

THE MARTYRS' MEMORIAL

Amarendra Kumar

*Amarendra Kumar (b. 1937), a poet and short story writer, was born in a north Bihar village. He did his M.A. in 1959 from Patna University. He was professor of English at R.N. College, Hajipur in the Bihar Univeristy Serivce from 1985 to 1997, and at Dhamar University in the Republic of Yemen from 1997 to 2002. In addition to publication in a number of journals and anthologies, he has four published books of poems, **The Real Episode** (1981), **Sound and Shell** (1986), **Stage Dilemma** (1988) and **Song/Anti-Song** (1996) and a collection of short stories **Passionate Pilgrim** (2006) in addition to his collection of short stories in Hindi **KachchaBela** (1993).*



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The legendary martyrs of Patna
who sought to break through
the Empire's armoured, bayonet-pronged
barricade
for flag-hoisting at the Secretariat
on the historic day of August Eleven
Nineteen Fortytwo
Felt the tower top grow moist
By the mind's eye ...

5

Receptive clay's yearning
to bear the native flagplant,
to exorcise the choking pernicious
alien spell.

10

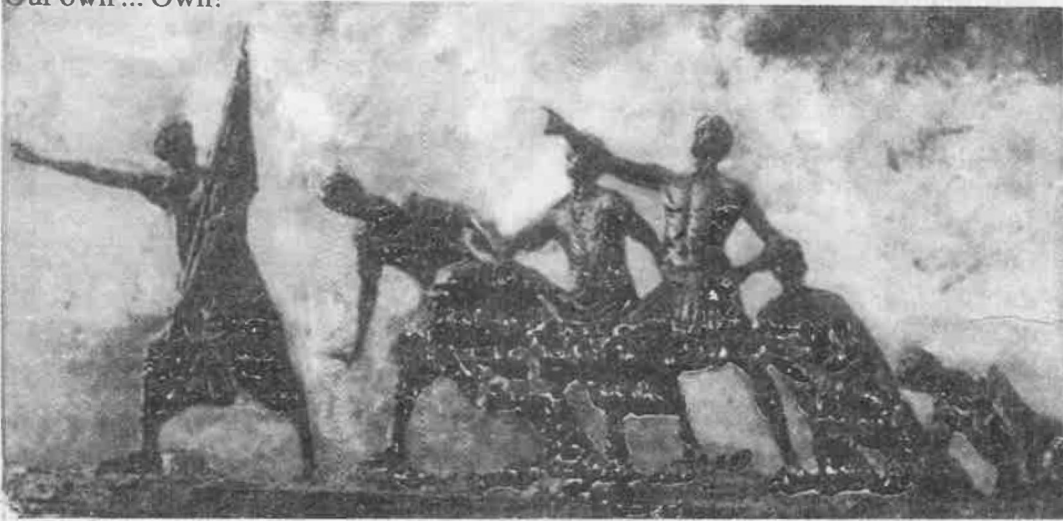
The blazing victory-marchers
of the trampled land
heard only their blood-thunderous charge,
intrepid unswerving flagmen's
marching music.

15

The wide open agitated scene witnessed
fed the tidal swell of the iron will
and the fiery slogans ...

20

Down! Down! Down!
On to the top!
Our own ... Own!



Each breaker of the bond of slavery
renounced earthly care,
the warm tender ties of household love,
the tangled knotty mesh of
trivial concerns ...

25

Each in his paradise
of the taste of freedom
by the taste of his own blood,

30