

## Basking in Poetry: The Radiance of Songs in the Sun -

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### The Radiance of Songs in the Sun

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'Songs in the Sun,' a book which comprises a collection of 21 poems by Silvia Bragança has been translated into five languages along with the emotion with which they had been originally composed by Silvia: English, French, Hindi, Konkani, and Marathi. "Songs in the Sun" is indeed a labor of love and collaboration, a living tapestry of languages and cultures, stitched together over 24 months with over 500 hours involving translation, reading, rereading and revisions," said Irene Silveira Almeida, the editor and the person behind the idea of this multi-lingual project.

The translations of the original Portuguese poems were carried out by key individuals, namely Irene Silveira Almeida and Elisabeth Defrain for French, Loraine Barreto Alberto for English, Aditya Sinai Bhangui for Hindi, Naresh Naik for Konkani, and Purva Pandit Vasta for Marathi. Shusha Oliveira is the design editor of this master compilation.

Irene Silveira Almeida is also Silvia's niece who had a close relationship with her for many years. She has observed Silvia's profound passion for poetry and art, often witnessing her spontaneously recite verses or jot down poems. Particularly moved by the struggles of those in distress, Silvia aimed to shed light on their hardships through her poetry. While watching news reports from areas affected by conflict, she would create poems that emphasized their suffering and called for peace. In light of the current global resurgence of war, Irene felt compelled to reconnect with her work and share it through translation, reflecting her desire to utilize language as a means to bridge divides.

Irene notes, "These poems explore a variety of themes, including conflict and peace, enslavement and freedom, as well as the universality of nature and human solidarity. The poet's perspective conveys allusions to the historical context of the 1970s and 1980s, including Portugal's Carnation Revolution, the conflicts in Mozambique, and societal racism, as she



experienced these events firsthand."

The events of October 19, 1986, form the core, with Poem to the 35, poignantly remember the 35 individuals who perished in the tragic crash that claimed the lives of Samora Machel and Aquino de Bragança," says Irene. Moving beyond her personal anguish, Silvia becomes the voice of a grieving community, capturing the profound loss endured by countless spouses, children, and comrades.

Poems like ...of the hut, my paradise... and Marta, your name! powerfully evoke the last moments of the dying, bringing to life the raw, intense suffering of war's victims and concluding with the haunting question, "Who did my life give life to?"—a question that resonates deeply with Silvia. Her poetry is born from the shadow of death, yet it pulsates with life. In One Ship and Two Stars, Silvia crafts an allegorical journey that mirrors her own life with Aquino, poetically depicting two stars navigating the Indian Ocean, and her onward journey from that ill-fated day. Too long the trodden path! is a strikingly simple yet potent visual poem that celebrates resilience. Another notable piece, Entombed Are My Bones, of Whites and Blacks, builds up to a crescendo with the word "equal," powerfully underscoring the inherent equality between races. In 'If Ears Would Listen to Supplications', Silvia's

art combines with her words to amplify her plea for "bread for all". In the final poem depicted in the colors of the sun- Don't Kill, Don't Take Away the Sun's Right to Rise!, Silvia uses the imagery of the dawn as a metaphor for hope, resilience, and renewal.

Silvia's work reflects a profound engagement with the literary and socio-political currents of her time, blending lyrical beauty with didactic reflection—a style shaped not only by her personal experiences but by the influence of her husband, Aquino de Bragança. Aquino, a committed intellectual, advocated for social justice and cross-cultural understanding. Together, they envisioned literature as a bridge for reconciliation and healing, especially in post-colonial contexts fraught with conflict and division. Inspired by Aquino's ideals, Silvia's lyrical poems address themes of resilience, love, and peace, anchoring them in the harsh realities of violence and loss. She transforms these experiences into verses that inspire collective hope and a call to action. Her poem Battles waged, Lasting dreams is emblematic of this, encapsulating their shared belief in a world where language, love, and peace replace divisiveness. The work concludes with a poignant call to "speak a different language each day"—a metaphor for bridging divides.

Initially, launched as a limited edition in 1998, this collection has now been

reimagined and translated into five different languages. By amplifying her voice, we aim to preserve her message of solidarity, Silvia's earlier work, *Sonhos da Lua* (Dreams of the Moon), has been recognized as a beloved anthology in children's poetry, encapsulating the enchantment of childhood dreams and the limitless possibilities of imagination, explains Irene. She further notes that she rediscovered Bragança's poetry and conducted research on her collection, presenting her findings at an International Conference in 2020. "Through my study of her writing, I came to appreciate the strength of her message and the allure of her distinctive style, which I sought to advance through this multilingual translation initiative," she states.

Irene aspires for readers to experience Silvia's art and poetry in translation as an encounter that transcends linguistic barriers. She encourages readers to engage profoundly with the themes she ardently expressed—healing from collective grief, bridging divides, and fostering compassion among communities—and to view the anthology as an invitation to actively construct connections between cultures.

"A unique challenge faced during the project was that of conveying her visual, and metaphor-laden language in a way that would resonate across diverse languages and cultural contexts," admits Irene. Silvia's poetry is deeply rooted in specific historical moments. For contemporary audiences, who may be less familiar with these contexts, it was essential to provide clarity without diminishing the impact of her words. Translators paid attention to Silvia's visual and metaphoric language, working together to retain her vivid imagery while adapting metaphors to reflect culturally resonant symbols in each language. The multilingual translation, allows her legacy to live on for a diverse, global audience.

"I see Silvia Bragança's poetry resonating profoundly with future generations, especially as her themes of resilience, peace, and unity continue to hold urgent relevance in our complex, interconnected world!," exclaims Irene.

### The audiobook between

Fraser

In 1958, Quincy Jones was in Paris when he received a call from the princess of Monaco. Grace had convinced the principality to fund a fundraising concert for the UN Refugee Fund and booked Frank Sinatra to perform—but she needed a backing orchestra.

Within days Jones arrived in French Riviera with 55 hand-picked musicians for a less than an hour rehearsal show, but the orchestra missed a beat. "Nice job, Q," Sinatra said afterward. Six years later, Quincy Jones arranged a swing album for Count Basie that produced the hit, "Fly Me to the Moon." Jones, who died at age 91, is responsible for so many influential



in American music—from writing for Charles to launching Michael's solo career to producing 'We're Here' World. All the while his legacy as a producer would serve as an inspiration for hip-hop moguls such as Russell Simmons and P Diddy—an era Jones was at the forefront of documenting with his

# Celebrating a legacy of freedom and art



## NT KURIOCIETY

**A**s part of the centenary celebrations of Aquino de Bragança, a panel discussion, book launch, and a documentary screening was held at The Shenoj Goembab School of Languages and Literature (S.G.S.L.L.), Goa University, in collaboration with the School of International and Area Studies (S.I.A.S.), and Lotus Film and TV Production.

Aquino de Bragança was a distinguished Goan who played a crucial role as Samora Machel's special envoy to Lisbon during Mozambique's fight for independence. His wife, Silvia Bragança, has immortalised Aquino through her art and poetry. And the translation of her poetry collection 'Songs in the Sun' was launched at the event. This work, originally in

Portuguese, was translated into French, English, Konkani, Hindi, and Marathi. This multilingual effort aims to make these poems accessible to a broader audience and marks the first publication under Goa University's IPR and Patent Scheme. It was translated by Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida (French), Elisabeth Defrain (French), Loraine Barreto Alberto (English), Naresh Naik (Konkani), Aditya Sinai Bhangui (Hindi), and Purva Vasta (Marathi)—faculty from within the school. Almeida also served as the editor for work.

The event commenced with a welcome address by the dean of S.G.S.L.L. Anuradha Wagle who emphasised the interdisciplinary nature of the book and its uniqueness in incorporating translations across all the languages offered at the school.

The collection also features an artistic re-imagining of Silvia's art that thematically accompanies each poem—a reworking that highlights the artistic genius of Shusha Oliveira. The vice-chancellor of Goa University, Harilal B. Menon, officially released the book, praising Silvia Bragança's writing for its ability to transcend boundaries and highlighting the significance of the multilingual translations in bridging linguistic divides.

Following the book launch, a panel discussion was held that delved into the life and contributions of Aquino, featuring insights from Dr. Colin Darch, a prominent researcher and activist from South Africa, who shared his experiences working alongside Aquino and highlighted Aquino's role as a diplomat and peace negotiator. Miguel Bragança, a relative of Aquino, provided a familial perspective, while Nalini Elvino de Sousa presented on 'Remembering Aquino de Bragança through the documentary Special Envoy.'

The final segment of the event featured the screening of the documentary 'Special Envoy,' directed by Sousa, co-produced by Lotus Film & TV Production and Real Ficção.

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