

Above all the canal mela ought to be mentioned, canal water is regulated by the irrigation department in the canal where decorated boats, illuminated structures; animals, birds, flowers and fountains fascinate the viewers which is heard by almost everyone, especially the little kids, **Saman Agha** takes a round of the city as the Spring Celebrations commence once again.

*Buttercups and Daises  
Oh the pretty flowers  
Coming ere the spring  
time  
To tell of sunny hours.*

**T**he undeniable bounty of The Lord Almighty; with a soothing breeze, sprouting saplings, whistling birds of different colours and races, dressing barren trees in fresh green leaves, adorning fields and gardens with blooming flowers of rainbow colours, arriving like a bride springs out the queen of the seasons — the merry Spring, long awaited by all the creatures, especially the Cuckoo that announces the advent of its dearest season.

Spring is as dear a season that the whole universe looks gay and spirited, every flower and bird seems telling a tale by its movements. The chirping birds twitter on the new buds producing their loudest sounds with full strength from their soul praising and thanking The

# The time to rejoice

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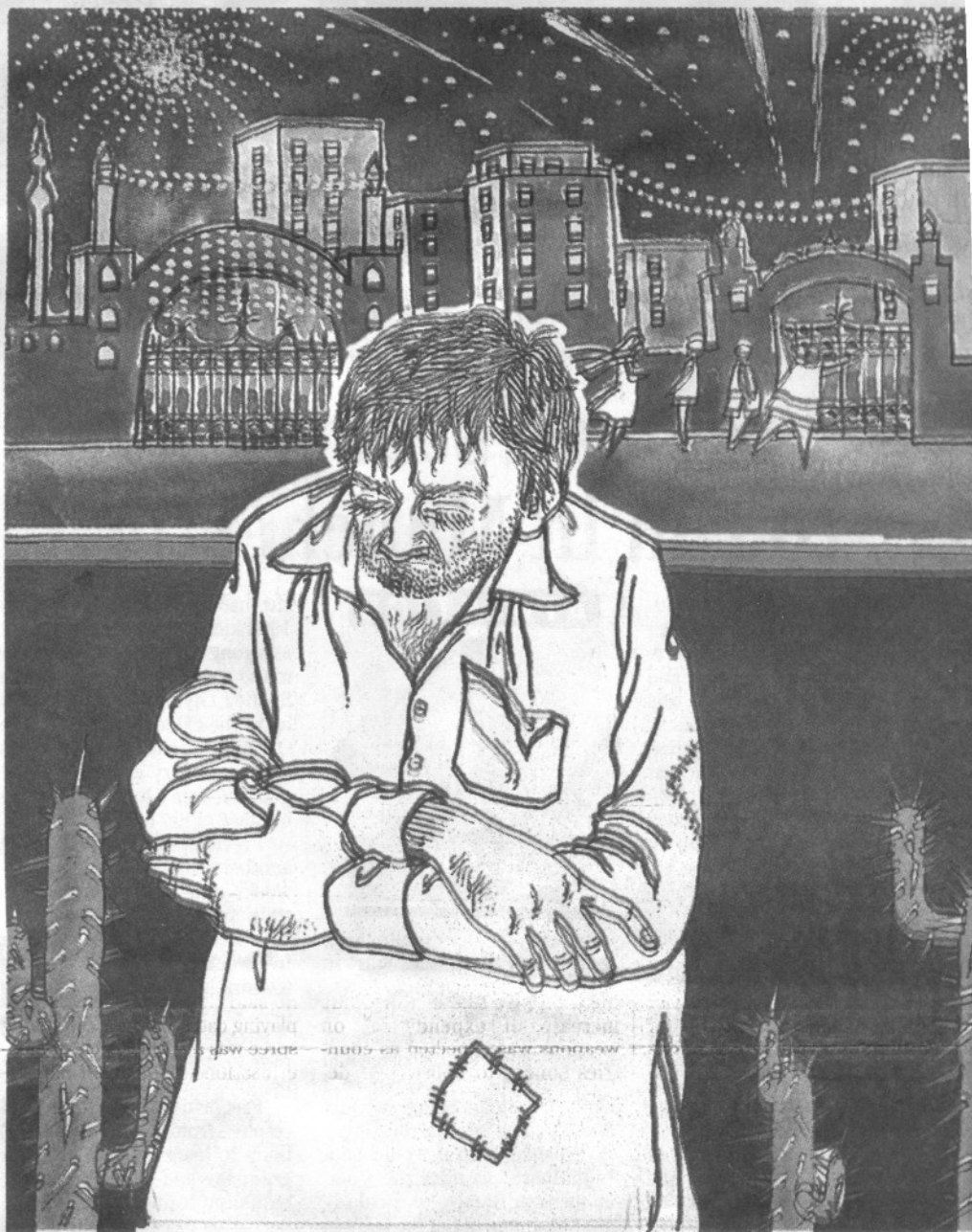
Master of the universe. Infact the birds seem to be the first to welcome the season of bo-kata and various other festivals marking the arrival of the mirthful season. The animals, as well as the whole mankind is seen in a glad mood welcoming the season of shades and colours in different comely manners of their own.

One can witness raking

changes of moods revealed from the joyful faces and activity of the commune. As the frosty cold passes away life seems to be suddenly activated. One starts feeling relax and light after a long time, willing to take off the cardigans, jackets and sweaters that one had throughout the chilling season.

The sweet little children — a part of the nature indeed

without whom the nature would look incomplete, are seen playing and sporting in the parks and fields so excitedly as if they have been set free from jails after a long time. Scenes of these joyful kids lost in their games adds to the beauty of the earth that the season brings. Despite all the beauties one also misses the colourful birds migrating from the northern



areas in winter for they depart back with the messages and sweet songs of spring for the dwellers over there.

Spring seems to be the beloved season of God, as it is said that the beloved Prophet (SAW) was sent to mankind in this very season. He decorated the world with fresh colours of nature. The season seems to be so beloved a season that it is considered as a symbol of blessing.

The warm welcome of spring would be incomplete without its songs and poems as it brings with it inspiration for the poets lost in thoughts and imagination. Poetry of countless eminent

poets has been published in every era welcoming the season of marvel and portraying the extravagant beauty of nature as well. A C Swinburne writes:

*And in green underwood  
and cover  
Blossom by blossom the  
spring begins*

Whereas Edmund Spenser writes:

*The merry cuckoo, the  
messenger of spring  
His trumpet shrill hath  
thrice already*

Every culture is espied

preparing for the warm welcome of the fair season that is the period of fun and fair. This is that very season in when the Hindus celebrate their colourful festival — Holi, in which they play with colourful powder and water, and of course the one of bo-kata ought to be mentioned above all when the "Zinda dilan-e-Lahore" observe basant, the festival of kites, excitedly. Basant is celebrated by each and every person as well as little kids who are seen running after kites crazily. As basant is to welcome spring, people, especially college and university girls are seen dressed in yellow and green dressing wearing matching jewellery as the fields are decorated with mustard flowers amid its green leaves.

Schools and other institutions start arrangements for functions and funfairs in which they present various items including regional folk dances, interesting games and exhibition of different things prepared by the children who participate actively. As the golden rays reach the world revealing the departure of the cruel cold, different gatherings and functions, including tea parties, evening parties concerts and marriages take place frequently with all other festivals. None of the marriage halls, parks, restaurants and lawns may be seen without populace in the busiest season when everyone is drowned in joy and fun.

Getup has always been a vital part of personality ever since the existence of man when he wore leaves. And now, people are even more conscious and careful in the matter of the costume they put on, either going to office, parks or educational institutions. A variety of dresses are worn according to the climate. Although the Lahoris are seen in khaddar, velvet and other warm stuffs in warm colours, but as winter gives up these are replaced by light stuffs in fresh colours of nature.

Throughout the green and yellow season a number of flower exhibitions take place in which the PHA plays a pivotal role decorating the city with kites, flowers, buntings, flags and streamers. In the enthusiastic celebration of 'Jashan-e-Baharan', different departments participate actively, whereas multinational companies, banks, different

associations and hoteliers sponsor for the superb festival. Various national games, mushairas, dramas, kabaddi sports events, folk dances, golf tournaments, children festival, painting exhibition, industrial exhibition, aviary show, landscape competition, floral parade by school children and shows like 'horse and cattle show' are organized. Along with the citizens, a number of outsiders enjoy the festive look of the city that is indeed worth appreciable.

Above all the canal meela ought to be mentioned, canal water is regulated by the irrigation department in the canal where decorated boats, illuminated structures; animals, birds, flowers and fountains fascinate the viewers which is heard by almost everyone, especially the little kids. "Spring no doubt brings ecstasy with it yet the adorners of the city are creditable who organize marvelous events that add to the gorgeousness of the season", said Amna, a student of Fine Arts Department of Punjab University.

New buds and flowers give such overwhelming appearance to the endless parks and gardens after a long long time that one hardly wants to go back leaving the splendid scene of nature. Infact spring takes one to a world of fantasy. In the start of this very season the gardeners sow seeds of numerous flowers, as Merry Gold, Jeffery, Bellia, Pansy, Atomia, and Phytollaea that would bloom when spring is in its full swing. This is the period of merrymaking and of course the time when the flower sellers get a golden opportunity to flourish their business as they have fresh beautiful bouquets of flowers of the season and a number of buyers too, going to parties and marriages.

Spring - the time of verve and vigor is surely a blessing of God out of His countless bounties for which everyone must be grateful to Him. When one happens to witness the gifts of nature that the only Master of the universe has bestowed with, one is filled with wonder. And He reminds in Surah Al-Rehman, "Fabe-ayye-aala-e Rabbekuma tukazzebaan". Despite spending the whole life in gratitude one can still not be able to fulfill the duty of thanking Him.

