

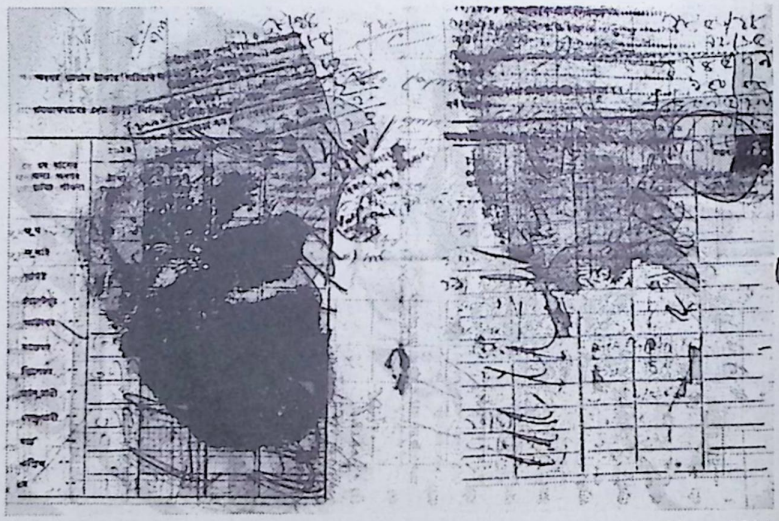
Shafiuddin Ahmed, *Homeward*, wood engraving, 19x9cm, 1945.

In Praise of a Father

Journey of a Great Master' - the title of Gallery Chitrak's latest exhibition that begins

FAYZA HAQ

June 20th is unusual because it is a tribute to a father by his son. Ahmed Nazir, son of the great master Shafiuddin Ahmed has put up a display of some of the late artist's best works as well as the works of his six teachers. "There are also the well known prints of my father, as I knew him in the past 10 to 20 years. By then he had retired from active life", says Ahmed Nazir, in a grave tone.



Ahmed Nazir, *Journey of a Great Master 11*, digital print, 65x95cm, 2014.

"In the first print with my father's image, one cannot read all the writings on which the picture is based. His portrait is used with the write-up, on him, by the book from Bengal written by Syed Azizul Huq. Earlier on, there was a book from Shilpakala Academy written by Abul Hasnat. These have been used as a part of the print. This biography has been used as a backdrop. The photographs were taken towards the time of his death, four or five years ago. This was the time when he could not put his signature to his pension book and had to put a thumb mark instead. This was for the bank. This was very emotional for us, as a family. This hand, at that time was invalid. As the fingerprint was an important element, it is shown as large. The hand is not realistic, as I've worked with an abstract form. Other forms, related to the subject, have come in. These are related to the main subject."

Since Safiuddin Ahmed went into retirement while he was working for a government job, the pension was vital. This pension book and his fingerprint have been given importance, says Nazir. He retired