Poland: The Rising of the Phoenix! Text by Ragini Ramachandra, Photographs by S. Ramachandra, Mysore: Dhvanyaloka Publication, 2016, pp. 65, Price Rs.500/-

Poland: The Rising of the Phoenix! is the sixth in the remarkable series of Travelogues by Ragini Ramachandra and Ramachandra. It recounts how their recent visit to Poland enabled them to make an amazing discovery that here was a battle-ravaged country which despite its bruised psyche was striding towards progress and prosperity, emerging like the mythical phoenix in the process. This impression is confirmed by their visits in particular to Krakow, the “Cradle of Polish Culture” and Warsaw, “a City of Ruins” now metamorphosing into “a City of Re-birth” which serves as a “symbol of the resilient Polish spirit”. Krakow, the earlier capital of the country with its medieval-antique look, its Old Synagogue displaying amongst many other artefacts a painting of Shylock with Jessica, its reputed Salt Mines (Wiesielka), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, its Wawel Castle along with the Wawel Cathedral, Leonardo da Vinci’s seminal painting, “Lady with an Ermine”, Chopin concerts that served as a “mediation between spiritual and sensual life” and its Jagiellonian University where Copernicus, the great astronomer had studied rightly attracted the authors.

It was the same with Warsaw, a reconstructed city with its huge, towering Palace of Culture and Science, the Lazienki Park with a Monument to Chopin, the great composer, the Royal Castle, the Church of the Holy Cross with its Chopin Pillar, the Copernicus Monument, Madam Curie Museum, Joseph Conrad’s House and the University of Warsaw where the authors chanced upon seeing Arc News, a Newsletter where India’s Geospatial success was praised. The meteoric changes in Warsaw, now humming with hope, optimism and energy understandably appealed to the authors who admired its “blend of the old and the new in both appearance and spirit”, eliciting the remark: “Warsaw is well-worth watching in future”.

Dr. Ragini Ramachandra’s travel writing reveals an intellectual and emotional understanding of history, landscape, casual conversations reflecting people’s attitude to life enhanced by the realistic visual representation of the same by Dr. S. Ramachandra’s photographs.

A P Dani


Charu Sheel Singh is a well known Indian English poet and critic who has not only regenerated Indian poetic tradition of Aurobindo and Tagore but has created a new poetic paradigm through his mythopoetic imagination, historical framework and rare combination of psychic and mystic inspiration and experiences. His poetry has power to disrupt the giant flow of bizarre tradition of Ezekiel and others. Singh’s Ten Mahavidyas carries the mystical imagination that is also mythical and image centred.

Dialogue: A Journal Devoted to Literary Appreciation
Vol XII  No 1  June 2016