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*Bhagwati Charan Verma*

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?????????? Bhagwati Charan Verma  
a Philosophical Novel

### ?????????? Details

Date : Published 2008 by Rajkamal Prakashan (first published January 1st 1934)

ISBN :

Author : Bhagwati Charan Verma

Format : 200 pages

Genre : Fiction, Cultural, India

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## From Reader Review ?????????? for online ebook

### Deepak Pitaliya says

A great book indeed. Story flows naturally and language is simple. A very realistic portrayal of characters who get caught in the web of their desires. Most of the events take place based on the decisions taken on the spur of the moment(that is what most of us do in real life). Chitrlekha leaves materialistic Beejgupt for spiritualistic Kumargiri (only to regret it later), thus setting a chain of events in motion. Yogi Kumargiri knows his imminent fall from grace but is helpless against the charms of Chitrlekha. On the other hand Beejgupt rises above ordinary and gives up all his material comforts(does he too regret it later? nobody knows).

What I liked most is Beejgupta's character and his views. His assertion that everything natural is highly overrated and all artificial things are not bad is very persuasive.

I would have rated it 5 star but for two things:

1. Character of Yashodhara is not developed fully (maybe intentionally). I can't decide whether she is inclined more towards Beejgupta or Shwetank.

2. Assertion of Vishal Dev in the epilogue that Kumargiri is a saint and Beejgupta is a sinner even when he knew all about Kumargiri and Chitrlekha seem un-natural.

Overall I enjoyed the book thoroughly. In my opinion book is a must read.

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### Gorab Jain says

Superb character portrayal! Searching for sin was a great theme too. Add the logical debates contradicting each other and creating dilemma.

Enjoyed the first half immensely. Felt the latter part swayed a bit.

Loved the chapters depicted as sketched pictures.

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### Swaraj Yadav says

Read way back in school days .. stayed with me forever ...

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### Sachin Harale says

Simply superb !

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### Tanuj Solanki says

*Disclaimer: This review was written before discovering Shrilal Shukl, and is basically a venting out of some frustration, one that came from reading a total dud that many tout as a masterpiece. Hindi literature is not as*

*devastated as I seem to say here. The review has been transported here because two versions of the book seem to be doing the rounds on GR.*

Central Idea: A man does not do a saintly act, nor does he commit sin; a man just does what he has to do.

Plot: Two students, keen to understand the true nature of 'sin', are commissioned on a project by their Guru. One is sent to a rich young man enjoying all the pleasures of life, while the other is sent to a Yogi, who has abnegated all that is worldly for the spiritual. The students are required to serve these masters for one year and then revert with an answer to their question.

Pathetic Novel! But this terrible novel does one good thing: it reveals the truism that stylization, restraint and contextual relevance are necessary components of all fiction, even one -- in fact especially one -- whose purported aim is philosophy. With this thought, 'Chitrlekha' may not even be regarded a novel, for it is a brutal failure on all these aspects. Its characters -- or rather types -- are so deplorably tied to the inescapable, shrill voice of the author, that it reads not as a subtle display of his intelligence -- as it could have -- but as a loud, over-the-top honking of it. Verma grossly marginalizes texture, concentrating unceasingly on ill-conceiving events to enable him to engage his characters in debates on philosophical issues. The fake characters exist solely for the delivery of the author's point and counterpoint, and nothing else. A Dostoyevsky reference may be made here, but any comparison is impossible; Verma is too verbose and straightforward to come anywhere close to the Russian (who, incidentally, is not a big hit with me). So pathetic is Verma's desire for control, that at no single page is he able to distance himself from the work and let it flow.

All in all, the plot and the central idea are simplistic yet strong, but their translation into fiction is poor. 'Chitrlekha' is paragraph after paragraph of logical conversation (the logic by the way, if it really matters, is solid at times) delivered by characters who are clueless of what they will do next, other than talking, that is. 'Chitrlekha' is hurried, as if it was written by a writer restless to provide his soul some deliverance from his own cumbersome intelligence.

But now I'm wondering. Should I deliver the insult? I think I should: Chitrlekha, ostensibly a masterpiece of Hindi literature would have never EVER found a decent publisher if it was written in English (Is that the reason why there are no translations in print?) You may call me biased. I have read one more book by Bhagwaticharan Verma -- 'Veh Phir Nahi Aayi' -- and it had the same problems as Chitrlekha (though the stentorian philosophizing was absent, which made it passable). I have not yet read 'Bhoole Bisre Chitr', supposedly Verma's best book, and so I will abstain from making an unqualified comment about his writing -- or about Hindi-Urdu-literature-that-is-not-social-realism. But after reading some examples 20th century Hindi novel, I have decided to be a bit skeptical of its claim of being as good as its Western counterpart.

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## **Tanuj Solanki says**

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## Sushant Jha says

A marvellous book by Bhagwati Charan Verma which deals with the concept of sin and virtue and ultimately comes to the conclusion tha neither sin nor virtue exists in this world; it is the perspeticve with which we analyse the situation.

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## Chandan Kumar says

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### **Ankita says**

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This is what the protagonist of the novel believes in.

Someone who found comfort in unrest, Chitralkha, is portrayed as a woman of exceptional beauty and wisdom. A courtesan who can be seen musing over the philosophy of life and love and seen debating and putting great hermits to shame.

Beejgupt and Kumargiri are the other two main characters who just bring life to the story with their different personalities and remarkable opposing ideologies.

Have not we all pondered upon the great mysteries of life? Why are we born for? What is love, god all about? Here in the novel you can find pretty interesting philosophical answers to everything. The main topic in the plot was the definition of sin and virtue, and we go on to witness characters stating and pointing out what sin means to them.

The conclusion we reach upon in the end is that there is no such thing as a sin, we are puppets tied down to the circumstances and we do what we have to do.

I did see the story as an approach to show the power of beauty, attraction and love too, how it influences our human minds and how we tend to get manipulated running after those desires.

If you like philosophy this book would surely give you food for thought and enrich your search for deeper meanings, for the rest of the readers its just the ramblings we do after drinking like a fish.

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### **Avanindra Kumar says**

Exceptional dive into deep philosophy with intriguing story narration and engaging writing style!

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### **Rahul Khanna says**

Super Boring.

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### **Vijay says**

I just finished “Chitralkha”

I read a hindi book after quite sometime. I have read only Premchand’s novels when it came to hindi

literature. So this book was something different for me in lot of ways.

I was having two hindi books on my reading list for quite sometime, one was “Chitralkha” and another was “Yayati” . Finally I got in the mood to try Chitralkha, and I was very impressed by the writing style and the content.

This book is kind of philosophical treatise, and the fictional story that binds it together is just a means to communicate different point of views with stimulating arguments.

I liked this book for the food for thought it provided, for thoughtful and profound discussions between the characters, and also for the atmosphere it portrayed. A society which seems totally different from our current, yet so relatable.

All central characters are so strongly driven by their philosophy of life, yet they are always open to discuss and debate any opinion, they are even willing to change their way of life in a moment if they are convinced. With profound questions like what is right and what is wrong, what is truth and what is falsity. In search of absolutes and exploring all possibilities. This book is very deep and enriching in experience.

It is a short read, not very heavy, but it is very stimulating and thought provoking.

Starting from the very first line “what is Sin”, it absorbs you in it’s intriguing journey. And gives you some great answers and some food for thought.

I think I will read it again in times to come.

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### **Anand Krishna says**

What is sin and what is merit, what is good and what is bad? Ultimately, it comes to what is rightful to do at a given time and what is not. This book i read when i was in Std. 8 remains one of my favorite books.

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### **Nikunj Bharti says**

Intellectual discourse on spirituality in this book is splendid. Love, lust and its interference in life.

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### **Vivaswan Pathak says**

I generally don't like philosophical novels and hence I was extremely skeptical to pick this one. I am glad that I did, it is fairly small, not very heavy but shoots like a bullet. One can read it entirely in a single sitting, not because you want to just finish the book out of compulsion which in my case has happened in the past with most novels of similar genre, but only because the story weaves you in. It aids to you to think but doesn't force you to.. which I believe is its USP

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