

16 January 1991



Sahitya Akademi



India International Centre

**invite you to**

**meet the author**

C. Narayana Reddy



ā mabbu santakam vunnadi cinukullo  
 ē mānu santakam vunnadi cigurullo  
 e dastavezulanu cūsi em lābham  
 nā manasu santakam vunnadi kavitallo.

That cloud's signature is in its drops of rain  
 The signature of this tree is in its tender leaves  
 How futile to seek in these files for my signature —  
 My signature lies in my poetry.



**O**utstanding poet and scholar C. Narayana Reddy was born in the little village of Hanumajipet in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. His was a childhood spent amongst simple and hard-working rural people, who lived close to nature. It was a background that wakened in him the well-springs of poetry but it was also the background from which he had to prise himself away in order to become the 'Man for All Seasons' that he now is. Speaking of this he says, "I owe my song to the village and my speech to the town."

His education, till his first degree was in Urdu, a language for which he has an abiding love. To the literature in Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit and English, which he has studied in depth, he acknowledges a special debt.

The thirst for learning which took him out of his village, was insatiable; he took an M.A. and

a Ph.D. in Telugu from Osmania University where he later became a professor. As a scholar, deeply concerned about education and the integrated development of the young, he has served on many academic boards: he is Chairman of the Language Policy Committee of Indra Gandhi National Open University and is also on its Board of Management; Member of the Executive Council of the North-Eastern Hill University and of the Academic Planning Board of Sri Krishna Devaraya University, and of numerous Boards of Studies. He was formerly the Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra Pradesh Open University and is presently the Vice-Chancellor of Telugu University. In recognition of his



With his awards



President R. Venkataraman is being honoured at a civic function

services to literature as poet, teacher and administrator he has received honorary doctorates from Meerut University, Andhra University and Nagarjuna University and a Padmashri from the Government of India.

Away from the rigours of academia, he has yet another persona — that of a leading lyric writer for Telugu films. He has written over three thousand lyrics, some of which have won awards. He has also written the story and script for three historical films.

His imagination, and love for the magic of language, which underlies all his activities, came when he was very young. As he says himself, he used to teach songs and lessons to the maize fields when he was hardly more than ten years old.

Influenced by the great poets, Rayaprolu Subba Rao and Devulapalli Krishna Sastry, he launched into print with collections of romantic poems that displayed his extraordinary virtuosity with lyrical forms and imagery. Most representative of the important early works is *Karpoora Vasanta Raavalu* which tells about 'the love that purifies' between the medieval Telugu King, Kumara Giri, and his court-dancer, Lakuma.

In *Mantalu Manavudu* (Flames and The Man), which won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1973, we find a sensitive portrayal, in free verse, of the

predicament of Man, himself the oppressor and the oppressed. The evolution of human-kind is the subject of *Bhoomika*, another long work which celebrates the happy reconciliation, between the scientific temper and spiritual development, and between the intellectual and the emotional. In *Vishwambhara* which followed *Bhoomika*, we find Dr. Reddy's most significant work which, as Professor Shiv K. Kumar appropriately remarks; invites comparison with Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Dante's *La Divina Commedia* for its concern with such fundamental problems as free will, evil and redemption.

The vision in *Vishwambhara* is broad in its sweep, expansive and encompasses all humanity and all history; it



'Padmashri' from Sri Jatti, Acting - President, 1977

transcreates, in symbolic language, the journey of man—past, present and the future that can be if the quest is linked with compassion. For, the poet sees life not as a mystery to be solved or as a garden of pleasures, but as a testing ground in which the true meaning of being human can emerge.

*Vishwambhara* has, predictably, won several major literary awards; this, however, has not made Dr. C. Narayana Reddy complacent and he

continues to write with unceasing zest. This is perhaps because he sees poetry as a means of release: "I am extremely happy and fulfilled after I have written a poem", he has said "I become calm in mind after all the passion and turbulence within me has found expression in the words on the page". One may hope that this turbulence and this calm may long continue to enrich the treasure-house of Indian poetry.

### A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Navvani Puvvu*, 1953 (Lyrical Play)

*Jalapatam*, 1953

*Viswageeti*, 1954

*Ajanta Sundari*, 1954 (Lyrical Play)

*Swapna Bhangam*, 1954

*Narayana Reddi Geyalu*, 1955

*Nagarjuna Sagaram*, 1955 (Long Poem)

*Vannela Vada*, 1956 (Lyrical Play)

*Karpoora Vasantarayalu*, 1957 (Long Poem)

*Ramappa*, 1959

*Divvela Muvvalu*, 1959

*Viswanatha Nayadu*, 1960 (Long Poem)

*Sama Darshanam*, 1960

*Ritu Chakram*, 1964 (Long Poem)

*Vyasa Vahini*, 1965

*Aksharala Gavakshalu*, 1966

*Jati Ratnam*, 1967 (Long Poem)

*Adhunikandhara Kavitramu*, 1967

*Madhyataragati*

*Mandahasam*, 1968 (Free Verse)

*Gandhiyam*, 1969

(Translation of Gandhi's sayings)

*Maro Harivillu*, 1969

*Mantalu Manavudu*, 1970 (Free Verse)

*Mukhamukhi*, 1971

*Manishi Chilaka*, 1972

*Udayam Na Hridayam*, 1973 (Free Verse)

*Mandara Makarandalu*, 1973



Being honoured by Smt. Indira Gandhi

*Marpu Na Tirpu*, 1974  
*Tejassu Na Tapassu*, 1975  
 (Free Verse)  
*Taratarala Telugu Velugu*,  
 1975  
*Inti Peru Chaitanyam*, 1976  
*Pagale Vennela*, 1976  
*Bhoomika*, 1977 (Long Poem)  
*Mathanam*, 1978  
*Narayana Reddy Naticalu*,  
 1978  
*Muthyala Kokila*, 1979 (50  
 poems of Sarojini Naidu in  
 Telugu Metre)  
*Mruthyuvu Nunchi*, 1979  
 (Free Verse)  
*Ma Uru Matladindi*, 1980  
*Soviet Russia Lo Rojulu*, 1980  
*Vishwambhara*, 1980 (Long  
 Poem)  
*Sameekshanam*, 1981  
 (Essays on Literature and

Language)  
*Amara Veerudu Bhagatsing*,  
 1982  
*Rekkalu*, 1982 (Free Verse)  
*Nadaka Na Talli*, 1983 (Free  
 Verse)  
*Kalam Anchu Mida*, 1985  
*Telugu Gazallu*, 1986 (35  
 gazals in Telugu)  
*Kavitha Na Chirunama*, 1988  
*Adhunika Andhra Kavithvamu  
 Sampradayamulu, Prayoga-  
 mulu* (Dissertation on tradition  
 and innovation in Modern  
 Telugu)  
*Vyasavahini* (Collection of  
 literacy essays)  
*Sikharaloo, Loyalu* (Translated  
 from Khalil Girbran)  
*Fifty songs of Meera Bai*  
 (Translated Meera Bai songs in  
 Telugu metre)



Sahitya Akademi Award for 1973

## A Chronology

- 1931 : Birth  
M.A., Ph.D. from  
Osmania University
- 1953 : First book *Jalapatam*  
published
- 1964 : Andhra Pradesh  
Sahitya Akademi  
Award for a long  
poem *Rituchakram*
- 1973 : Sahitya Akademi  
Award for *Mantalu  
Manavudu*
- 1976 : Hony. Degree of D.Litt.,  
from Meerut  
University ; Visited  
Malaysia and  
Singapore for  
delivering lectures
- 1977 : Padmashri from  
Government of India
- 1978 : Hony. Doctorate  
'Kalaprapoorna' from  
Andhra Univeristy,  
Waltair
- 1979-  
80 : Bhilwara Award for  
*Vishwambhara* from  
Bharatiya Bhasha  
Parishad, Calcutta
- 1981 : Visited Malaysia,  
America and U.K.
- 1982 : Soviet Land Nehru  
Award, Kumaran  
Asan Award for  
*Vishwambhara*
- 1984 : Hony. Doctor of  
Letters from  
Nagarjuna University,  
Guntur;  
Visited USSR
- 1986 : Visited Los Angeles,  
Penang, Thailand and  
Copenhagen
- 1987 : Received Mohini Devi  
Memorial Gold Medal  
for *Vishwambhara*
- 1988 : Received Katragadda  
Gangaish Memorial  
Gold Medal ;  
Received Bharatiya  
Jnanpith Award
- 1989 : Vice-Chancellor,  
Telugu University



Being honoured by Mother Theresa