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***Editor-in-Chief : Dr. Bijender Singh***

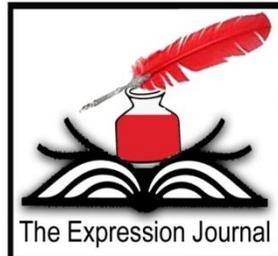
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## **A Heart to Heart Talk with Farah Siddiqui Matin (Interview)**

**Dr. Bijender Singh  
Editor-in-Chief**

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**Farah Siddiqui Matin**

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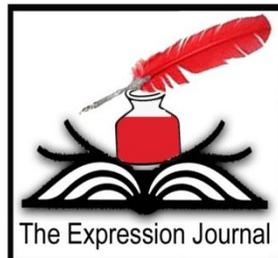
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## **A HEART TO HEART TALK WITH FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN**

**(Interview)**

**Dr. Bijender Singh**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

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### **Script of the Interview**

**BIJENDER SINGH:** Farah, what defines you? What are you like?

**FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN:** I am cheerful, realistic and always see the brighter side of the wall.

**BIJENDER SINGH:** Tell us about yourself?

**FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN:** I am Farah Siddiqui Matin, a Ph.D. from the University of Allahabad and a poetess and a creative writer. I am born and brought up in Allahabad and currently am residing in Ireland with my hubby Shafique Matin. I started composing poems in January 2014 and published my first book *The Bliss of Solitude* in May 2014 (Bliss of Solitude is Farah's maiden book, a collection of 50 poems with a strong feminist voice. Her poems are engaging and socially conscious making the reader reflect and assess through their conscience.). Second Book *Like I Born in Venus* was inaugurated in 2015 that has 70 poems (that speak everything about poetess' venture in fearless yet godly nature), my third book *India's Daughter* would be publish in the next month, is all about women empowerment and is dedicated to every women in India especially Nirbhaya – the Delhi victim case. The case has shocked me so deeply that I decided to write a book on such issues that's lingering in our society. Besides this, I have 32 anthologies and numerous poems in International and National offline/online magazine. I have also been awarded 'The Best Poetess Debut Award' in 2015. She holds the national record of composing more than 100 poems on Social issues within 60 days in India. She is the winner of 'India Rising Star Award 2016' and 'Hindustan Times Woman Award' (2017). I have got published my poems in the very famous International American Magazine "Life and Legends" and famous French magazine "Levure Litteraire" in 2015. She has been nominated among 100 women

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writers in India in August 2016 and has also been interviewed in Indian National television that was aired on 25th March 2016.

**BIJENDER SINGH: Please tell about your publications.**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: I have published some books as a Solo author such as:

- The Bliss of Solitude, (25th May, 2014), ISBN NO. 9789384028053 (51 poems mostly on women empowerment and relation. Reported Best seller by the publisher) (The Love and familial relationships is beautifully depicted in the book) Available on all popular e-portal)

- Like I Born in Venus (4th January 2015), ISBN NO. 8192947475 (Book is about the current social issues prevailing in our society)

Available on all popular e-portal

- India's Daughter (Women Empowerment): In-press (Nov-Dec 2017)

**BIJENDER SINGH: Farah, the person like you must have some awards, have you received any award also on your works?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Yes, I have received some awards also. I was:

Awarded with Hindustan Times Woman Award 2017

Awarded with 'The Best Poetess Debut Award in 2014 in India

Awarded with The Humanity Achievers Award 2016

Awarded with 'Rising Star India Award' 2016 in London

Honored in 100 women ceremony in India 2016

Awarded as an 'Outstanding Poetess' 2017 in India

Awarded as an incredible women writer of India in 2016

Awarded as an 'Outstanding Female Creative Writer' in 2016

**BIJENDER SINGH: Have you appeared in interviews elsewhere?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Of course, I have been featured at some places in some reputed serials, magazines and a few other places.

Purple Hues-2, An interview with Farah Siddiqui

Interviewed in Writer's Ezine Magazine 2015

Interviewed as an incredible woman writer in India 2016

Interview in Pravasi Woman – Farah Siddiqui / Self-motivated Poetess – We Are the City.

Interview with Author – Farah Siddiqui

Letter of Appreciation from the University of Allahabad, India by Head of the Department 2016.

**BIJENDER SINGH: Any memorable moments or incidents you would like to share?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: I think I am yet to get the special achievement in my life, but I always remember the moment when I made a record of composing more than 100 poems on social issues within 60 days and registered my name in India Book of Records. I have also been interviewed on National television that was aired on 25th March 2016.

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The bright morning of April 2016, when an article about my work and achievements was published in India's leading newspaper Hindustan Times, is the day I remember most.

**BIJENDER SINGH: Why are you drawn to poetry? Why did you decide to pursue a Ph.D. in poetry?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: In my schooldays I used to compose kavitas and ghazals, and short skits later in the college. After completing my post graduation in English, I was drawn towards poetry. Later, I enrolled in Ph.D. and from there my journey as a writer started and I completely devoted myself in composing poetry. I feel delighted in composing poetry and it provides me an intense pleasing combination of felicity and harmony. Pursuing my PhD in poetry added an advantage in my writing skills and others started considering my work more intensely.

**BIJENDER SINGH: You also write and work on women empowerment, how do you do that?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: I write on women empowerment especially for village women who are more crushed than to any other educated and working ladies. While living in Ireland I come across the social issues that women are really facing in India. There is no equality; even they don't have audacity to take decisions against their family or as their will. They are unaware of fundamental rights given to them by Indian constitution. I feel fearless and audacious when deal with the poems such as Oh' Women, Child Molestation, Infant's Prayer, Street Children, Do not crush Me, and Family's Honour, etc. One can easily feel how the poems start with a chaotic state of modern generation. My intense belief in Almighty reflects in my most of the poems and the pain in my heart that I feel due to social issues that comes out through from the poems.

**BIJENDER SINGH: What is your poetry all about? Is it a reflection of the society and what sort of style do you choose for your poetry?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: My poetry brings out a bold voice born from my conscious mind towards socio-cultural scene in today's age. Society's discrimination against women is echoed strongly in my poems. My poetry could be categorized as feminist poetry, addressing the issues of women in various roles in the society also it emphasize on increasing social awareness and self-realization claiming a woman's place in society, poetry, political and social reality. My poem "Infant's Prayer" poses a question from a girl child and brings contemplative moments. "A SWEET LITTLE MAIDEN" is a poignant poem and tells a story of a little girl through this poem.

My writing style is free verse exploring the inner and outer realms of human existence. Some of my poems are philosophical and present a dialogue with the supreme power on current state of the world and raising questions. Her poem "Oh Father" is a prayer to the Almighty. My poems also dwell on the dynamics of love, emotions and relationships. "ESSENCE OF LOVE" is a crisp poem bringing a whiff of fresh air in heart.

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Some poems reflect on power of friendships and true relations.

**BIJENDER SINGH: Your poems aptly reflect socially abhorrent practices such as female foeticide and the suppression of the rights of women is there a conscious effort from your part to incorporate these themes into your poems or are these issues included spontaneously?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Thank you for asking me this question. This topic is very close to my heart not only as a poet but also as a human being. This is part of my continues effort to bring social evils like female feticide, child marriage and other women rights issue to a public platform using poetries. From my first book, The Bliss of Solitude to my most recent book "India's Daughter" I always tried to focus on such issues and will continue to include this in future too.

**BIJENDER SINGH: How do you look at Eastern societies, do you think that they are still male-dominated?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Yes, I think the Eastern world is still male dominated. In fact, the entire world is male oriented even the western world, but yes the conditions are worst in eastern-societies compared to west. In our country women are often seen as subordinate and inferior to men. The Indian constitution grants women equal rights to men, but strong patriarchal traditions persist in many different societal parts, with women's lives shaped by customs that are centuries old. Hence, in these strata daughters and wives are often regarded as a liability, and conditioned to believe that they are inferior and subordinate to men.

**BIJENDER SINGH: Does your life in the West change your perception about women and the problems they encounter?**

I write on social issues and on women empowerment especially for village women who are more crushed than to any other educated and working ladies. While living in Ireland I come across the social issues that women are really facing in India. There is no equality; even they don't have audacity to take decisions against their family or as their will. They are unaware of fundamental rights given to them by Indian constitution. I feel fearless and audacious when deal with the poems such as Oh' Women, Child Molestation, Infant's Prayer, Street Children, Do not crush Me, and Family's Honour, etc. One can easily feel how the poems start with a chaotic state of modern generation. Society where women are given respect becomes prosperous, healthy, compassionate and peaceful place to live in.

**BIJENDER SINGH: Who are the female writers you are so much fond of?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Actually I am not fond of any female writers, neither I studied any of their poems, I write especially about the crushed women because I can feel their problems and issues. And thus I inscribed.

**BIJENDER SINGH: What are the initiatives as per your opinion taken to improve the lot of women worldwide?**

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FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: We have reached in the 21st century but still the society is suffering the cruel acts such as abduction, female infanticide, rape on women. We all should stand together to fight against all evil acts or at least try to tackle such issues.

1. Education: The only way a woman can live without being judged by society is when she has a good career. Let them study and choose the career they want and you'll be surprised how good they can be even in the male dominating jobs.
2. Right to choose the partner: Even in the upper middle class of India women still can't take these decisions.
3. 'The weaker sex': The stereotype thinking of Indian men that women need protection they need someone to take care.
4. Respect: And most of all we need respect. Eve teasing, Rape, honour killing, female foeticide all of them are the result of men not respecting women.

**BIJENDER SINGH: Are you a feminist and what are your thoughts on feminism?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Yes, I am Feminist and my poetry brings out a bold voice born from my conscious mind towards socio-cultural scene in today's age. Society's discrimination against women is echoed strongly in my poems. My poetry could be categorized as feminist poetry, addressing the issues of women in various roles in the society and also emphasize on increasing social awareness and self-realization claiming a woman's place in society, poetry, political and social reality.

**BIJENDER SINGH: What do you try to achieve through poetry writings?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Through poetry writing I just wish that every woman should be given proper respect, education and the issues that they are facing in today's world should be diminished. They are also the citizen of the country so they should be aware about the constitutional rights which they are not.

**BIJENDER SINGH: What is your idea of God and spirituality?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Religion tells you to follow an ideology and obey certain rules or you'll be punished otherwise. Spirituality lets you Follow Your Heart and What You Feel It's Right. It sets you free to be what you truly are without bowing to anything that doesn't resonate as right with you nor to anyone because we are all one. It is all up to you to choose what you'll honour enough to make it divine. My intense belief in Almighty reflects in my most of the poems and the pain in my heart that I feel due to social issues that comes out through from the poems.

**BIJENDER SINGH: Do you think that poetry is a road map for bringing transformations to this world?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Yes, I do believe that poetry is a road map for bringing transformations to this world.

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**BIJENDER SINGH: What are the differences in the problems faced by the women of the industrialised world from that of the less industrialised ones?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: I have my own experience in living in both the industrialised world like Ireland and also in the less industrialised world or newly industrialized countries like India. There is a long list of differences I observed, but I can precisely mention few. Women are treated as property in less industrialized world unlike in the industrialised world where they don't have to dependent on their husbands for living. They are independent, working, and most importantly treated equally in all means.

**BIJENDER SINGH: What do your next five years look like?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: I will continue my writing with passion and diligence. My readers should know me through my writings. I don't believe in making long-term plans.

**BIJENDER SINGH: Any message for the readers?**

FARAH SIDDIQUI MATIN: Be realistic in your life. Live at present. Hardwork can only leads to success. There is no shortcut.