

Classic Poetry Series

Jyoti Prasad Agarwala
- poems -

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Jyoti Prasad Agarwala(17 June 1903 – 17 January 1951)

Jyoti Prasad Agarwala (Assamese: জ্যোতিপ্ৰসাদ আগৰৱালা) was a great Assamese playwright, songwriter, poet, writer and film maker from Assam. He was considered as Assamese cultural icon, deeply revered for his creative vision and output and is popularly called the Rupkonwar (ৰূপকনৱাৰ) of Assamese culture. In fact, he is regarded as the founder of Assamese cinema for Joymati (1935). His death anniversary (January 17) is celebrated as Silpi divas (Artists' Day) in his honor.

 Biography

Jyoti Prasad Agarwala was born on 17 June 1903 in an Agrawal family, to Paramananda Agarwala and Kiranmoyee Agarwala in Tamulbari Tea Estate. He is the nephew of another cultural icon, Chandra Kumar Agarwala. His forefather, Nabrangram Agarwala, had come to Assam in 1811 from the Marwar region in Rajasthan. After completing his studies in various schools in Assam and Calcutta (Kolkata), he matriculated in 1921. He went to Edinburgh in 1926 to study economics, but returned in 1930 before completing his course. On his way back, he spent seven months at the UFA studio in Germany learning film-making.

After his return to Assam, he continued his activities for Indian independence that had disrupted his studies earlier and in 1932 he was imprisoned for fifteen months. He established the Chitraban Studio at the Bholaguri Tea Estate and began filming the movie Joymoti around the end of 1933. This was the first film from Assam. The film, released in 1935, was based on a play by Laxminath Bezbarua about the heroic Ahom princess Sati Joymoti imprisoned and tortured by a repressive Ahom swargadeo. In 1936 he married Devajani Chaliha. In 1941 he participated in the freedom movement, and in 1942, he went underground to escape British repression. Toward the end of his life he moved from a romantic to a more radical vision, which was reflected in his works.

He died of cancer on 17 January 1951 at 'Poki', Tezpur.

I'LI Be Loving You Always

I'll be loving you always
With a love that's true always
When the things you've planned
Need a helping hand

I will understand always
Days may not be fair always
That's when I'll be thee always
Not for just an hour
Not for just a day
Not fr just a year
But always.

Everything went, and the whole day long
I felt so blue
For the longest while I forget to smile,
Then I met you
Now that my blue days have-
Now that I have found you at last.

Jyoti Prasad Agarwala

Kumpur Sopon

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