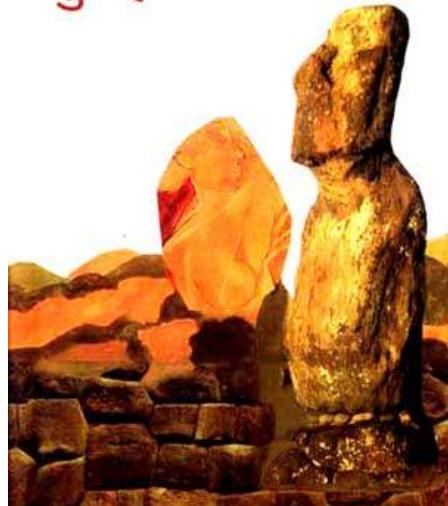


धर्मवीर भारती
गुनाहों का देवता



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Dharamvir Bharati

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Date : Published 2009 by Bhartiya Jnanpith (first published 1949)

ISBN : 9788126317783

Author : Dharamvir Bharati

Format : Paperback 257 pages

Genre : Fiction, Classics, Cultural, India

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Deepak Pitaliya says

The book is very high on emotions but all female characters are portrayed as if their existence is solely for the benefit of males. May be this is true of the time when book was written(I think around 1949) but in today's world I don't like it. Ending of the book is on expected lines, you could feel it beforehand. The best part of the book is description of behaviour changes in Chandan.

But whatever, Sudha's tragedy leave a mark on heart and I feel sad.

Pawan Kumar says

While I was looking for a good Indian classical writing to gift my sister the bookseller suggested me this book saying that if you have not read this one then you have read nothing in Hindi literature. I thought, well, why not to read it by myself and see whether he gave me a genuine advice or it was just one of his marketing tricks. Now I must say this book is fabulously written and very well woven with its characters. More or less the whole story rotates about the life of an, we can say, adopted child chandar and Sudha the daughter of the adopter. Chandar is a very intelligent and open minded person. Chandar is so faithful to this family that he has been fully entrusted with the responsibility of taking care of Sudha and decide what is good or bad for her. They both help each other to understand behavior of the people around them. They learn the worldly things together. They become so fond of each other that they reached in a state where they started showing utmost respect to each other. In parallel the cloud maintain closeness which even lovers can't imagine. Then comes separation with the marriage of Sudha. Chandar couldn't understand sudden loneliness in life which Sudha's farewell brings his life. It started troubling him and testing all his the devotion towards Sudha. Few more characters come into play as story progresses. Its a very nice artistic wording of a love story mixed with ups and downs that comes into a person'd life. A nice read.

Prateek Singhal says

Was my first hindi novel. The prologue itself is heart touching.

And the ease with which, he has been able to sketch the mental battles related to relationships we fight through our lives. Ati uttam :)

Pushpam Singh says

Not many of us will be familiar to Dharamvir Bharti but I must admit that he is a brilliant writer of the league of greatest ever to be here. His only drawback as i can see is he wrote in Hindi.

This book is a story of a young man Chander who is very aspiring and wants to achieve great success in life. He has just moved to city of Allahabad where he is doing his Phd under the guidance of professor. Professor has a daughter. Chander and His daugher share a cutie relation not of lovers.

Chander is of perception that one must keep itself away from indulgence in any kind of intimate relationship

with anyone as it destroys innerself. As the story progresses he meets an anglo indian and one day couldnt control himself and both happen to loose control.

In the mean time Daughter had to marry someone, chander thinks it would be best for her as she has grown young. Against her will she is married.

she kept writing to chander to stay in touch.

Here author talks about a very contradictory sprouted idea, chander thinks that she is talking to him only because she is married and needs a lover. Chander thinking changes overnight and he starts ignoring her. She out of being ignored falls sick and finally dies.

Chander assumes that if he treats a woman like idol and not touch her that's the best way to be in relation but he is proved wrong again and again. Although he thinks he is god by not indulging in intimate relationship with anyone, at the end he finds himself standing alone.

It is a very strong debatable subject but the way author has dealt with it is simply awesome.

?????? ???? says

Vikalp Trivedi says

'Gunahon Ka Devta' , according to me , is a story of love between the sky and the earth ('zameen aur aasman' can be more clear expression) . The sky , our male protagonist Chander and the earth , our female protagonist Sudha . The sky loves the earth and proudly claims that he has made the earth what she is , somewhere in the deepest recesses of his conscience he knows that he and the earth co-exist , there will be no reason of existence of the sky if the earth wouldn't have existed . But the sky can't accept his love for the earth because of its own height , vastness and purity .

On the other hand there is the earth , who is , throughout her life , has been brought up under the love and pampering of the vastness of the sky . When the earth realises her love for the sky she tries just to touch the heights and vastness of the sky . But no matter how hard she tries she can't match up or even touch the heights and vastness of the sky and ultimately becomes the victim of the qualities and her devotion to the sky .

But when the sky dwells bewildered in his own eternal vastness , it's the earth who gives the sky stability .

The earth proves her real love for the sky and starts her new journey in the search for the horizon where the earth and the sky seems to be meeting .

The another thing which I like most about the novel that throughout the novel each and every character is on a journey of it's own change . Every character will be appear to be different from what it was initially in the story . And this change is a constant factor of the novel . Change in one character impacts another character and somehow changes the another character (I especially liked Gaisu's encounter with Chander and then Chander's encounter with himself .)The internal tusse of Chander between carnal love and soulful love was wonderfully depicted . But the changes in the character of Sudha was the best of them all.

Reading this book was a wonderful experience of lifetime.

Indeed A Cult Classic .

A Must Read .

Perfect 5 Stars .

Arun Singh says

“????? ??? ? ??????? ?? ?????? ??? ?? ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ?????? ??? ?? ??????????? ???..” – ???????
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Gorab Jain says

4.5

I'm relatively novice in Hindi literature. Having read only a few (precisely Devdas, Gaban, Path ke Davedar, Chandrakanta and Nirmala) this is easily the best I've read.

This 1949 gloomy twisted love story is even relevant to date, which the youngsters would be able to relate very easily. The protagonist(s) are torn into the dilemmas of love, lust, friendship, trust, honour and code of conduct.

Very deep and detailed characters, so much that you can pick anyone and think like them!

No wonder in spite of its sheer brilliance, it cannot be translated into English. Coz only the plot could be translated, not the beauty of writing style.

Try this for instance :

All the nature related descriptions are mind blowing.

Plus it uses pure Awadhi for a couple of characters adding to the authenticity. Loved these!

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"???? ? ?????? ??? ??? ?? ?????? ?????-?? ??? ?????? ??? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??? ??????, ??? ?????? ??? ?????? ??? ?????-???"

Last but not the least, buddy reads often makes the reading experience more pleasant. I was blessed to have awesome buddies making it a vibrant discussion :)
Highly recommended for Hindi readers.

Neha says

I had seen 'Suraj Ka Satvan Ghoda' long back and since then I had become the fan of the movie and then its creator 'Shyam Benegal'. But the real thing which made me like this movie was its story.. so grounded with small town realities and people, with no heroes or heroines but characters living normal lives with complications of life, love and livelihood. So I started searching the person behind the story and knowing it was 'Dharamvir Bharati' I wanted to read his book. He has been a popular Hindi author with a lot of acclaim and credit to his name. His books have not been translated into English and even though it would have been it would have missed essence of small village India and their simple dialects and daily conversations.

So after my considerable search I found his one book 'Gunahon Ka Devta' in the book shop outside Prithvi Theatre in Bombay. Weird isn't it, out of all the places..

For rest of the review, refer my blog: <http://storywala.blogspot.in/2013/03/...>

M says

Its a must read by any hindi literature lover...a masterpiece of its genre and an all time classic...written simply ...the storyline establishes an instant rapport with its readership...that said ... love is many - splendoured .. You get to glimpse the finest nuances of love.. It makes you think..reflect and introspect....its gripping , heart-wrenching , idealistic and absolutely soul shakingen !!!

Nandan Dubey says

One of the best book I have ever read. Surely the best book I have read in Hindi. I wish to read this again. The story make you think/realize many things. It shakes you from inside. The characters Sudha and Chander are still live in my memory. I can't explain the relation between Sudha and Chander and there is no way to explain it, you have to read whole story for this. The relation build itself along with story. They themselves don't know how it all started between them. They have obligation/command over each other. Then the sad part starts which breaks you apart. Sudha a very playful and happy girl was married to a good guy by not Chander. Chander was responsible for this or I can't say it was Chander actually it is society and it's unsaid rules. Chander sacrifice has no comparision that's why the book name Gunahon ka Devata. His sacrifice made him Devata but he was completely broken, hollow from inside.

In the novels foreword, Dharamvir Bharti has wrote, "While writing this novel I experienced the feeling one has during depressing moments when he prays ferevently, with full faith.... It appears as if the very same prayer has been ingrained in my heart and I am still repeating it..."

Whatever I say here can't be sufficient or can't judge the greatness of the book you must read this and before

starting this book make sure you don't have any commitment for as long as you take to read this because you will not be able to pause your reading. The book addicts you to read it more and more.

Priya says

What a shame that I can't write review of this book in Hindi! Frankly speaking I am scared to do injustice to the language. This has been my first serious attempt with Hindi literature. I am overwhelmed and in complete awe with the writing. The simple story is conveyed in a subtle intense style. After reading this book, I feel a shooting pain inside the heart. It grows with time. This book has a hypnotizing power. The way it explores various shades of love has mesmerized me completely. Considering that this book was written in 1949 and one can totally relate to it after six and a half decades depicts the brilliance of this book. More than the story, the selection of words and style is commendable. The sheer excellence in conveying different opinion is something which I came across after so long. On the one hand, Dr. Shukla bows down to the patriarchal set up so prevalent in the society back then, on the other he feels himself victimized by the tenets of the patriarchy when his daughter suffers. The ways in which Chander and Sudha pay for not being together is heartwrenching. '...?? ??????? ?? ?? ???? ???!! can totally move you into tears and take you to the unexplored depth of your heart.

Please read the book only if you have good command of the language.

Amit Mishra says

I remember reading this book in Standard 8 and being completely baffled, by the strange love story between the protagonists.

15 Years later, I re-read the book to understand, why this book is considered to be a corner stone of Hindi Literature. To describe this book as a love story will be churlish, because this book talks of a love that has very ideals to follow.

As a grade 8 kid, I could not agree to this book and now I cannot agree more with this book. There are some love stories where lovers cannot come together, and this book has re-affirmed that faith.

A must read for a Hindi Literature lover.

Dhiraj Sharma says

This is a classic tale of unrequited love. The love of the protagonist Chander towards his Professor's daughter Sudha. The novel is aptly titled "Gunahon Ka Devta" which in English translates into "Deity of Sin".

I would have preferred to name the protagonist a complete jerk, not only he fails to express his love explicitly to Sudha he also ends up ruining her life by persuading (rather forcing) her to marry someone else.

The author does not make it clear as to why Chander does not ask for Sudha's hand in marriage (perhaps it

was because of them being from different castes) The conversations between Chander and Sudha can be termed as mild flirtations but it becomes clear right from the onset that the two are deeply madly in love and simply can't spend a moment without each other. Their relationship can't be explained in words.

Chander's actions after Sudha's marriage primed with vacillating mood swings don't exactly qualify him to be a Devta (Deity or Angel) in my opinion. On rebound his wanders between various shades of love be it Anglo Indian Pammi's physical attraction and Binti's (Sudha's close friend) platonic love. There are also philosophical discussions exploring the thin line between love and lust and man's needs for each.

Nevertheless "Gunahon Ka Devta" is a masterpiece of unrequited love. A Shakespearean tragedy in true sense of the word. I am sure had this novel been written in English or by any foreign author it would have got wider coverage and would have been compared to the classics of Charles Dickens. That does not mean that I am demeaning my national language Hindi in any way. The shuddh (pure) Hindi words were a treat to read after so many years. It's a crying shame I can't write this review in Hindi.

I gave the book 5 stars because the story touched my heart. Oh how I would have loved to see Chander and Sudha embrace and get married. Though a bit melodramatic by today's standard, the last scene will choke you in anguish.

This book was out of print for so many years and has recently started appearing on online sites for purchase. Had it not been for my GR friend who graciously sent me the link for the e book I would never have got to savor the timeless appeal of this true gem.

Madhulika Liddle says

Dharamveer Bharti, considered one of Hindi literature's finest and foremost talents, wrote the classic *Gunahon ka Devta* (the name of which, incidentally, inspired two Hindi films and one TV series, neither of which was actually based on the novel) in 1949. It was hugely popular when it was first published, especially among Hindi-speaking young urban males. It still is regarded by dozens as one of the best (if not *the* best) Hindi novels ever.

Which is why I thought it was high time I finally read it.

The story, set in Allahabad just after Independence, centres on a studious young research scholar, Chandar Kapoor, and Sudha, the daughter of his mentor, Dr Shukla. Dr Shukla regards his protégé more as a member of the family than a student, and Chandar treats their home like his own. His relationship with Sudha is one of deep affection and camaraderie, almost fraternal—at least to Chandar.

This state of affairs does not last for long; it soon becomes obvious to Sudha's nearest and dearest—her friend and colleague Gesu, and Sudha's cousin Binti, who has come from the village to stay with them in Allahabad along with her harridan of a mother—that Sudha is in love with Chandar. And, in time, Sudha confesses to Chandar. He *does* love her, too, but with all the chaste fervour of a devotee at the foot of a deity.

Which is why, when Dr Shukla (unaware of the love between Sudha and Chandar) decides to get Sudha married, Sudha is shocked to find Chandar *insisting* she marry the man her father's picked. Because the man, Kailash, is someone Chandar himself has met and knows to be good; because he will keep Sudha happy; and

because, after all, honour being what it is, Chandar cannot dare to marry Sudha—that will be taking advantage of Dr Shukla and all that Chandar owes him.

So Sudha gets married to Kailash, and Chandar embarks on a mad journey, from being Sudha's *devta*—the 'deity' she worships—to being the *gunaahon ka devta*, the 'deity of sins'. En route, his relationship with the beautiful divorcee, the Anglo-Indian Pummy, goes from friendship to something much more turbulent, and his relationship with Sudha's cousin Binti takes a not-unexpected turn. And through it all, swamped by his own growing sense of guilt, his despair, and his frustration with life and love—in all its forms, emotional *and* physical—Chandar grows.

An interesting premise for a story, and a story, actually, that's pretty well-narrated. For me, the most satisfying elements of *Gunaahon ka Devta* were the character arc of its protagonist Chandar; the way the story unfolds, slowly and believably; and the characterizations, which are mostly shades of grey. Both Sudha and Chandar are by turn weak-willed and strong, selfish and generous, self-righteous and self-pitying, naïve and wise.

On the other hand, several things put me off. One was the stereotypical characterization of the Anglo-Indian Pummy as the siren, the woman who lives only for the sensual pleasures she can get out of life. A divorcee, too, *and* one who—in her more 'enlightened moments'—admits that Hindu women, whose marital lives are decided by their parents, have it the best. Ugh.

Then there were the inconsistencies between how people were described and how they acted. Binti is described as being somewhat stoic, never crying—but she's shown crying at several points in the book, even before this statement has been made. Similarly, Chandar is described as being serious and stern, but some of his pranks (for instance, one he pulls on the poet Bisariya, who tutors Sudha and Binti) belie this.

Lastly, the dialogue, which was often—especially when bordering on the esoteric—completely unrealistic. (Oddly enough, there were other dialogues which I admired a lot: Bharti does a brilliant job of putting in the dialects spoken by Binti's mother, or by the Maharajin, both of which brought them to life).

A good book, path-breaking for its time, but also somewhat dated. And not one I'm likely to re-read in a hurry.
