happiness doesn't depend on external factors. Happiness comes from within. It's human to miss the old ways but it is better to accept things and free ourselves from anything which weigh us down. So, let's just enjoy the pandemic with our loved ones and let's grow together.

- Irin Roshan



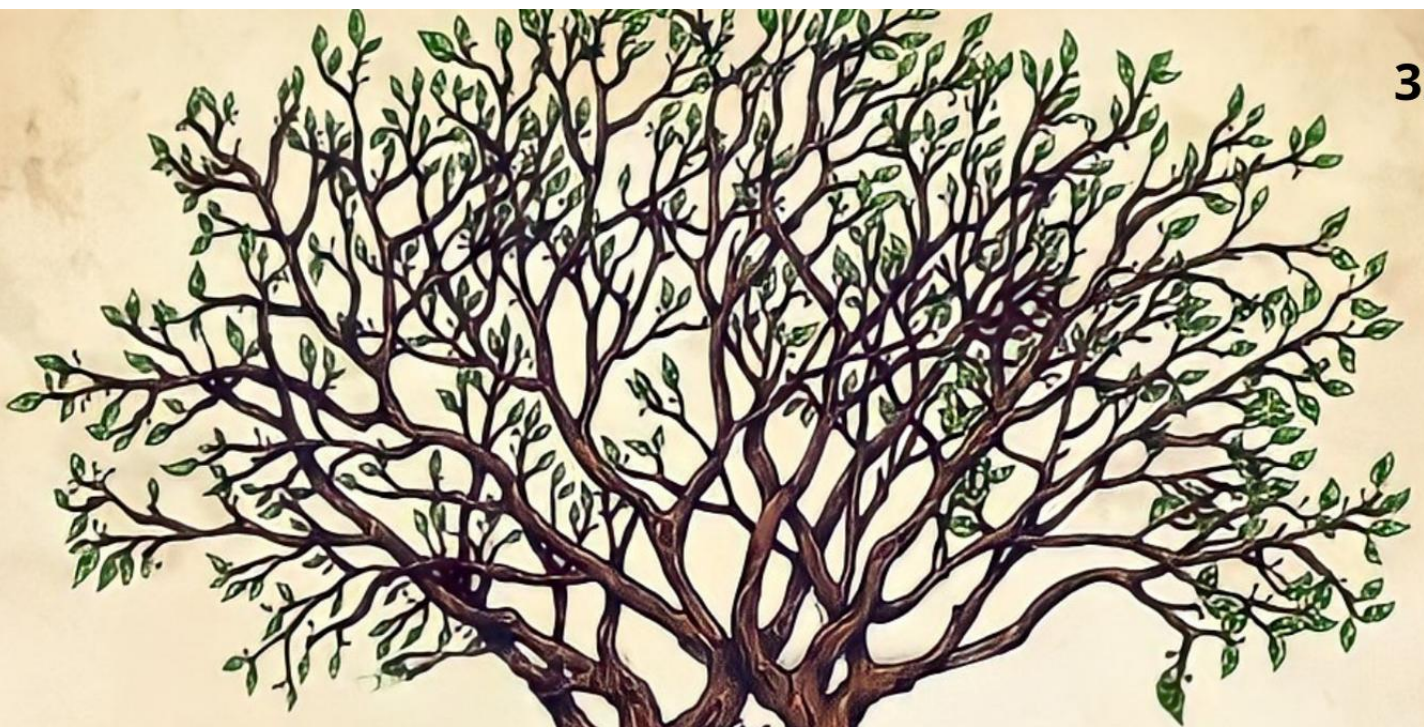
# NO ONE IS SAFE UNTIL EVERYONE IS

All of a sudden it feels as if the whole planet got transformed into a platform to stage a sci-fi thriller. Where did it all start? From a mere lab in Wuhan. What are we dealing with? A tiny microbial sphere with a diametrical size ranging from 20 nm to 500 nm which succeeded in creating terrible chaos worldwide, more than what a “Godzilla” could. Now speaking of our very own country, the virological impact of the pandemic has reached its zenith. 2020 was what many tagged as the worst. But for the world’s largest democracy, 2020 was just a beginning. India is reeling under the severe impact of the second wave of Covid-19 and being one among the most populous countries, most of the states in India are struggling to cope up with the rising numbers. The health care system is under collapse, it has been pushed to the brink, ranging to the remotest corners, and all are now running out of beds and even facing a severe oxygen shortage. The infected ones keep on waiting and gasping and by the time

help arrives, some might have already taken their last gasp. The social media feeds are flooded with the frantic pleas for oxygen cylinders. The country is up against a battle for breath. Now, “why this exponential rise in numbers?” is a serious query with a simple, sensible answer to it - huge religious gatherings, crowded election rallies, reopening of public places are to name a few. Giving it a serious thought, the government did and is still doing its best in curbing the pandemic. But how did the situation get out of hand? Even after repeated warnings, people carelessly shed the Covid protocols assuming a “false sense of normalcy”. Just taking a simple decision of staying back home and avoiding social gatherings could play an important role in laying a chain on this explosive spread. It is high time for each and every one of us to make it a point in our life to keep ourselves safe in order to keep the ones around us safe.

- A N Sreelakshmi





## IT'S HOW THE

COVID-19 has brought in drastic changes in the life of people. Many were able to acquire new skills and use technology to become productive. It was wonderful when people didn't see the pandemic as something that could stop them. In fact, many were able to build up their own business by just staying in their homes. These sudden changes forced employees and the companies to adapt to new work conditions and in the growing need for healthcare services in which technology has played a vital role. New applications of video conferencing for doctor appointments, contact tracing applications, and emergency messaging services were introduced. Many took these times as a means to discover their innate talents and abilities to convert it into an extra source of income. Due

## DNA EVOLVES

Due to the lockdowns during the pandemic, people were not able to go to work and many lost their jobs including the daily wagers. Building their own businesses became the norm. Many influencers and entertainers emerged during this pandemic period gaining popularity and increased followers. Many poets were born as people were able to voice their thoughts through poetry as were film directors who started releasing on various streaming platforms. The pandemic made people think of the numerous possibilities that lay hidden. In a way, it empowered people and made the impossible possible. It showed us that we are much more capable than we thought we are.

- Jeethukrishna.S

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# THE NORMALLY NEW ADVENTURES OF MYSELF AND ME!

Episode 1:

My Sleeping Sidekick.

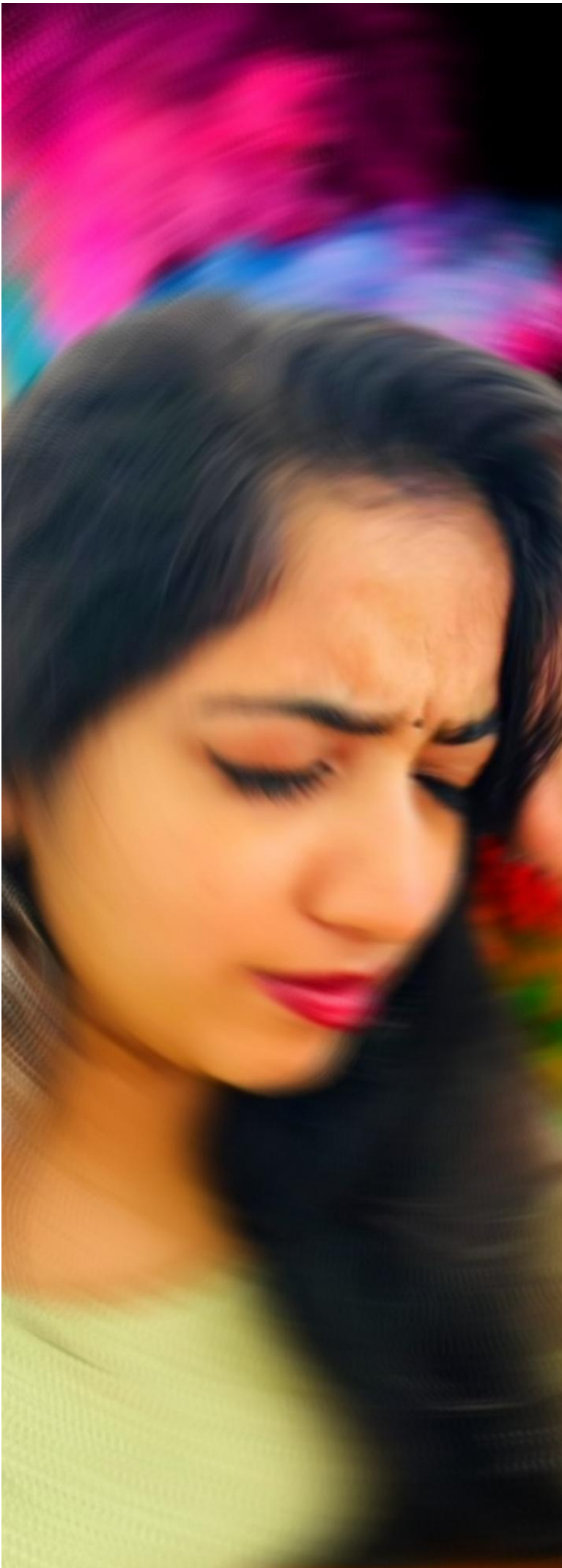
Let me tell you about my routine. I wake up, get ready, board the train, reach office, come back home, prepare for dinner or if I don't have any energy left; just sleep in my bed and start mentally preparing for the next day. Yes! The bed. The most amazing part of a house, a home within a home that comes in different shapes and sizes. I guess that is why we have BHK with B in the front. And then the lockdown was initiated in my town. There were a lot of online meetings. At first, I was well prepared for the online debacle that ensued with a bright bookshelf in the line of the viewer's sight. The bookshelf did have books but just for keepsake. At first, the video was on and everything turned out great. Then as months passed, I was fed up with my line of sight – a pink plaster of blank wall. But a house has little else to provide to the viewers. Kitchen is not a place for meetings and washrooms are off limits. So, bedroom it was! So, now I just lay in my bed with a blanket carousing around me and my sleepy sidekick is my laptop.

- Aksa Sara Lal

## DIGITAL DEMENTIA

The expanding accessibility and utilization of computerized innovations in our daily routines give way to another type of experience: Digital Dementia. Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, the entire world is affected by the inconsistent notice to psychosocial wellbeing. We are witnessing an unprecedented digital dementia load. Individuals are increasingly dependent on the screens in front of them. Everything happening in our lives revolves around technology, adding to the 'marvel' of digital dementia. Social disconnection and separation are probably going to further deteriorate as people are faced with alarming effects of memory loss and cognition. The overuse of cell phones is gravely impacting the psychological well-being of all. With the harsh guidelines and lockdowns in the pandemic, people ended up engaging with smartphones and different gadgets. We are performing various tasks on our smartphones and searching for data on different platforms. More than 60 million individuals are estimated to have digital dementia and every 3 seconds new cases are added. Innovation is a part of our lives, yet how we utilize this innovation is important. In the effort to forestall digital dementia, we need to move away from our regular reflex of poring over our smartphones and instead adopt new hobbies or activities and make them a habit during this pandemic.

- Grace Therace



# DI GI TA L

## Cast Aside!

In this day and age where our digital devices have become of utmost importance, it is necessary for us to spend time away from the enslavement it offers so as to achieve a better state of mind and body. Digital Detox would be the perfect solution to reduce our nonessential screen time. It refers to a period of time during which a person refrains from using electronic devices connected to the internet.

Here are few ways that would be helpful in adapting to digital detox:

1. Cast the devices aside once the essential tasks are done and move on to other productive engagements like sports or arts which would prevent burn out.
2. The rule of 8s — eight hours of work, eight hours of sleep and eight hours for doing things one is interested in can prove to be helpful.
3. One can gradually reduce the amount of time spent by setting aside a specific day of the week to refrain from checking social media.
4. Interactions with family members or friends can be a positive distraction from the devices.
5. Have patience and believe in yourself!

- Jisha Jijumon

# DET OX

# Kritique



# Virus

Director Aashiq Abu's *Virus* is based on the Nipah virus outbreak that created big panic especially in the Malabar region of Kerala last year. It is also a great episode in history about how Malayalis come together as one to fight the unfortunate situation. As the story



starts, the information on the infection a flare-up comes in as a shock for the medical clinics and the specialists. When it is affirmed that the contamination has been brought about by Nipah infection, the circumstance had gotten serious. The team headed by State health minister C K Pameela Revathy), District collector Paul K Abraham (Tovino Thomas), Director of Health Services Dr. Smrithi (Poornima Indrajith) and a group of medical personnel take over the mission. There have been a couple of instances of Nipah flare-up across the world and there are no meds that can fix the contamination without any problem. This leads to a great amount of confusion initially. Scientist Dr. Suresh Rajan (Kunchacko Boban) of the Virology Institute and scientific expert Anu (Parvathy Thiruvothu) helps the team in identifying the cause and planning the course of action. It is an elegant film, with notable names doing characters, some of which are brief jobs. Rima Kallingal plays sister Akhila, the person enlivened from an attendant in the clinic, sister Lini, who got tainted with the infection and died later. Sister Lini's unrivaled dedication to her calling and obligation to her kindred creatures stay a difficult memory in the personalities of each Keralite. With an amazing content by Muhsin Parari, Sharfu and Suhas, director Aashiq Abu has made a honest film that must be watched eagerly. Rajeev Ravi's visuals and Sushin Shyam's music are top notch. This is one film where each actor has made their person look totally persuading and absolutely real and we can continue endlessly portraying every one of them. The lengths of the jobs are not the key here but rather there are some breathtaking showcase of ability even by those actors whose jobs last just a few minutes. *Virus* takes Malayalam film to another level with its brightness. This is a film with its heart at the right place.

Try not to miss this one.



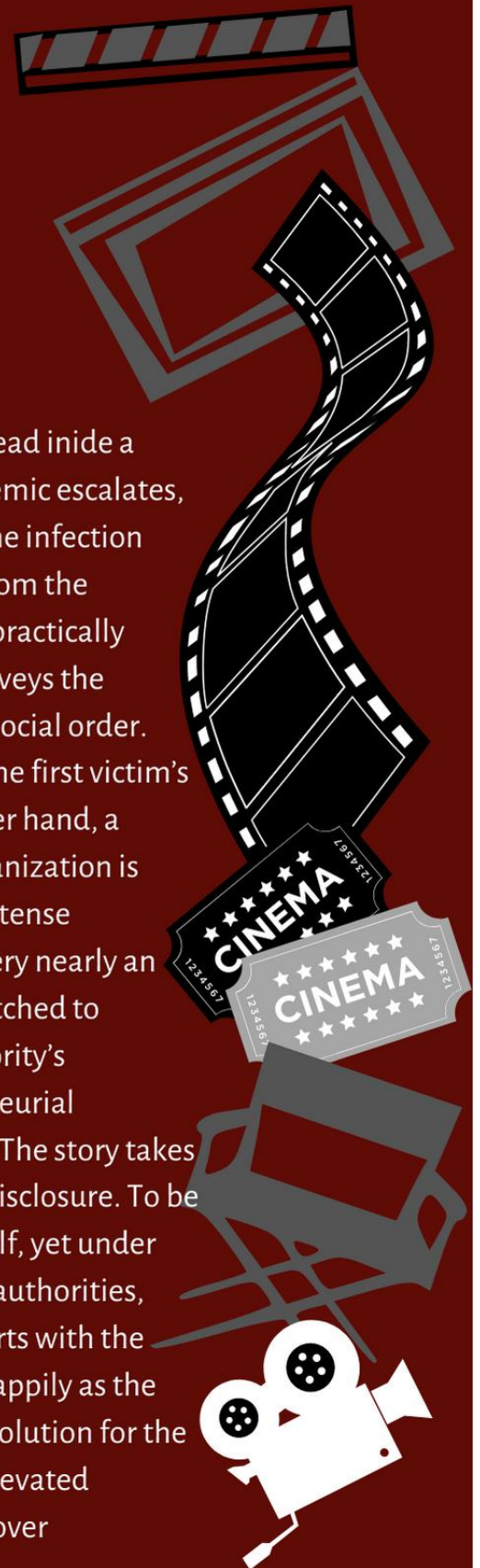


# Contagion

The film begins with an American business woman (Paltrow) getting back after an trip to Hong Kong. With hardly a pause in between, both she and her young child capitulate to a strange infection. Then, the exceptionally irresistible

infection quickly spreads all throughout the world. Millions drop dead inside a couple of long stretches of contamination. As the worldwide pandemic escalates, specialists attempt to beat the clock to discover the wellspring of the infection and a cure. Everything about this wake up call is picked with care from the worldwide areas to the top-draw cast. Portraying occasions with a practically documentary like feel, director Soderbergh (Traffic) Effectively conveys the mounting sense of dread along with the attendant collapse of the social order. Then again, the different storylines are quite devised. It turns out the first victim's husband (Damon) has a type of normal invulnerability. On the other hand, a delegate (Oscar-champ Marion Cotillard) of the World Health Organization is seized and held for deliver which turns out to be a transfer of the intense antibody. A sub-plot including a scientist (old timer Elliot Gould) very nearly an advancement is given quick work. Watchers are additionally far-fetched to identify with the over-burden of logical language. The public authority's automatic reaction to emergency circumstances and the entrepreneurial propensities of drug organizations are evaluated fairly gracelessly. The story takes a turn for the old hat as it trundles along to an enemy of climactic disclosure. To be reasonable, the movie is stunningly captured by the director himself, yet under his standard pseudonym of Peter Andrews. As bothered wellbeing authorities, Kate Winslet, Laurence Fishburne and Jennifer Ehle depict their parts with the imperative measure of anxiety and agony. Jude Law exaggerates happily as the dissident blogger who professes to have discovered a homeopath solution for the infection. In spite of the fact that Contagion doesn't compare the elevated expectations set by Steven Soderbergh, it's absolutely a cut or two over the current crop of doomsday fantasies.

- Kenlee Thattil





# The Vegetarian: Han Kang

The protagonist Yeong Hye when woke up in the morning from a horrible dream, she turned into vegetarian all of a sudden. The novel has three parts in which Han explores the Korean domesticity, the element of rebellion, desire and the female body. This master piece which was her first translated work eventually won The Man Booker International Prize of 2016 and half of the credit for it should be given to Deborah Smith who did a glorious work in translating the same which made it possible for this unequalled piece of art to reach a wider group of audience. In these three parts of the novel comes in three characters of Yeong Hye's husband, her brother-in-law and her sister respectively. Through the protagonist

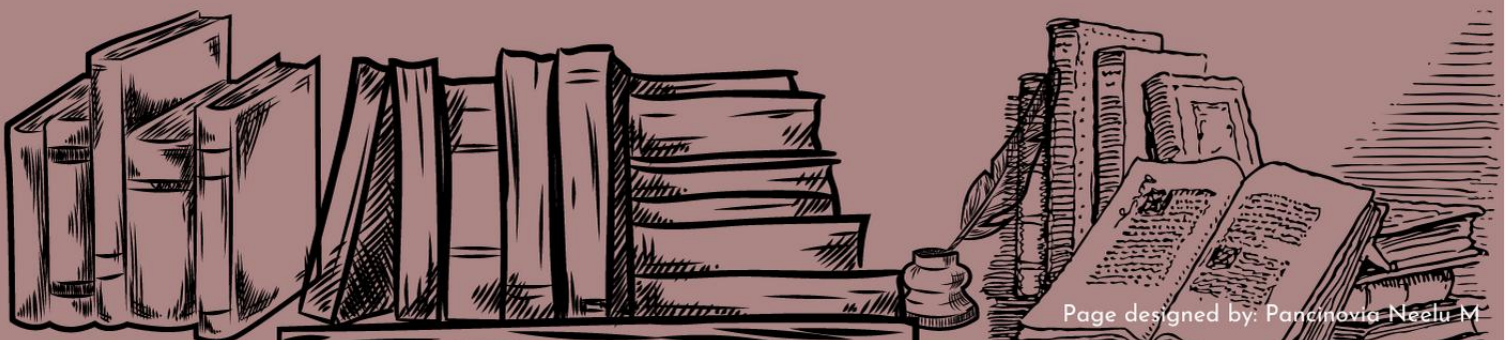


and her association with these characters the author succeeds in putting forth the elements of family, sexual exploration, self-satisfaction and perfect peace within oneself. This new found state of being an herbivore diminished her external relations while strengthened her inner self.

At first, we see how the society subdues women to a rank of fulfilling the needs of a man. But as the story proceeds the reader understands it is all about finding the right people at the right time as per the demand of the situation. The element of lust is not portrayed as a notion with respect to the aspect of attraction but instead focuses on the might of free spirit and puts forth a raw idea that both male and the female body is nothing but a chunk of meat. Lust here is the symbol of ultimate freedom. The author questions the proximity of the human beings with the nature. The Mongolian Mark which comes in the second section of the novel explores the aspect of human body being a work of art.

The book is perfectly arranged structurally. She takes the readers to and fro in time and succeeds in capturing the reader's attention from the beginning to the end. There is continuous ups and downs in the emotional graph. The stark cultural differences of the east and the west stands out in the book. At times her writing becomes abstract leaving the readers to be perplexed but soon the plot regains the right track and this motion continues throughout thus leaving the readers in despair at certain point. She then explores the fact of individualism. Being a vegetarian is not accepted in the Korean domestic culture and therefore the book stands voicing the culture, thoughts and the normative standards of the Korean society. This individualistic decision of Yeong Hye forms the thorough base for all the events that are to unfold in the later stages of the book. The book itself is a unique masterpiece of it's own.

- A N Sreelakshmi





# *Konversations*





# LEADING THE WAY

An Interview with Rev. Dr. Fr. Augustine George  
Principal, Kristu Jayanti college.



**1** Do you see a future where the education system becomes entirely virtual?

It could happen, but we wouldn't prefer it. There must be a blended mode wherein it must be online and offline. The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is already in place and we are going ahead with NEP 2020 for undergraduate programmes. It allows 40% of programmes online and 60% of programmes offline. But it is preferable to have

an offline mode of education for many of the programmes due to various reasons. The learning loss is a major issue that happens currently. No matter what advanced technological capabilities we are equipped with, there is always a lack of information and knowledge. Knowledge is not just sitting inside a classroom and listening to lectures. When you come to college and meet people from different cultures, religions, with different ideologies and tastes, each of these help in shaping you as an individual. Secondly, the span of attention of students and level of concentration in online mode is very limited. However, when it comes to offline mode of classes, the attention span of students listening to the lectures is more. Moreover, offline classes have much more positive impact on the physical and behavioural aspect of a student. Also, at postgraduate level, the focus is more on how much learning is happening rather than how good the scores are and how the learning and experience help in securing a career. Keeping all of this in view, it is always preferable to have a blended mode of education, especially when it comes to subjects that have practical components embedded in it as well because some aspects cannot be taught via online mode. Hence, blended mode is the future.

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I could say I am really happy that I decided to become a priest. I was offered many jobs after my graduation and my friends also asked me to take up one of the jobs offered. But even now, I believe that the decision to become a priest has been the best decision in my life.

**2** Can you tell us about an incident which has had a profound impact on you?

**3** Do you think the Jayantian culture has helped the students and faculty cope better during the pandemic?

The uniqueness of Kristu Jayanti College is its culture. Each institution has a culture that combines the value system, the practices, the regulations and also the system in place. We are quite proud of the culture that we have, wherein we focus on the formation of a student, the value orientation.

We are working with all the stakeholders to develop skills and attain knowledge both horizontally and vertically. There is a system in place wherein students know what to do, how to do, when to do and also what would be the ultimate goal that has to be achieved. However, when we had to adopt the online mode of education last year due to the pandemic, the major concern was the well-being of the students more than their learning level. Getting confined to a particular place and surroundings could have an impact on the well-being of students because their exposure is completely closed and their emotional well-being is also at risk. However, the teachers have been able to connect with the students and there were a lot of instances where students reached out to the teachers at times of difficulty and also expressed their desire and willingness to come back to the college, which speaks for itself. While I have no right answer for your question, I can say that Kristu Jayanti College was and is capable of managing the situation.

I used to read novels and I have read around 500 novels. I have read works of Morris, D H Lawrence and many such authors, but they are all historical in nature. Novels can also be seen as works of philosophy and since I studied philosophy, I enjoy reading any book that instigates my reasoning capacity. Currently, I am reading

G Krishnamurthy's books which are mystical in nature and it also has a good flow in its writing. I have also read Osho's books which contain pure philosophy. I have read the philosophical doctrines of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Vivekananda and Kabirdas. I enjoy reading ancient, medieval and Indian philosophies.

**4** Who would be your favourite poet or author from any of the books you read that readily caught your attention?

5 How has the college contributed to the community and the neighbourhood to deal with the pandemic?

As we all know, the initial situation during the pandemic was quite chaotic and we had the well-being of our students as the first priority before going out and helping the community. We had many students who were unable to travel back to their homes and were locked up in their places of stay.

We communicated to the students through class animators, checked if they had any requirements and personally delivered even groceries to students who were in need of it. The other issue was that many students were not being able to continue with online mode of education because they did not have the gadgets required. There were two ways in which the college tried to tackle the issue. Firstly, the college contributed a lot from the college fund and secondly, the college sought the help of benefactors to give away necessary gadgets to the students. When it comes to helping the society, we have UBA villages and we concentrated our activities to a particular village wherein we distributed the grocery items multiple times along with basic medicines and clothing requirements.

Kristu Jayanti College has a futuristic vision. We had two prospective plans, the first plan from 1999 to 2008 and the second plan from 2008 to 2018. Now we have the third prospective plan from 2018 to 2028. As of now, we have achieved everything in the prospective plan. It was our decision to go for the NAAC accreditation; it was our decision to be an autonomous institution in a particular year;

likewise, whatever we have achieved until now is present in our policy document. Now coming to your question, as per our third prospective plan, we aspire to be a university and by 2024, we would initiate the process to be a university. Secondly, expansion of the campus is something that we are working on, as we now have only one campus with around 8000 students. We plan on expanding the area so that the campus is not congested. Another aim to be achieved is securing a standard academic process for which we have integrated technology heavily with academic processes. For example, the Learning Management System that we are currently using is so capable, powerful and robust when it comes to aiding the academic process. Making the academic

6 Where do you see Kristu Jayanti College in the near future?

process robust is one of our focus areas, wherein we assess the quality of the teachers, the quality of the students and the quality of the process adopted, as well. We'd also have to look at the educational resources that we must have in the institution, which is not just the infrastructure but also the academic resource centres. For example, there must be a well-equipped research centre, quality enhancement centre, employability enhancement of the students and so on. We have all these plans in place while we look at the future development of the college.

7 Is there a person you look upto every single time you make a decision?

While talking about having a role model, I cannot refer to only a single person as a role model for me. Personally, I am very attached to my mother, but when I look at other aspects of life, there are many other people who contributed a lot. So if I have to pin down to one person, that would be

St. Kuriakose Alias Chavara who is the founding

founding father of the congregation. When I started reading about him and the contributions he made to the society, I was really enthralled to know about the kind of development he could bring about in society. When I joined the seminary, I read a lot about him and he wasn't only a saint but someone from whom the society benefited a lot. For example, in Kerala, wherever there is a church, there is a school too and it was he who initiated that in the 19th century. Whether history recognises him or not, his contributions have played a huge role in the literacy of the people in Kerala. Hence, I look up to him as a role model.

Humanities deals with people, culture and society. Anything that comes under this field of study connects the past with the present and it gives a direction for the future. For instance, in English literature, you study an array of literature like dramas and poems, to name a few, which either speak of nature or the people or the society or the prevailing systems. It gives us an insight into the living conditions and culture of that particular time.

8 What according to you would be the role of study of humanities in future?

9 Could you share your time management strategies so that we can learn from it?

As the Principal of this institution, it is true that I have to do my duties on time. For time management, firstly, we have to identify what are the things that need to be done and prioritize them. There are certain tasks which need the involvement of other people, so we need to plan things out accordingly.

"The one rule that I believe in is to live each day to its fullest."

10 What is the one rule which you always live by in your life?

11 What would be your message to the students of MA English Literature?

I would like to say that, you all are in the final stage of your formal studies. First and foremost, you have to enjoy your student-life. You must think about your career and you must work for the kind of life you want to lead. So, each moment is precious. Make sure you have a lot of friends, build a good bond with your teachers and learn from each and every person. Learning from people is way more important because learning does not happen only from books. When you communicate with people, there happens to be a sharing of knowledge. Enjoy each and every kind of learning. As PG students, you are very much focused on the career you want to build, so think about it and work towards getting to that goal.

- Pancinovia Neelu M & A N Sreelakshmi



## KOHL AND GHUNGROOS : AN INTERVIEW WITH LAKSHMI KARTHIK

*Lakshmi Karthik has a prolific career. She donned the roles of a trained classical dancer, a skilled and passionate teacher and an anchor in the Doordarshan Chennai and in Sri Sankara TV. She has showcased her talents and achieved huge success – being the winner of Jaya TV Tha Ka Dhi Mi Tha episode 2008 and receiving the title of “Bharathanatya Kalai Thilakam” & Seva Rathna Award from South Indian Social and Cultural Academy, Chennai, to name a few. She is also a member of International Dance Council c/o UNESCO and has published her dance writings/articles in International Dance Council Panorama. Here, we have her sharing her thoughts on how the pandemic has affected her in a conversation with Jisha Jijumon.*

Do you think dance performances on online media or virtual platforms would replace live physical dance performances in the near or distant future, and if so, then to what extent?

I don't think it would replace one another as both of them have their own advantages and disadvantages. I would rather say that it is an alternative. There would be live performances going on and simultaneously, these online platforms will create more viewers due to lesser practical difficulties, such as overcoming transportation difficulties to attend the performances. And because of today's technology, the audience is increasing. Many have access to social networking sites. Online media has the potential to garner a larger audience. In live, real time performances, of course you can understand the wavelength of the artist and the audience, eye contact is maintained which amounts to more understanding, and all of these might not be possible in recorded performances but I feel that both will go hand in hand, one cannot replace the other.

During this pandemic, which role became more difficult for you – being a professional dancer or a teacher?





Dance teacher. Teaching was more difficult. When you are a professional dancer or any other professional, it is your choice whether you want to perform or not for a particular event or a period of time. But, when you are a teacher, you are committed to a group of students who are dependent on you and they trust you, so you should give your fullest even if you are uninterested or not in a position to do so at that moment. Somebody else is involved in your process, you have to satisfy their needs and that can be quite challenging. Teaching dance online is rather difficult because from the teacher's point of view, making corrections aren't easy. The dance teacher cannot touch and show them and we also do not get the three-dimensional view, so we don't know how their back posture and hand positions are, which are all very important in classical dances.

**During this last one year, has there been many opportunities for online dance performances?**

Yes, actually there were a large number of opportunities on different platforms thanks to social media. Now, even if they didn't have it earlier, many dancers and dance students have a YouTube channel or a Facebook account of their own. They have understood the need for technology. This generation is able to cope up with the pandemic as so many things can be done online. The opportunities now are more as you can connect to anywhere from a remote place. For instance, 2-3 of our students' performances had gotten telecasted on UNESCO TV, this wouldn't have happened in 2019. But because it was 2020, the organisers were collecting videos through email and it was a virtual dance



festival, otherwise we can't imagine going to France for performing, so this came across as an advantage to my students.

**Classical dance has traditional values attached to it. What is your take on the blend of technological advancements and traditional art forms in the field of performance arts?**

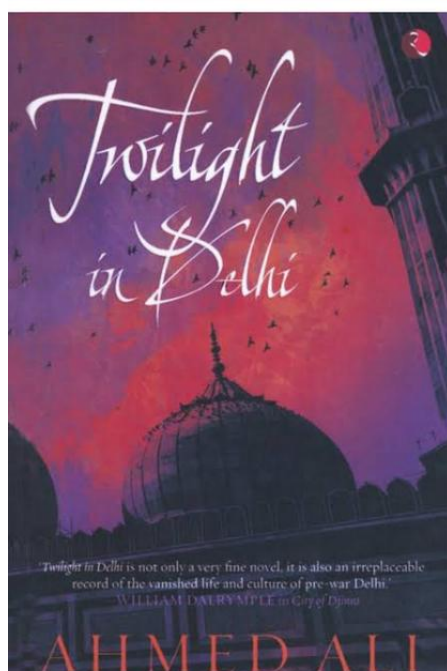
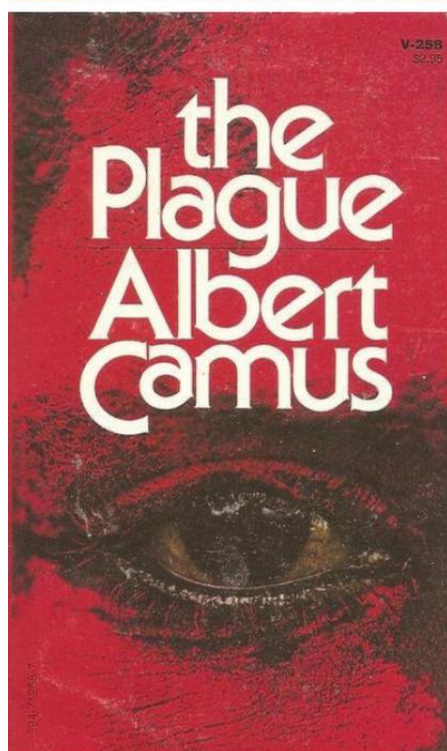
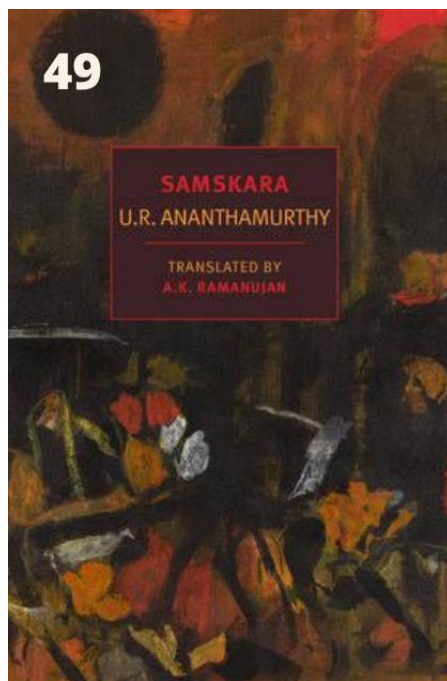
Performances were earlier held with traditional musicians. It evolved slowly. In the olden days as in the temple tradition, a dancer used to dance and a musician used to stand close to the dancer, in a semicircle and sing. Later on, performances were conducted on stages, then came along the mics and electronic sruthis. We now use recorded music. So, tradition changes with time. So, I feel that we cannot say whatever was 100 years ago can only be termed as tradition. Tradition has to go hand in hand with the lifestyle. Only peripheral things have changed but when it comes to the dance and the movements – the main characteristics like the proper position, the hasta mudras, nritta hastas, etc. remain the same and the nuances that the art form holds has not changed and as dancers, we are keeping the traditional value with respect to dance. It is quite alright to adapt to new changes. And when it comes to teaching also, it is evolving. In the olden days, the students used to go to the guru's place and stay for two, three-years. Then, it started like weekly two classes, and now we can see in urban areas, teachers are going to the students' place. So, if that is acceptable, this (technological advancements) is also be accepted.

- Jisha Jijumon



# *Known yet unknown*





## A REAWAKENING OF PANDEMIC LITERATURE

Literature has always offered a clear reflection of human history and with its creative endeavours and it continues to chronicle significant chapters of history, even in the given critical times. Pandemic and plagues were never a novel concept but an undeniable part of human existence, counting from the beginning of time. It's through literature that we cross the boundaries of time and space, to connect to such similar experiences of struggle and fear. The new pandemic reality has confined us within the four walls and now we wade through the pages of history and literature looking for lessons and relatable realities from the past. And at this point, we are re-introduced to pandemic literature which lets us into fictitious examples of how humankind dealt with it.

Giovanni Boccaccio's *The Decameron* (1353), is marked as one of the oldest plague stories. It sets its plot in a period when a group of people tried to escape Black Death, by fleeing Florence. Though it primarily comprises stories of love and tragedy, its premise lies on the woe and helplessness washed over by the plague. The 14th century plague had a vast influence on the creation of post-apocalyptic fiction of the age. Mary Shelley's less popular, nevertheless brilliant piece *The Last Man* (1826) is a compelling dystopian novel with its realistic portrayal of human tragedy. Set in Constantinople in 2092, it offers a glimpse into a horrific state of humanity; with people trying to appease God as the last resort while witnessing Rome descending into ruins. Modelling on a similar style, Jack London authored a post-apocalyptic novel *The Scarlet Plague* in 1912. He puts his narrator, a professor of English literature, in 2073, a dystopian future that is completely disengaged from the past. The old narrator encounters an unfamiliar future through his grandsons, to whom he explains the old knowledge and its way of the world, but in vain.

Pandemic literature has not only given us such a familiar narrative but has addressed more profound views about how humankind dealt with the given situations. Albert Camus's *The Plague* paints a bleak picture of the Algerian town of Oran, as the plague descends on the land in full force. Camus realistically exhibits people's delusion and their state of denial in dismissing the dangers of plague, even in the face of a devastating calamity. The work asserts his own statement from the book, "...there was an element of abstraction and unreality in misfortune. But when an abstraction starts to kill you, you have to get to work on it." *A Journal of Plague Year* by Daniel Defoe is another such

that illustrates an apparent example of the usual practice of the state spreading misinformation and manipulating media to serve their needs. As one of the illuminating works on pandemic, the novel describes 1665 London, hit by the disastrous bubonic plague, which became to be known as the Great Plague of London.

We can say that pandemic literature has also made its presence known among Indian authors as well, with the contribution like U.R Ananthamurthy's Samskara or Ahmed Ali's Twilight in Delhi, that have made references to certain plague and pandemics. Malayalam works like Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai's Thottiyude Makan and Kakkadan's Vasoori had made reference to the outbreak of smallpox, highlighting the crisis of the then human condition. Interestingly enough, Rabindranath Tagore was also able to make space for the reference to smallpox in his Bengali poem Puratan Bhritya. Other works, like Munshi Premchand's Eidgah, Doodh ka Dam, Rebati have given reference to cholera, clearly illustrating its impact on people's lives.

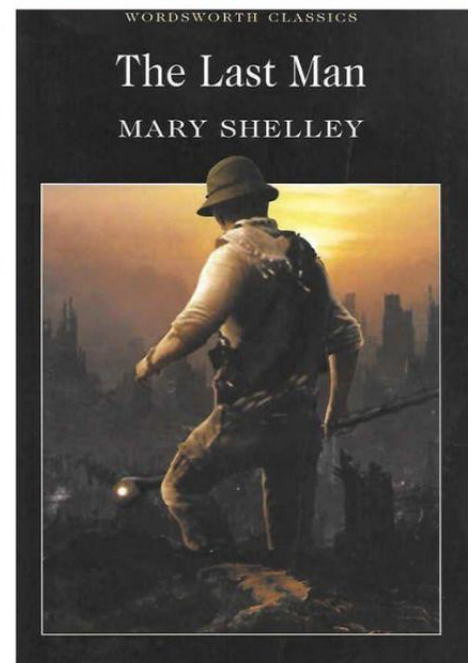
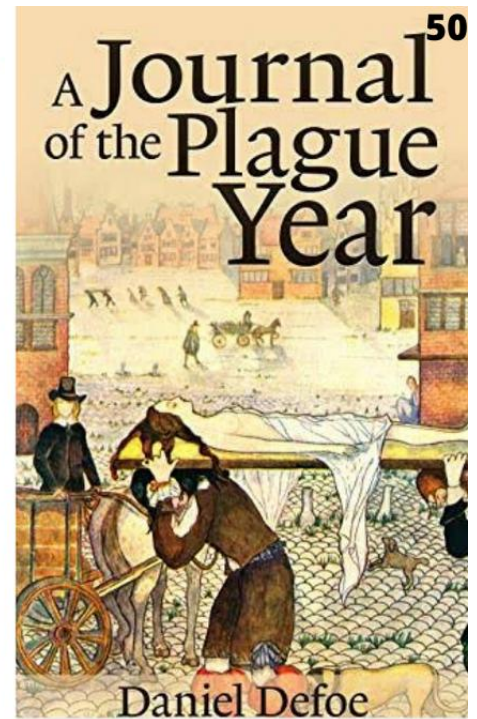
In the very present scenario, as we all are cornered by a new history of contagion, pandemic literature has given us a safe space to relate and learn from the lessons of past. The literary chronicles have further proven that pandemic doesn't look into social hierarchy, but would only sweep over humanity if we fail to act promptly.

**“All a man could win in the conflict  
between plague and life, was knowledge  
and memories.”**

**- Albert Camus**

then we very well could act for a better future, with this shared knowledge from the books of pandemic literature.

- Sheryl Anna Anil





## Rashomon Effect

The curiosity surrounding, how number 6 can be interpreted as 9 from opposite angle still persist and it is here, we encounter the Rashomon effect. It can be defined as a phenomenon in which a single event is interpreted in various ways, owing to the unreliability of the multiple witnesses. The subjectivity of these witnesses caused by the situational differences, brings in a quality of uncertainty in each of their narration, making it difficult to determine which version is true. The term is coined from a 1951 Japanese thriller movie Rashomon by the famed Akira Kurosawa, depicting the mystery surrounding the death of a samurai. The story is narrated through the various accounts of witnesses, giving their share of truth, which is highly characterized by uncertainty and a subtle sense of deception. The engaging point of the plot is revealed when the audience realizes that the testimonies of the all characters, even including the spirit of the dead samurai, contradict each other, thus handing over the task of finding and analysing the truth to the audience. The story is revealed to be inspired from the Japanese writer Ryunosuke Akutagawa's 'In a Grove', combined with another of his short story. The daring unconventionality in producing the movie did not stop its promising fame and even brought success in the prestigious Venice Film Festival of 1951. The success of the story is also shared by the fact that it explores our common experience of everyday life, which proves the unreliability and subjectivity of what each of us consider the 'truth'. The impact of Rashomon effect is widely found in modern films and narratives that gives the effect of ambiguous endings and conflicting narrations. Movies including Gone Girl, Courage Under Fire, The Usual Suspects, Hero, The Woman in the Question and The Last Jedi exhibits perfect examples of using Rashomon effect. Today, the term is not only used in films, but is has also gained relevance in literature, psychology and legal studies with a wider sense.

- Sheryl Anna Anil

# Krysta fame





## SYLVIA PLATH |

1932-1963

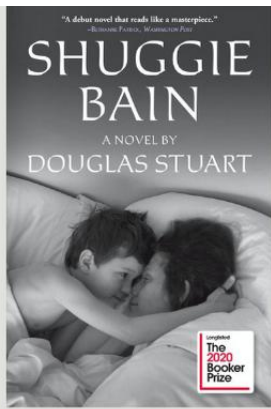
Plath's poetry is ferociously painful and starkly melancholic, but in between the words lie whisper of whimsical hope. Reading her words makes you cross from loneliness to solitude.

A curious distinction, but an important one. Also "THE BELL JAR" is one of the most courageous pieces of literature ever written. It is so frank in its uncompromising depiction, which leaves us no choice but to face ourselves as well. The unique element about Plath's poetry is the sheer preciseness and the strange exactness that fills the poem.

### About:

Sylvia Plath was an American poet and novelist. She married Ted Hughes and they split after two years. Sylvia Plath committed suicide in 1963 after severe depression. After her death, in 1982 Plath was the first person to win Posthumous Pulitzer prize.

- Pancinovia Neelu M



## DOUGLAS STUART |

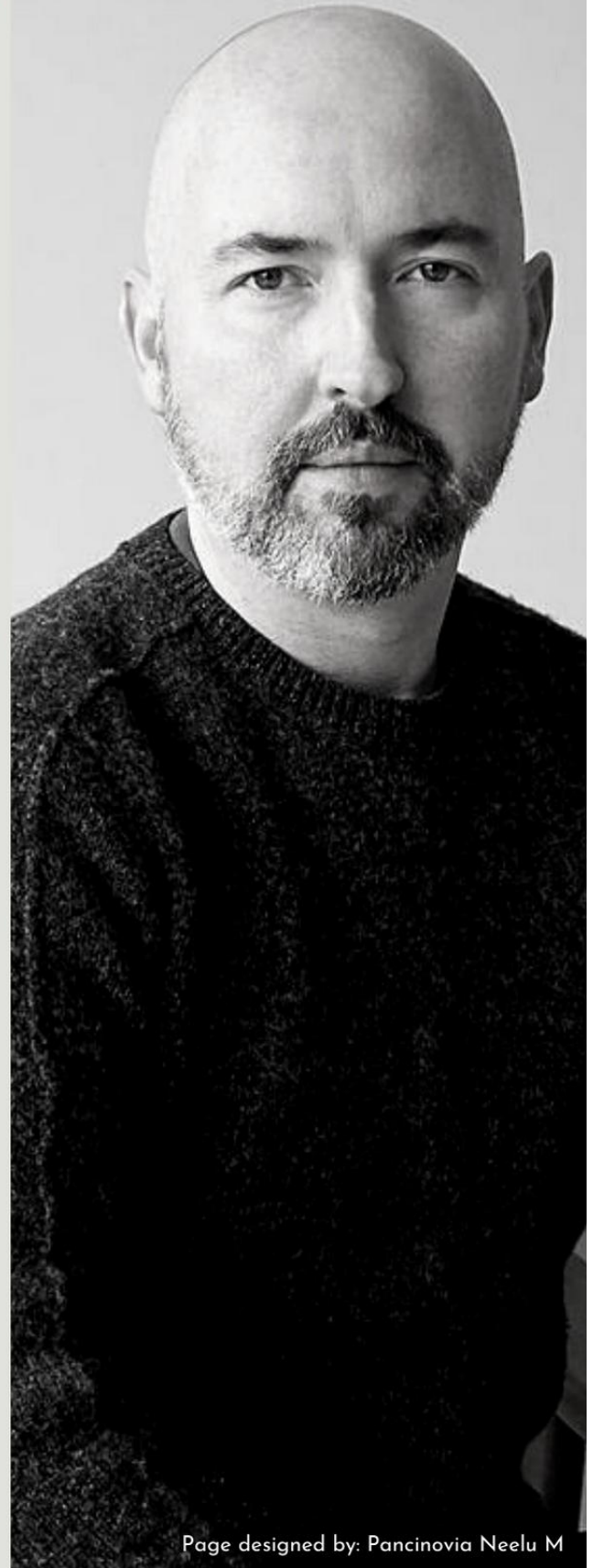
1976 - Present

Douglas Stuart born on 1976, is a Scottish-American writer and fashion designer. His debut Booker Prize-winning novel,

'Shuggie Bain', is inspired from his struggles of childhood. This is his first novel that he has written when he was balancing 12-hour shifts as a senior director of design at Banana Republic. In his Booker Prize acceptance speech, Stuart said, "I'm absolutely stunned...First of all, I will like to thank my mother...my mother is on every page of this book — I've been clear, without her I wouldn't be here, my work wouldn't be here."

'Shuggie Bain' is an autobiographical novel set in Glasgow in the 1980s. It is an unforgettable story of a sweet and lonely boy who spends his 1980s childhood in the run-down public housing of Glasgow. Shuggie's mother, Agnes, walks a wayward path: she's Shuggie's guiding light but also a burden as she finds increasing solace in drink, draining away the lion's share of each week's benefits. Shuggie is meanwhile struggling to somehow become the normal boy he desperately longs to be as it becomes evident that he's hiding a secret. A story of addiction, sexuality, and love, Shuggie Bain is an epic portrayal of a working-class family. Besides the prestigious Booker Prize, 'Shuggie Bain' was also in contention for two American awards - the National Book Award for fiction and the Kirkus Prize. Stuart is the second Scottish author to win the Booker Prize in its 51-year history.

- Neeraja Madhu



# *Kryptic code*





# PANDEMICS AND EPIDEMICS THAT CHANGED THE HISTORY

1. The plague was caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*.
2. A slow developing bacterial disease that causes sores and deformities, now it is known as Hansen's disease.
3. Also known as the 1918 influenza pandemic caused by the H1N1 influenza A virus.
4. First identified in China in 2003, believed to have possibly started with bats, spread to cats and then to humans. China was criticized for trying to suppress the outbreak of this pandemic.
5. The virus was spread mainly by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.
6. A form of viral haemorrhagic fever that killed 15 million inhabitants of Mexico and Central America.
7. An influenza pandemic in 2009 that lasted about 19 months.

T	J	U	W	W	R	N	U	A	L	O	K	T	A	X
G	H	Y	E	Z	S	W	I	N	E	F	L	U	X	L
N	G	C	R	B	A	M	B	U	Z	K	J	C	P	K
J	F	O	T	L	E	P	R	O	S	Y	V	H	H	J
H	D	C	Y	A	E	Y	T	S	P	T	T	P	T	H
M	S	O	U	C	L	S	A	H	A	E	U	W	I	G
Y	A	L	I	K	I	K	Y	Y	N	U	K	V	O	F
U	Z	I	O	D	A	V	L	M	I	B	S	A	R	S
K	X	Z	P	E	W	J	O	S	S	H	R	G	D	A
D	C	T	V	A	R	R	R	E	H	C	F	P	S	C
A	V	L	B	T	E	G	A	F	F	A	U	Q	T	V
F	B	I	Z	H	B	S	N	I	L	E	S	E	E	B
L	N	A	X	L	A	U	G	H	U	P	E	I	L	N
A	M	J	B	R	E	A	K	T	H	E	C	H	A	O
Z	I	K	A	V	I	R	U	S	L	Q	D	B	M	N

- Ardra Maria

# Krystals



Keziah Grace Shibu



Jeeva Theresa Jose



# Krystalist

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Ruby Joy	Teacher	Hegemony Global School
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Irene Samuel	Associate Content Management	Accenture Solutions Private Ltd
Sandra Binoj	Content writer	Creatisoul llp
Jisha Tigga	Content Developer	Rank IT Right Media
Alan Sebastian	Office Coordinator	Basilmind, JP Nagar, Bengaluru
Teresa Gillroy	Analyst	Wipro-Kochi
Mary Sandhya S	Bus Process Delivery New Associate	Accenture Solutions Private Ltd

# BATCH 2019-2021

MA English batch of 2019-21 was beset by an unprecedented year. Nonetheless the management, faculty members and students supporting each other, successfully adapted the shift from physical classroom to a virtual mode and took forward the fun and the learning fruitfully. We are happy that whatever the situation came across us, we could stand together and surmount the difficulties. We raise our heartfelt gratitude to our dear teachers for understanding, guiding and loving us throughout these years. We are humbled and honoured to be called as Jayantians.

*-Seba Elizabeth Saji  
(Alumini)*



# BATCH 2020-2022

While the pandemic was hard to process, adapting to online learning had become a tough task alongside. However, with time, online learning had helped us to not just connect with learning alone, but also helped us develop deeper interpersonal connections as a class and instill more values to grow as better human beings. Now, we are happy to be back in the campus.

*-Aksa Sara Lal*



# *Krysta space*







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