



PROFILE OF STEPHEN GILL

A self-exiled poet, novelist, literary critic and essayist, Stephen Gill focuses primarily on peace, because he believes that peace leads to personal, national and international health. He firmly believes that peace is the legitimate child of peaceful means. He also believes that the Divine Omnipresent is peace and love in Christian and Hindu thoughts and this belief often manifests in his writings. He was born in Sialkot, now in Pakistan, where he spent his early childhood and grew in India. After teaching in Ethiopia for three years, he migrated to England before settling in Canada.

He has authored more than twenty books, including novels, literary criticism, and collections of poems, and his poetry and prose have appeared in around one thousand publications. He writes usually in English. Occasionally, he writes only poetry in Urdu, Hindi and Panjabi languages. Some of his Urdu/Hindi poems have been performed with music by prominent singers from Pakistan and India in four albums.

He has also written and published book reviews, research papers on writers and on world peace, in addition to literary and social essays. He often examine doctoral dissertations in English Literature to supplement his income to sate his passion for writing.

Stephen Gill has received awards and recognitions, including honorary doctorates and **Laureate Man of Letters** from United Poets Laureate International; **Sahir Award of Honor** from Sahir Cultural Society, Panjab, India; **Plaque** from the World Council of Asian Churches (Canada); **Pegasus International Poetry for Peace Award** (Poetry in the Arts, Inc., Texas,); **The Best Poet of Peace Award** for the year 1993 from Roger Cable 11 (Canada); **Achievement Award** from South Asian Bible Church (Canada); **The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal; Empowered Peace Poet Award** from World Poetry Canada; and several more...

He has been the subject of numerous literary essays, books and doctoral studies. He is also honorary editor/ advisor to several publications, and has edited publications, including the Canadian

section of *the World Federalist newspaper*, *Writer's Lifeline*, and *South Asian Christian Diary*.

He is former president of Vesta Publications Ltd.; the Canadian Authors Association (the Cornwall, Ont. Branch); a national vice president of the World Federalists of Canada; the Multicultural Council of Stormont and Dundas; chief delegate to represent the World University for Canada; the Christian Cultural Association of South Asians, Dean of Peace Studies at St. Simon's College, London, England; Co-chair of Downtown Improvement Business Area (DBIA) of Cornwall, Ont. Canada; and a director of the Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry (Canada).

Stephen Gill is Poet Laureate of Ansted University and an Adjunct Professor of EAU. He has appeared in prestigious national and international reference books. Indira Kala Sangit University (IKSU) officially established the **Centre for Stephen Gill Studies** on April 21, 2012 in an impressive gathering of intellectuals. The gathering was chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Mandvi Singh. She called it a historical move of the university to establish this centre for scholars to pursue their higher studies on Stephen Gill.

Stephen Gill says that he has not said much about his early life, because that is to reincarnate the silent wrenching pains. However, he has described some gruesome realities of these silent, wrenching pains in the prefaces of the collections of his poems, including *Songs Before Shrine*, and in *Shrine* as well as in the introduction to *The Flame*, his modern epic on terrorism. He has also touched those gruesome realities in his interviews and depicted them here and there in his novels *The Coexistence* and *The Chhattisgarh*. He says that It is the bitterness of the water of the early life that runs in the arteries of his writings. This bitterness in different forms often emerge in his dreams even now. He does not want to see that bitterness in his life again. He hears the sound of spring in the stillness of the autumn.

SOME IMPORTANT SITES

www.stephengill.ca

www.stephengillcriticism.info

<http://www.writersunion.ca/member/stephen-gill>

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