Is Your Story Different?

A note from the author to the readers and listeners of IndianLegacies.com

By Sanjay Kumar Rai

Hello, and welcome.

Welcome to IndianLegacies.com. Someone you know may have sent you a link, or perhaps one of the titles here caught your eye. Before you go further, you may want to know who this book is for, why you might enjoy reading or listening to it, and where to begin. I'd like to speak to you directly about those questions.

First, who is this invitation for?

Whatever your gender, religion or caste, you are welcome to read this book or listen to the audiobook. Whether you follow a religious faith, feel connected to several traditions or practise no religion, you are equally welcome here.

The same applies to your language, education, income and occupation. You may live in a village, a small town or a large city. You may be earning a living, completing your studies, looking after your home or enjoying retirement. The works published here are open to you, too. Every reader is free to decide what interests them.

For readers from all walks of life

I'd like to mention some people and professions specifically, so that this invitation feels personal.

If you manage a household on a limited income, earn a daily wage, are looking for work or hold more than one job to support your family, this invitation is for you. It extends to farmers, agricultural workers, livestock keepers, fishers, weavers and artisans. It also extends to those in construction, including labourers, masons, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, machine operators, supervisors and engineers.

If you drive for a living, deliver goods, clean or look after a home, office or public space, provide security, or work in a hotel or kitchen, I'm speaking to you as well. The invitation also includes independent service providers and people who do repair and maintenance work.

In business, the invitation extends from street vendors, shopkeepers and people who run businesses from home to those who lead small and medium-sized enterprises. It includes people who run family businesses or start new ventures, the founders of large companies and leading industrialists.

If you work in the private sector, you may be a trainee, office assistant, clerk, technician, factory worker, member of a sales or customer service team, supervisor, manager, head of department, director or chief executive. You are welcome to read or listen as your interests lead you.

In government and public service, this invitation extends from village councils and municipal bodies to state and central government departments. Field staff, office assistants, technical personnel and senior officials at the highest levels of administration are all welcome. The same invitation goes to serving and retired personnel from the railways, postal services, public-sector banks and enterprises, the police, fire services and the armed forces.

I also welcome teachers, doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants, lawyers, accountants, scientists, researchers, IT professionals, journalists, writers, artists, athletes and social workers. If you manage a home, raise children or care for an older, ill or disabled family member, the invitation is just as warmly meant for you.

Even if none of these descriptions quite fits your work or circumstances, there is a place for you here. Your own interest as a reader or listener is enough to begin.

Why read this book?

Your own curiosity may be the best reason to read it. If the title caught your attention, try the opening passage. It will give you a feel for the language, the pace and the way the author tells the story. If a few paragraphs leave you wanting to read on, that is reason enough.

Reading lets you set your own pace and decide how much time to give it. You can reread a paragraph, spend longer on a passage or pick up where you left off the next day. Even a few minutes are enough to get started.

Let your own reading tastes guide you. If someone you know enjoyed the book, their experience may give you a reason to open it. You can decide for yourself what makes you want to continue.

Why listen to the audiobook?

If you find it easier to take in a work by listening, start with the audio. After a day spent working at a screen, you may prefer to listen for a while in the evening. Some people enjoy listening while out for a walk. Others may like to sit at home and listen with a family member.

The first few minutes can tell you whether the audio suits you. If the voice is clear, the pace feels comfortable and you can follow what is being said, give it a little more time. If you find it easier to make sense of a passage at your own pace, you can turn to the published text.

Preferences for reading and listening can vary even within one household. If you'd like to share a work with someone you know, you can send them whichever format suits them better.

When might you save it for later?

Sometimes you come to a website for another purpose. You may need information for work, be preparing for an exam or have something urgent to finish. Give that priority the time it needs. You can return here when you have the time and the inclination to read or listen.

After sampling the opening, you may find that another subject interests you more at the moment. That is a perfectly natural choice. And if someone sent you the link with an earnest request to take a look, you can appreciate the thought behind it and still make your own decision about the work.

As an author, I value readers and listeners coming to my work of their own accord. You're welcome to read or listen for as long as you wish. Whether you go on to finish the book or the audiobook is entirely up to you.

Where should you begin?

On IndianLegacies.com, open whichever of these titles first catches your attention: ***A Question to Myself*** or ***Echoes of Memories***. Choose an available format that suits you. Read a few paragraphs or listen for a few minutes. Then decide whether to continue with that work, explore the other title or return another day.

Thank you for taking the time to read or listen to this note.

Sanjay Kumar Rai

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