

RESOLUTE MIND



Kavisbiromani
Prof. R. Vasunandan

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(and other poems)

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Rendered into English
by
Dr. B. Ramachandraiah

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Prof. Ravikanti Vasunandan

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PREFACE

Professor Vasunandan has published a few poems in free verse. He is a sensitive poet gifted with a keen intellect. Earlier he had published his poetry in traditional metres and won appreciation from classicists for his skill in versification and command of poetic diction in Telugu. The present sheaf of poems is therefore a novel attempt and a clear departure from the beaten track.

Free verse is a misnomer since it demands a great deal of restraint and brevity in honing every line to get it across to the reader with a telling effect. Professor Vasunandan has accomplished this in a good measure.

One is struck with the power of expression in the poems like *Matti, Sharing, Apartment, Inki Poyina Cheruvu, Dopidi, Sparsha Bhasha and Anaesthesia*.

The poet is unsparing in tearing the thin veneer of respectability while exposing man's inhumanity to man. The poems are at once informed by moving compassion and biting satire. They derive their power from a deep psychological probing.

Dr. Ramachandraiah has rendered these poems into English. He has done his best to get the effect of the original poems in his translation. Telugu idiom does not readily lend itself for English rendering. It is difficult to bridge the gap between the tongues of two different cultures although most expressions in modern Telugu poems come close to those of English. But we cannot dispense with translation, especially in the global context. The world has become small thanks to the giant strides of Information Technology. It is through translation that we communicate with one another in the global village.

Dr. Ramachandraiah has made sincere efforts to remain loyal to the text. To a large extent he has made a literal translation in order to convey the feeling embedded in the original verbal structures. He had to abridge, excise, expand, omit and adopt many other devices while translating these poems. Translation is meant for those who cannot read the original. When evaluated on this score, as it should be, the translation would surely pass the test. Dr. Ramachandraiah deserves congratulations.

I am thankful to the author and the translator for giving me the privilege to share with them the pleasure of reading these poems.

- S. Laxmana Murthy
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COMPETITION

Without the touch of arrogance
Competition is healthy
Flying bird competes with the wind
Blooming bud competes with the petals of light
Flowing water competes with land crevices
Running child competes with stumbling rocks
For eye glances stars in the sky are competition
Emerging humanism competes with insolence
Indeed, where is not competition ?
Is it possible to evolve without competitions ?
Even if you cannot bear
Please don't pull the legs
Don't cut breathing
Placing yourself on the heart.

TREE

Abode of many a bird
A tree is like history
It belongs to no mandal or district
Nor any forest or desert
Its address :
This vast universe

Some creepers, some thorns
Some flowers, some fruit
Among the fruit
Some bitter, some poisonous

Trees are also like men
Inhabiting in the tree
Birds twitter and chatter
Suffocate in separation
But flap their wings
On the altar

Tree sprinkles
Many tales
With branches and twigs
However,
The tree is a blessed one!
Until the mind is not
Attacked by pest
And the snake in the hole
Doesn't hiss

MERCY

When
Mercy melts
Only tears!

Whenever there is
Mercy
Other qualities
Benevolence, affection
Concord
Righteous valour and sacrifice
Gradually germinate
From the garden bed
And rule the man

Under the reign
Of the man wearing
The crest of mercy
Three worlds will be happy
So great is mercy
Mercy showers love
Like a black cloud
Reflects sacrifice
Like the crop in the farm
Reciprocates humanness

An eye without mercy
Cannot glance
The misery of others

End of Preview.

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