Poetry can make any cultural celebration more appealing. Just think how observance of Nababarsha, Shahid Dibosh and Ekushey Boi Mela will be without poetry. Poetry is the essential part of those festivities, and many others. Even when we celebrate Independence Day and Victory Day, we also invoke poetry, which adds to solemnity and colour. Poetry recital is often juxtaposed with music. But we must not forget that music is only a different version of poetry. It is poetry which makes music possible. Lyrics are characteristically poems. A tune is attached to the words with the aid of instruments and we get music. If there was no poetry, there could be no music. Poetry and music -- twin children of Minerva/Athena -- can render a cultural programme really gorgeous.

Poetry can arouse a whole nation from slumber. It really did so for Bangladesh and its inhabitants from 1952 to 1971. The poems of Nazrul revolted against the British rulers. Poetry written on Ekushey and on subsequent events during Pakistani era inspired people to take part in the liberation war and clinch independence for them. Poetry evokes patriotism and engages masses in nation-building activities. It is indeed a very powerful tool to attain political goal. The message passed through the magical chants hits the head and heart alike and moves them to desired direction. Our destination was independence and we got it in due course. Poetry has a fair share in the glory.



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Poetry is inextricably connected with the history of human civilisation. At the dawn of civilisation the literary tradition was basically oral; then poetry used to be held in high esteem. So the great instances of literature we get of that time are all epics, like Iliad or Mahabharat. Poetry has a distinct advantage of mnemonic; it, unlike prose, helps memorisation by means of its melodious quality. So it was very much suitable for the days when writing was not developed. We see the ancient world through literature of that time, mainly poetry. If we deduct poetry from our life, we lose our root -- our heritage. We become alienated from our past. We lose our very self.

Writing and reading poetry is also a great intellectual exercise.