

Poetry Series

**Rati Saxena**  
**- poems -**

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## Rati Saxena(08/01/1953)

Dr. Rati Saxena – Poet/ Translator/ Editor (kritya) / Director Poetry festivals- kritya and vedic scholar. She has 11 collections of poetry in Hindi and English and one each in translated in to Malayalam (translated) , Irish, and Italian, and English by other poets. Her poems have been translated in other international languages like, Chinese, Vietnam, Albanian, Spanish, Uzbek. Indonesian has a travelogue in Hindi- “Cheenti ke par”, a Memoire in English-“ Every thing is past tense “. a criticism on famous Malayalam Poet Balamaniyamma’s work. Her research on the Atharvaveda has been published as \*The Seeds of the Mind- \* a fresh approach to the study of Atharvaveda, under the fellowship of the Indira Gandhi National Center for Arts. She has translated about 12 Malayalam works, both prose and poetry, into Hindi and two from Norwegian languages. she has participated in several national seminars and published articles in a number of journals. She secured the Kendriya Sahitya Akademi award for translation for the year 2000. She has been invited for poetry reading in prestigious poetry festivals like &quot; PoesiaPresente&quot; in Monza (Italy) , Mediterranea Festival (Rome) and International House of Stavanger (Norway) , Struga Poetry Evening (Mecidonia) , and '3rd hofleiner donauweiten poesiefestival 2010, Vienna, the prestigious poetry festival in Medellin (Colombia- two times) , She is the only indian participant in some imp poetry festivals like - Iran’s Fajr Poetry Festival, International Istanbul Poetry Festival (IIPF) Turkey,4th international Eskisehir Poetry Festival. Turkey And in China’s Moon Festival and Asia pacific poetry festival 2015 Hanoi She has been invited to some American Universities also to talk about Vedic poetry and recite her own poetry like Mary Mount University in Loss angles and University of Seattle (USA) , She is one of the three representatives from Asia for World Poetry Movement, which has 37 foundation members around the world. She is the only Indian whose poem has been chosen in popular book of china – 110 modern poems of the world.

# Before Leaving

close all the doors, one  
by one,

hear them shut with a click,  
pat each knob farewell,

and try never to promise to return,  
not even by mistake,

don't fret over who next  
might pass through; each door  
itself decides this

before leaving wipe away  
each footprint  
and fingerprint, no longer  
needed by anyone,

before leaving, pack your things,  
bundle every rusted story

and decorate the table with memories of laughter

before leaving, check every book,  
throwing out the pressed flowers  
dried in their pages

before leaving erase every line, break  
open all the knots

and smile with strength  
until life comes to sit  
in the corners of your mouth

before leaving, close the final door,  
and the rest will close themselves

translated from hindi to English by Seth Michelson

Rati Saxena