



**ATLANTA
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INDIA

Edited by
Bhisham Bherwani

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Cultural clashes abound in India, but wisdom, humor and irony are equally prevalent in this delightful gathering of voices from the world's largest English-speaking country. The range of this collection is incredible, from mystical spirituality to the sultriest love lyrics you'll ever see. Bhisham Bherwani, a brilliant American poet born in India, is the perfect guide for this amazing journey.

We can be grateful that Kamala Das and her friends have rejected calls to abandon the language of their former colonists, even if embracing our Western tradition sometimes makes them feel like exiles in their own land. Kipling to the contrary, East and West really do meet in modern India, and its ability to create a thriving democracy from their confluence gives hope to the modern world. It's high time our two former British colonies got to know each other better!

Dan Veach, Editor, *Atlanta Review*

Bhisham Bherwani shows keen judgment in bringing us this deep and wide-ranging selection of modern and contemporary Indian poems in English. What a treasure!

Edward Hirsch, President, Guggenheim Foundation

Bhisham Bherwani's brilliant anthology of Indian poetry in English opens many doors to our understanding of poetics that are both luminous and sensual. Including the work of classics, such as A. K. Ramanujan's, and many new voices, this collection acts as an important "registry of tree-rings, / suddenly younger / than all their timely descendants." This is a book where "God" leaves "God without a bean" and of a poet who tells us: "I don't know politics but I know the names / of those in power, and I can repeat them like / days of week"; and of a man at fifty seeing three faces looking at him "in unwiped bathroom mirrors." This is a book of wisdom, but the wisdom is worn lightly, with music and wit, with fury and compassion. Bherwani is to be congratulated for putting together such an accomplished collection.

Ilya Kaminsky, Poet

From the exuberance of A. K. Ramanujan to the stripped-down acerbity of C. P. Surendran and Arundhati Subramaniam, this indispensable anthology chronicles a selection of Indian poetry in English that needs to be appreciated as a coherent body of work rife with internal connections and developments. Its editor, Bhisham Bherwani, himself a noted poet, brings us the poems that made Nissim Ezekiel and Dom Moraes into shooting stars of twentieth-century poetry, while showing how poetry in English has continued to flourish in India's astonishingly diverse and multilingual environment

Nicholas Birns, Professor of Literature, The New School, New York