

“Deeply meditative, full of sorrow, reflection and hope, these poems echo the sounds of Guyana’s sonorous past – rivers and creeks, riot, thunder and bloodshed, the perils of the backdam. Memory deepens the wounds and refuge is found only in solitude and a sacred silence. This collection is a thoughtful and bittersweet dilemma – the past continually blotting out the present – and a notable contribution to the evolving literature of The Americas.”

– **Ramabai Espinet**
Poet, Educator and Author of *The Swinging Bridge*

“This collection is choral. The poems ride on the grand waterways of her heritage. These poems are situated within the scent of the rainforest of Guyana and the delicate snows of Canada, permeated with the flavours of Janet Naidu’s homeland. Naidu sensitively engages her multiple consciousness to examine universal themes. *Sacred Silence* is the artful juxtaposition of past and present to create new futures. It blossoms again and again.”

– **Vibert Cambridge**
Professor of Telecommunications and
Chair of the Department of African American Studies, Ohio University

“Nostalgia and memory for the homeland are at the heart of Janet Naidu’s *Sacred Silence* – poems that have a meditative appeal with uniform rhythms and sustained imagery, reflecting a particular Guyanese sensibility and consciousness. Overall, these poems are timely as they reflect Naidu’s vision of peace and solitude in our fast-paced, frenetic world.”

– **Cyril Dabydeen**
Former Poet Laureate of Ottawa and
winner of the Guyana Prize for Fiction for *Drums of My Flesh*

Sacred Silence traces past and present in one’s journey, exploring the mysteries of love, despair and endurance, attachment and departure, longing and fulfillment. In spite of life’s baffling moments, the presence of peace and healing dwell at the core of one’s being, bringing new reflections and a wisdom in our connection with the world.



Janet Naidu is the author of two collections of poetry, *Rainwater* (2005) and *Winged Heart* (1999), her first collection, short-listed for the Guyana Prize for Literature, Poetry category, in 2000.

She was born in Guyana and lives in Ontario, Canada.

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