

Ans. Nissim Ezekiel is a great poet and consistently bright critic in post independence Indian English poetry. He has achieved a high place in the poetic world as a practising poet of international standard. He may truly be called, **"The barometer of modern India's literary atmosphere"** He is undoubtedly one of the most remarkable poets in Indian English tradition, His poetry is many faceted, and it has certainly enriched Indian English poetry and provided a new dimension to it by extending its scope and its range. Regarding Ezekiel's influence on Indian English poetry **Bruce king** remarks,

"of the group of poets attempting to create a modern English poetry in India, Nissim Ezekiel soon emerged as the leader who advised others set standards and created place of publication."

As a poet Ezekiel is a trend setter. He has tried to establish certain literary norms. He made poetry "central to his life." While others wrote poems, he wrote poetry. In the words of **Bruce king**. **"Ezekiel brought a sense of discipline, self-criticism and mastery to Indian English poetry. He was the first Indian poet to have such a professional**

attitude. He holds that a poet should be candid, lucid, honest and straight forward. His poetry fulfils this qualification of poetic composition and in this respect he is a linear in Indian English poetry.

Modern Poet—Ezekiel is a modern poet in the real sense. His poetry shows the present and the modern age. He discarded the old fashioned poetry which was "colonial, provincial amateur poetry." His themes are modern. Bruce King writes, "Life in the city, sexuality, the problems of marriage, the need of to overcome alienation and to create integration among the various aspects of his character are Ezekiel's early and continuing themes. Such modern characteristics as irony, heightened critical self-consciousness, strong intellectual purpose.....a multiplicity of tones, the artistic distancing of emotion through a persona were among his contributions to Indian poetry."

His Indian Sensibility—Ezekiel is specially an Indian poet. His Indianness is "a vital element in his thought, feeling and imagery, much more obviously than in the work of either Morass or Lal." He has treated the theme of Indianness as "an intensely personal exploration." His poetry is noticeable for the depiction of typical Indian atmosphere. He surprises the reader with the freshness and originality of approach and observation in dealing with Indian society. Indian family life and hypocrisy and devious ways of civilized society, corruption in Indian society shock him most. He is the first major Indian English poet who portrays effectively the poverty, the squalor, the anguish and the irony of Indian existence "He remains urban poet committed to his environment." Ezekiel for the first time brought urban touch to poetry. With the help of irony and satire he exposes the evils of urban society.