

2018 Dharmic Arts and Humanities Award to Sasenarine Persaud

The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) based in Washington, DC <https://www.hafsite.org/> has named Guyanese born Sasenarine Persaud as the 2018 recipient of the HAF Award for the Advancement of Dharmic Arts and Humanities from the Tampa Bay Chapter "to recognize significant contributions towards enlightening and educating others through many inspiring literary works of dharmic values and traditions."

Persaud's previous awards include: The K.M. Hunter Foundation Award (Toronto), the Arthur Schomburg Award (New York) and the Leslie Epstein Fellowship at Boston University.

Sasenarine Persaud is an essayist, novelist and poet who originated the term Yogic Realism for his literary aesthetics. He has published essays in *Brick* (Toronto), *World Literature Today* (Oklahoma) and *Critical Practice* (New Delhi) on Yogic Realism. Persaud's work and Yogic Realism has been the focus of a PhD dissertation by an Indian scholar. Born in Guyana, he has lived for 3 decades in North America and is considered a "major poet" from South America. His work is widely anthologized including in *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories* and *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Verse*; and used in schools and colleges in Canada, the Caribbean, Italy, India, Mauritius the UK and the US. He is the author of 14 books including, *Canada Geese and Apple Chatney* (stories).

Monsoon on the Fingers of God (2018), his latest book, has been called by *ICDN.Today* "an extraordinary collection" of "unmistakable originality" and a "deep meditation on identity and migrations." <http://www.icdn.today/post/master-musician-monsoon-on-the-fingers-of-god>

Canadian Literature calls him "one of those rare poets who gets the recipe of humanness exactly right." *The Halifax Chronicle Herald* writes, "Persaud is dauntlessly brainy . . . a bit like reading T.S. Eliot mixed up with Rabindranath Tagore. Persaud's poems are unapologetically learned," while Wasafiri (London), notes, "[T]he poet's mastery of the English language is underwritten by ancestral histories and myths. Love is age-old and universal. Persaud is a poet of precise language, of the finely-honed meaning . . ."

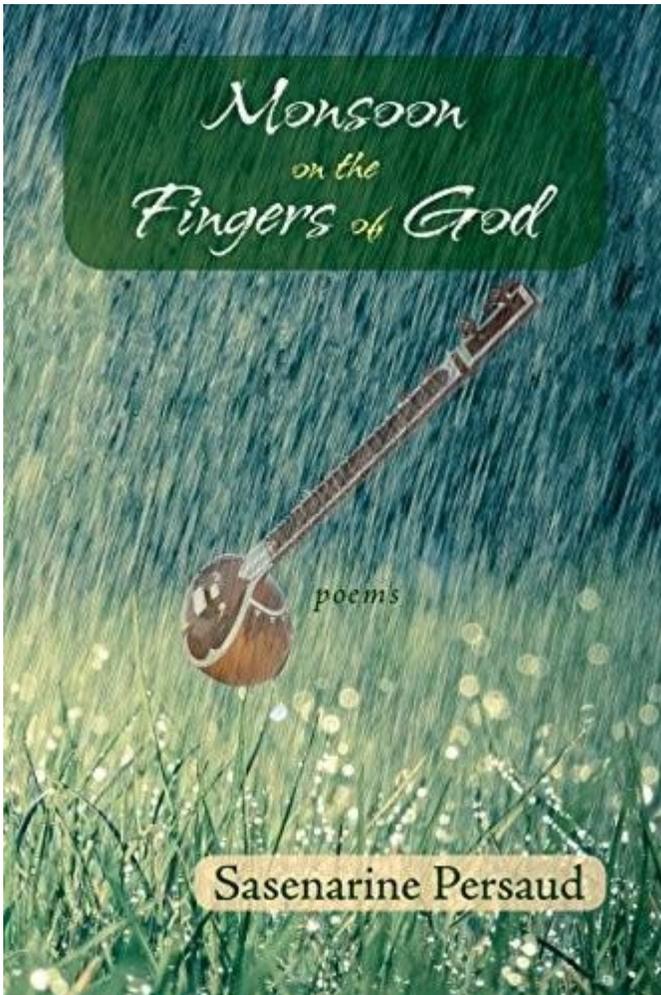
The award ceremony is to be held on November 17, at the HAF Gala in Tampa in the Community Temple Hall, Hindu Temple of Florida, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa, FL 33624 from 6:30-10:00 pm.

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Sasenarine Persaud is an essayist, novelist, short-story writer, and poet. He is the author of ten books: seven poetry collections, two novels, and a book of short stories. His latest book, In a Boston Night, was published by TSAR in 2008. He was born in Guyana and has lived for several years in Canada. He has served as a vice-president and chair of the membership committee of the League of Canadian Poets, on the Board of Directors of the Scarborough Arts Council (Toronto), and on juries for the Toronto Arts Council and the Ontario Arts Council. He presently resides in Tampa, Florida.

Monsoon on the Fingers of God



In his eleventh book of poetry, Sasenarine Persaud continues his exploration of form, and improvisations on styles, rhythm/taal and raagic moods in an examination of identity, history and human migrations.

Regarded as “a major poet” (Al Creighton, *Stabroek News*) from Guyana and the Caribbean, Persaud’s work is widely anthologized—including in *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Poetry* and *A World of Poetry* (Hodder, London)—and used in schools, colleges and universities in Canada, the Caribbean, India, Italy, the UK and the US. His aesthetics, Yogic Realism, has been the focus of a doctoral dissertation. Persaud’s poetry has been nominated for the Canadian National Magazine Award and the Forward Poetry Prize in the UK. He has lived for three decades in Canada and the United States, and makes his home in Florida.

Persaud has been described as “one of those rare poets who gets the recipe of humanness exactly right” (*Canadian Literature*); and his poetry as “miniature raags, sensuous units of Indian music obeying conventions mysterious to western ears” (*The Globe and Mail*, Toronto) and as:

“A powerful voice for bicultural diaspora South Asians in North America and the Caribbean.”

--*The English Language Poetry of South Asians: A Critical Study* (McFarland, North Carolina)

Praise for Love in a Time of Technology:

"[T]he poet's mastery of the English language is underwritten by ancestral histories and myths. Love is age-old and universal . . . Persaud is a poet of precise language, of the finely-honed meaning . . ."

—**Wasafiri** (London)

"Persaud's poems are spiced with the imagery of his ancestral India—Hindu gods, rituals, lavish epics, and seductive flowers . . . Persaud seems both haunted and inspired by the notion that America shelters so few who have any true ancestral claim to the place . . . Reading Persaud's verse, it's hard not to feel, and in any way be heartened by, the sense that each one of us is, in one way or another, an exile."

—**Bostonia** (Boston)