

LIVING HERITAGE

Edited by

Professor (Dr.) Kakali Dhara Mandal



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Abol Tabol: An Interpretation beyond 'Nonsense'

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Abstract: *The pendulum of the mind alternates between sense and nonsense, not between right and wrong.* This quote of Carl Jung talks of an interesting interface between sense and nonsense and the human psyche. Nonsense, often used either as derogatory or fanciful, always presupposes sense; rather, nonsense is ever burdened with sense. Does that mean non-sense has no sense? Or does nonsense have more sense? Both these rhetorical questions will have affirmative answers. Alice's adventures in wonderland has no sense but a Frabjous Day, a portmanteau coinage, does convey sense because it includes fair, fabulous and joyous celebration essential to human existence. However, it is (im)possible to have porcochard (a combination of pochard and porcupine) because it refutes all 'grammar' i.e. convention. The Griffonling is 'indisposed to mirth' whereas merriment too is indispensable to survival. Sukumar Ray, the exceptional stellar litterateur of the early twentieth century, challenged the basic idea of sense through his nonsense, Rhymes without Reason, *Abol Tabol*. This paper offers a critical study of Ray's masterpiece, that ushers in more insightful reading giving more reason or 'sense' to this apparent 'nonsense.'

Keywords: Nonsense, Renaissance Bengal, Brahma Samaj, Deconstruction, Politics, Society.

Introduction

A popular idea of 'Nonsense' states, 'Nonsense is a communication via speech, writing, or any other symbolic system that lacks any coherent meaning. . . Nonsense is synonymous with absurdity or the ridiculous. Many poets, novelists and song writers have used nonsense in their works,

About the Book

Folklore is multi-dimensional and multi-faceted. It is a rich tradition carried from generation to generation. Popular Culture deals with trending cultural activities that attract the tastes of the general masses of people. Folk culture and popular culture are two different aspects of societal behavior which encompasses the activities and feelings of two separate group of people – one thrives in traditional ways of living and the other has mass accessibility and appeal. This is a book entitled Living Heritage which is composed of several essays on various topics allied to Folklore and Popular Culture. Prepared by a joint contribution of young and veteran researchers, this book will address some new fields in the academic practice of Folklore and Popular Culture.

About the Editor



Prof. (Dr.) Kakali Dhara Mandal is the Head of the Department of Folklore, University of Kalyani. She is a Social Scientist, a stalwart of Folklore Studies. She has done her schooling in Kakdwip in the District of South 24 Parganas. She is always considered as a serious and prosperous scholar in academics. She ranked and received scholarship for merit in Madhyamik; stood first class first in MA and received Gold Medal. She is the President of two renowned organizations– 'Centre for Folklore Studies and Research' and 'Academy of Folklore Studies'. She is the editor of three Research Journals of Folklore namely *Oitijhya : The Tradition*, *Lokadarpan* (Departmental Journal of the Department of Folklore, University of Kalyani) and *Lokautsa*. More than 150 of her articles are published in several books and journals. She has edited renowned books like *Bangla Lokasangeet Kosh* (Encyclopedia of Bengali Folk-songs), *Bangla Lokasanskriti Charchar Itihas*, *Tomari Houk Joy*, *Nadiar Itibritto* and has written several books like *Shabdabijnan O Lokasangeeter Tatwakatha*, *Folklore Studies: Some New Concepts and Quest*, *Bangiyo Lokasanskritite Dhanyoprosongo* etc. She has been a profound speaker and specialist in many Seminars and Conferences held in many countries like, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, U.A.E. etc.



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