

## Book Review

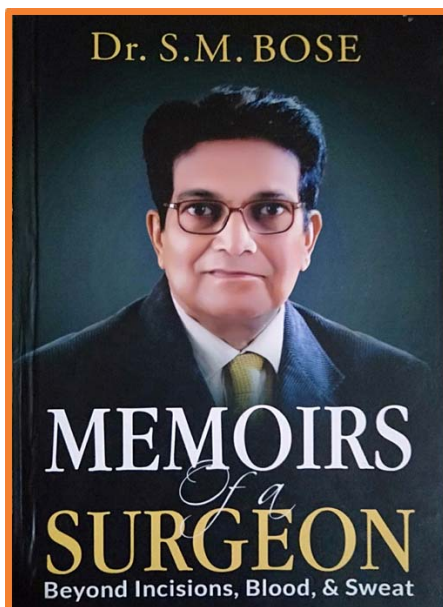
**“Memoirs of a Surgeon Beyond Incisions, Blood, & Sweat” by Prof Shashanka Mohan Bose, July 2020, Published by Dr Shashanka Mohan Bose, H No 215, Sector 36, Chandigarh 160036, 22 Cm x 15 Cm, Rs 600.00. US\$ 15.00.**

I had shared over three decades with Dr Bose while serving on the Faculty of the PGIMER, although in a non-surgical department. Our paths crossed almost every day in our day to day life at the Institute both during and off the working hours. He was an overwhelming and multifarious personality who was there in almost all areas of the Institute. It is no surprise that he has come out with this book with glimpses of different aspects of life and character of the institute almost as much as of his journey.

The autobiography by Dr S.M. Bose is a welcome publication worth reading by doctors and the lay alike. It gives an insight into the life and work of a doctor, particularly a surgeon about the struggles faced every day. He cherishes his success after a challenge is over but waits for the new one to come even before the first is over. As has been aptly name as ‘...beyond incision, blood and sweat’, the book provides interesting glances into scenes behind the curtains. People know a surgeon as a person who cuts, bleeds and sutures. That is only the tip of the iceberg. The surgery is the visible tip. Dr Bose describes the qualities of a surgeon in a pictorial manner as the man who has the ‘eyes of an owl, hands of a lady, heart of a lion, smelling power of a dog and stamina of a donkey’.

Superficially, the book looks like a simple life-history of a doctor who has his or her own stories of ups and downs. But Dr Bose has much more to tell in a simple and sequential manner. He talks about his talented wife and daughters, friends, colleagues and teachers. It is remarkable to learn how he could do justice to both his profession and his family. Neither of the two was disappointed with him but for an occasional incident. He continued to rise higher and higher and achieved several heights which many others would envy.

Dr Bose cites interesting anecdotes about his professional work both in India and abroad. While in Libya, he was greatly admired as ‘Hindi Jarrah’ (Indian Surgeon) and performed the work of a surgeon, a gynaecologist, a neurosurgeon, an Orthopaedic Surgeon, an Administrator and so on. He also undertook surgery for infants and children with as much ease as for adults. During his later career, he restricted himself more to adults and made his name as a specialist surgeon with



particular interest in breast cancer. Factually, his whole professional life proved his skills with his knife and personality alike. Many surgeons with great skill, influence and riches are not easily available for disinherited patients but here is an outstanding life well spent in the service of a common man, training young surgeons to serve the society in the true traditions of profession.

He was good in studies and took active part in cultural and social activities. He was also good in sports - football, kabaddi, hockey, Table Tennis. He was admired because of leadership qualities; he chaired many organisations, right from his college days to professional peak time. Such multifaceted activities are rare in one individual. I am sure that readers will enjoy the

book especially about his memoirs and anecdotes. I wish the very best for Dr Bose ever in his life.

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Pulmonary Medicine,  
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**Prof S K Jindal**

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It has always been a pleasure interacting with Professor Bose, a multifaceted personality, a powerhouse of energy, an able surgeon, conniver of art and now an author of repute. It was indeed a privilege to receive a copy of his memoirs. It is so engrossing that it reads like a novel with a perfect blend of snippets, travel experiences in different countries, very precious photographic memories with stalwarts in medicine and in other fields, fascinating reminiscences by students and teachers, innovations in surgical skills and “salt and pepper episodes” adding a touch of fiction.

It indicates that a lot of home work has been done to publish this book and Professor Bose has set a very high benchmark for memoirs and those planning to write memoirs, must read this book. The book also unfolds his panoramic personality as an artist, nature lover, photographer, a surgeon of repute with great organizational skills and a master story teller.

The book has an excellent quality of paper and print, the text has been arranged flawlessly with appropriately spaced words of wisdom.

In all, it makes a perfect reading both for doctors and non doctors alike. I would like to congratulate Professor Bose for this great endeavor and I would strongly recommend this book to one and all.

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**Prof Shobha Sehgal**