

Vol. 8, No. 1: CLRI February 2021 | p 253-254

## Christine Wishnoff

### Idea of India

Who may walk the halls of Hindustan?  
Who may nurture the Idea of India?  
Is it a place solely reserved for Hindus,  
Or does it continue to welcome  
The huddled masses of the sub-continent?  
Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Parsi, Muslim alike,  
Brothers in blood, cousins in culture.  
Will it welcome me as a curious Westerner,  
Looking up her mother's skirt?  
At one point, we all fell from her lap  
In death, migration, diaspora and partitioning.  
Previous lifetimes of soul experience  
Bubbling up to swell the blessed Ganga.  
India, my bride, my forever lover:  
May I set our *muhurta*?  
May I meet you under the mandap?  
May I kindle the ceremonial fire and circle you?  
May I festoon you in flower garland?  
May I join our garments in knots?  
May I apply a bright sindoor?

May I be allowed to honor you in  
The ethos of an integrated state, or  
Will we burn in the eternal flames  
Of our primal divisions?  
Can we finally join in cord, spirit and country?  
With our worldwide brethren and bandhu,  
Seeking completion in the bride of Bharat.  
Devoted to light as against darkness,  
Happily, ever after in the valley Indus.



**Christine Wishnoff**

---

Christine Wishnoff wears many hats of accolades. She is a poet, scientist, astrologer, and cultural observer. She has featured in *iō Literary Journal*, *MahMag*, *Dissident Voice*, *Train River Press* and *Don't Die Press* among others.

---

An advertisement banner for Amazon Prime. It features a light blue background. At the top left, a white starburst shape contains the text "PRIME AT ₹ 999 PER YEAR\*". In the center, the "amazonprime" logo is displayed in white on a dark blue rectangular background. Below the logo, three benefits are listed in white text with blue outlines: "Original Shows", "1-day delivery\*", and "Ad-free Music". At the bottom center, a yellow button with rounded corners says "Join now". In the bottom right corner, the text "\*T&C Apply" is written in a small, dark font.

PRIME AT  
₹ 999  
PER YEAR\*

amazonprime

Original Shows 1-day delivery\* Ad-free Music

Join now

\*T&C Apply

## [Get Your Book Reviewed](#)

If you have got any book published and are looking for a book review, contact us. We provide book review writing service for a fee. We (1) write book review (2) publish review in CLRI (3) conduct an interview with the author (4) publish interview in CLRI. [Know more here](#).

## [Authors & Books](#)

We publish book releases, Press Release about books and authors, book reviews, blurbs, author interviews, and any news related to authors and books for free. We welcomes authors, publishers, and literary agents to send their press releases. Visit our website <https://page.co/Vw17Q>.