



Vikram Chopra (31 July 1942 – 20 January 2023)

Professor Vikram Chopra's sudden death on 20th January this year is a great loss to the worldwide community of lovers of Shakespeare.

It was largely owing to Professor Chopra's persistent and tireless effort that the Shakespeare Society of India came into existence in 1987, with him as its first Secretary, and he remained closely associated with its management and with all its activities throughout his life. In 2019 he was elected President of the Society, but his tenure was cut short by his tragic and untimely death.

As a scholar, Professor Chopra made significant contributions to the study of Shakespeare's impact in India. He is the editor of two collections of essays on Shakespeare which bring together almost the entire range of Indian responses to Shakespeare. These are: *Shakespeare: Varied Perspectives*, with a Foreword by Kenneth Muir (Delhi: B.R. Publishing Corp., 1996) and *Shakespeare: The Indian Icon: A Collection of Indian Responses: Social, Cultural, Academic*, with a Foreword by Jay L. Halio (Delhi: The Readers Paradise, 2011). He is also the editor of *Corona Crisis: Gems from Debris: A Spectrum of Fresh Reflections* (New Delhi: Heritage Publishers, 2021), a collection of writings relating to Covid 19 by scholars and writers from all over the world. Unlike the usual impersonal, professionally driven academic collections, these publications bear the strong imprint of Vikram Chopra's personality, his wide and varied sympathies and his deep love of the subject.

There was a seamless continuity between Professor Chopra's life and his works, both of which remained totally untouched by the corrosive skepticism of modern thought. His life was marked by a deep and abiding love of nature and of human beings and he firmly believed that all great art including Shakespeare's testifies to "the holiness of the Heart's affections."