

**A REVIEW OF ANUBHAV SHARMA'S AASTIK - STORY OF A JUVENILE MIND  
AND DIVINITY OF DESTINY**

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Aastik- Story of a Juvenile Mind and Divinity of Destiny

By Anubhav Sharma (Additional District Judge, Faridabad)

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Aastik – a powerful book would touch your soul, a kind of gift to pilgrim enthusiasts and to those who are true devotees. Anubhav Sharma is a fascinating protagonist who has worked even on the stock exchange. It is his pilgrimage to Badrinathiji where the plot takes place; you realize gradually that the author is looking for something. It is the series of events that enable readers to learn more and more. All the ordinary things stimulate complex considerations during his journey. The author eventually reveals an excellent story about his own Aastik journey.

As he starts narrating 'like the world, Aastik too loves himself' puts the readers in a state of being bewildered but soon the next line 'he strives more for food for his mind than for his body', comes as a respite.

In our lives the very word 'peace' is highly important. It has a profound meaning if we talk about inner peace. There are people who relate these words to spirituality while others relate them to feeling of contentment. Here we are made to understand contentment makes one feel satisfied with what one possesses and happiness is directly associated with the feeling of contentment.

Aastik thinks 'a person can't be spiritual without being religious. Religiosity is a step towards being a believer .... Being a believer.' It is this ideology that draws both readers and young reader's attention ..... His specific accentuation on faith by alluding to Krishna in 'Gita' or teachings of Osho has been done in all respects effectively. Regardless of whether it is voyage to 'Devbhumi' Rishikesh or Haridwar, experience with Maths instructor, reaching Ashram everything has been explained dexterously.

There are numerous who attempt to conquer troubles and endeavor to give their best in the journey for inward harmony. In the long run they achieve that dimension where two words 'expectation' and 'acceptance' become key words in their life. They evade the very word expectation and begin having faith in 'whatever comes let it come'. This logic really sets them up for the trial of life.

'Every generation will have its own Meera', ..., he comes to this judgement after having a conversation with Maths Teacher about Ladu Gopal. It is here we feel as if we are does to discover inner peace and calm.

Having faith in God and firm belief in ourselves helps us accomplish our much awaited goal. It will take us long way - a strong person with strong will power. Further many incidents make us believe how God has been kind to us in innumerable ways and how he has given us the strength to bear all loses. The protagonist's youthful mind and divine destiny helps in carving out a great Aastik.

Towards the end of the book, the engaging words show the distinction between adventure and travel offers the readers the strength to fulfill all challenges.

This fantastic, straight forward, yet amazing book is all about an Aastik who makes this life a journey. This book would touch young people's hearts and play a significant role in instilling good ideas and complete faith and surrender in God.

