

THE TRIUMPH OF A WRITER: A STUDY OF K V RAGHUPATHI'S CAN YOU WRITE A STORY OF MINE?

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Abstract:

Dr. K. V. Raghupathi is an Indian author best known for his poetry in English language. He has authored ten poetry collections, two novels, one short story collection, seven critical books and two Books on Yoga. He is a recipient of several awards that include Michael Madhusudhan Dutt Award, Kolkata in 2001, H. D. Thoreau Fellowship, Dhvanyaloka, Mysore in 2000 and the best chosen poet for 2003, Poetry Society of India, New Delhi and Rock Pebbles National Award for creativity, 2014, Bhubaneswar. Currently he is teaching in the department of English Studies, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, Tamil Nadu. Proliferating the scholarly, creative literary accomplishments and recognitions achieved by K V Raghupathi, T. Vasudeva Reddy in one of his essays says, "That Raghupathi is a committed writer with social consciousness is beyond dispute."

K V Raghupathi's 'A Mysterious Writer' is an anecdote of a wordsmith, who is not happy with his life as he was facing a tough time in getting his works published. He is not able to deal with the failure as a writer. The failure here does not correspond to the theme of his works or about his writing skills but it could be the approach towards the subject matter which is perhaps not suitable for getting the works published. This short story depicts the pathetic condition of a writer (the unknown writer) who is not able to get his due importance and respect which most of the writers yearn for.

The unknown writer is so frustrated and remorseful that he approaches another writer urging him to write his life story "Can you write a story of mine?" (71). 'A Mysterious Writer' which may be synonymous to the unknown writer' has grown old now. The writer whom he approaches, reluctantly let him into his room, perhaps the latter is shocked to see a person who is trying to form a relationship without spending much time. He asks:

"I asked him, who are you? I do not know.

I have never seen you nor have I met you in the past.", to this question the man replied, Again the writer asks, "But I know you, sir. I met you some years ago, I remember, at a seminar at Mysore. You might not recall it." (71)

It seems that he was in a hurry to get his story written and for that he was ready to do whatever he could do to get his story on a paper. The unknown writer further adds,

"I have been writing for four decades almost since 1975.

I was young then, now I am sixty plus" (72-73).

The given lines by the unknown person speak that for many years he is struggling to earn a respect as a writer for a long time. But, as I have already mentioned in the introduction that the subject matter would have been posing the problems, the lines I have mentioned here give a more detailed account in this regard when the writer asks the unknown person, "What do you write?" (73) for which his answer is 'poetry' which deals with the subject of nature. He further informed the writer that nobody wants to read poetry which deals with the theme of nature; rather he would have written on a new subject which could have brought him a lot of accolades. The result was not good for him as the already dealt subject matter by many writers did not help his cause because he did not get any publisher to publish his works. And consequently he

destroyed his own works out of frustration.

The unknown man's, whom we consider as 'A Mysterious Writer' in context, next attempt was writing the novels whereas he succeeded penning down his four novels which and it was a good achievement in himself. But the mysterious writer had the problem of getting these four novels published as none had come forward to help him. Though he was trying his best to get his works published yet the problem was that he was not having the easy accessibility of the trusted publishers. He states:

I have given them to a publisher in Delhi. He collected money from me to publish them since I was a new writer. More than a year has passed. I haven't heard from the publisher. On enquiry I have learnt that there is no publisher by that name in Delhi. I have tried almost a dozen publishers, big and small, all ways, and say meeting the production costs. Even then no one has responded favorably. Some rejected my scripts commenting that my writings are horrible.(74)

Frustrated, the mysterious writer told the writer that he was so irritated and angry. Further he said that if he was unable to meet his purpose, he would destroy these novels just like he did with his poems. 'The Mysterious Writer' knew that he was going to die soon and this might be the reason that he wanted to see his hard work getting some recognition.

The writer whom 'the Mysterious Writer' approached was a kind hearted man and he took the responsibility of publishing the four novels authored by the unknown writer. Further, he started searching for the publishers and finally he succeeded in finding and making the publisher ready to publish one of the novels of 'the Mysterious Writer'.

The novel which was published had been made available on *Amazon. Com* and *Flipkart* but there had been no sales. This hampered the prospect of the other three novels as the publisher was reluctant to undertake the print of the other three novels. Meanwhile the whereabouts of 'the Mysterious Writer' was unknown for the past six months. The writer tried several attempts to make contacts with 'the Mysterious Writer' but all his efforts went in vain.

The last part of this short story is very pathetic and heart breaking to the readers. While going through the concluding part of the story, we had a tough time and unable to accept the conclusion as it makes the whole expectation upside down. 'A Mysterious Writer' whose name was Ravi Chandra was awarded National Sahitya Academy Award for the best novel for his work "The Cynic". It was a triumph, not only for Ravi Chandra but also for the writer whom he approached, because he came forward to help Ravi Chandra published his book when everyone he approached denied and laughed at his talents.

The unexpected turn of the story which is too tragico digest is that Ravi Chandra's whereabouts was unknown when his novel 'The Cynic' was announced with the National Sahitya Award,. The writer tried to contact Ravi Chandra and made all sorts of attempts but all his efforts went in vain. He even contacted Secretary, Sahitya Academy but the whereabouts of 'the mysterious writer' was still unknown. A year later the writer came to know that the novel 'The Cynic' was announced for the National Sahitya Award but it was a posthumous announcement in name of its author.

Thus the short story "*Can You Write a Story of Mine*" speaks how death has snatched long lasting wish of Ravi Chandra whose dream is to see his labour getting the public recognition. K V Raghupthi, the author of *Untouchable Piglet (2016)* succinctly (re-)presents that it was not the defeat of the Ravi Chandra as his long lasting cherish for publishing his creative writings got a due recognition. Raghupthai wants us to understand and extend our solidarity to such writers with literary accomplishments which are innate but unnoticed. By giving a life to such unknown and life lost characters whose literary talents undervalued and inadequately undermined are many more in society. Further, K V Raghupathi's urge is that we can lend our ears to listen those merits with an epitome of patience and perseverance like that of K V Raghupathi.

References:

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