



PRABINA SAIKIA

Unleashing The Self

“Her special forte was translation. She translated literature for the readers of all age groups. She translated children stories, philosophical books and biographies.”

If one makes an attempt to chart the growth of the translation literature in Assam, the name of Prabina Saikia instantly comes to mind. One of the prominent Assamese writers of the twentieth century, Probina Saikia was born to Nandeswar Das and Ratneswari Das of Tinsukia. Her father expired when she was still a child. After untimely demise of her father, she was brought up by her mother. She completed her early education in Tinsukia. After completing in Tinsukia, she graduated from Handique Girls' College and post graduation from Gauhati University. Prabina Saikia joined B Borooah College as a lecturer after her post graduation. She took voluntary retirement in 1995 from B Borooah College.

She tied nuptial knot with renowned Assamese writer Chandra Prasad Saikia in 1958 who served as the editor of several Assamese dailies and magazines namely *Axom Batori*, *Prakash*, *Gariyoshi* etc. The towering personality of her litterateur husband could not overshadow Prabina's creative efforts. The marriage to Chandra Prasad Saikia gave her immense

encouragement for contributing much more towards Assamese Literature. Prabina Saikia first emerged as a poet in *Ramdhenu*. Later on she started writing stories and novels besides translating many books. Her poems show her sensitive mind and natural talent as a poet. Prabina Saikia's first novel *Uttarayan* was published in 1967. Her other novels were *Xukula Ghora*, *Chitra Turag* (1979), *Xinghaduar* (1982) and *Abinashi Sapna* (1990). *Xinghaduar* reflects non conservative, courageous and deep sense of life. *Sukula Ghora* was a novel, the language of which is invested with symbolic suggestions.

Prabina Saikia acquired a very prominent position as a translator in Assamese literature. Her special forte was translation. She translated literature for the readers of all age groups. She translated children stories, philosophical books and biographies. She was successful in retaining the original literary beauty in her translation. She translated world famous Lewis Carroll's trilogy namely *Ojan Dexot Alice* (1963), *Dapoon Dexot Alice* (1984), *Snark Chikar* (1982) which received wide acceptance among the Assamese readers particularly among the children. Some of her other translation works were *Amulya Ratnar Dweep* (translation of Treasure Island) and *Kala Moni* (1999) (translation of Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*). She translated not only fictions, but also difficult essays, including John Ruskin's *Unto this Last*. Prabina Saikia was a sincere worker of Assamese literature. She ushered in a new beginning in Assamese translation literature bringing about resurgence of activities in this particular field. Prabina Saikia expired in 1999 and left behind her son Santanu and daughter Gopa. □□