

# Survivors

by Dilip Mohapatra (August 2016)



The serpentine candle march  
slithers along the streets  
near *Jantar Mantar*  
with pent up emotions  
flowing in silent tears  
even after two years  
tears which have not yet dried up  
reminding us of the black day  
of sixteenth December  
when *Jyoti* was rechristened  
*Damini* or *Nirbhaya*

and a victim with a new name  
the survivor.

And eons ago  
not very far away  
in the courts of *Hastinapura*  
amidst the lustful eyes  
of the lecherous men  
while her legitimate protectors  
bow their heads in shame  
attempt is made to  
disrobe *Draupadi*  
but in vain  
and the victim becomes  
victorious  
another survivor.

The ink has dried on  
the pages of Mahabharata  
and the candles have died  
but the sparks within  
live on and smolder

that may leap into flame  
and become an inferno  
and the *Shakti* within  
each feminine heart  
will resonate with one another  
with an indomitable spirit  
undaunted  
unadulterated  
undiluted  
and undeterred  
when the presumed survivor  
becomes the conqueror  
when the so called vanquished  
becomes the victor.

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**Dilip Mohapatra** (b.1950), a decorated Navy Veteran started writing poems since the seventies . His poems have appeared in many literary journals of repute worldwide. Some of his poems are included in the World Poetry Yearbook, 2013 and 2014 Editions. He has four poetry collections to his credit published by Authorspress India, and one non-fiction, a book of wisdom titled Points to Ponder. He holds two masters degrees, in Physics and in Management Studies. He lives with his wife in Pune. His website may be accessed at [dilipmohapatra.com](http://dilipmohapatra.com).

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