

Librarian

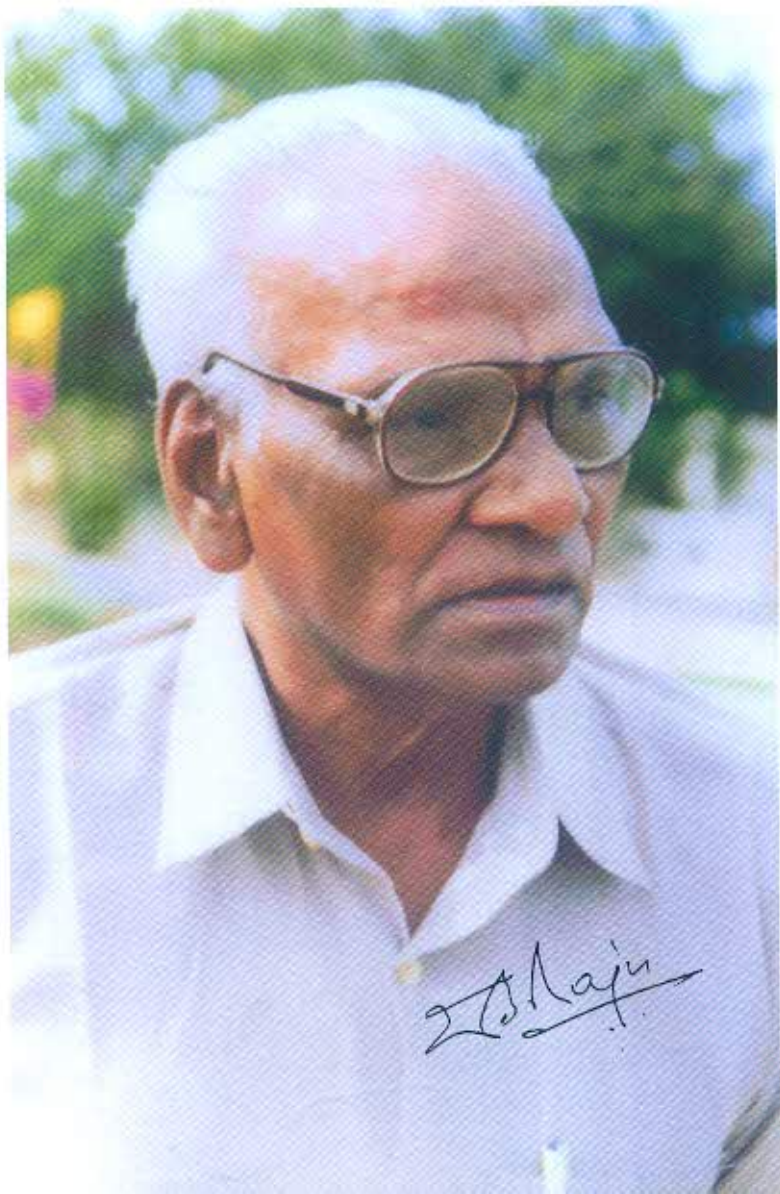


Sahitya Akademi

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meet the author

Munipalle Raju





Prof. U.R. Anantha Murthy,
Prof. Gopichand Narang and Sri Munipalle Raju

Munipalle Raju is a writer of a different culture, too far from any iota of anonymity, blemish and duplicity. His uniqueness lies in looking at things of the past and the present in perfect equanimity; and foreseeing the future from there uncoloured and unsullied. His writings truly display this extraneous character all through.

Gentleness in nature, deep interest in reflective thinking and the understanding that brought in by a vast reading and study make him upright. He does not

mince words in assessing the friends and their works, but only gives expression to the view-points in appreciating life in its right perspective.

He wrote prose-poems, novel, essay, critical reviews on various literary modules; and yet short-story is his main forte. There can be writers who patronize the ideals, highlight only the 'nobility'; there can be some who exhibit the concern for the distressed and underprivileged. Raju is one such writer who thinks all the time the benefit of humanity in his thought-current. He is a humanist in all counts. He craves for the good of all and a good-living for all. Frank in his opinions, courteous in his expressions he stands out decidedly innocent and out-spoken in his behavior. His narrative stories mark this quality remarkably. He is not different from his writings inasmuch as they represent him accurately.

Munipalle Raju was born at a small village Garikapadu (Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh-erstwhile Madras Presidency) on 16th March 1925. He received his elementary education in Munipalle, Tenali, Ponnur and Nidubrole. His parents were Munipalle Hanumantharao and Saradamba. He married Sulochanadevi and has two sons and three daughters. Four decades from 1943 to 1983, he served in the Defence department, Government of India in various capacities. He had the opportunity of visiting every nook and corner of the country during his career. On retirement, he settled down at Sainikpuri, Secunderabad.



Sri Munipalle Raju and Smt. Sulochanadevi



Sri Munipalle Raju speaking at a book release programme

Munipalle Raju narrates the events in his life and the lessons learnt thereon :

" I come from a village in the delta area of the Krishna river, on the Grand Trunk road running from Madras to Calcutta and as such our village has the Urban civilization. Born in the hungry thirties in between the two World-Wars, I remain a standing model to the economic crisis in the life. Our family moved on to Tenali, a town and yet a center of culture. It happened to be the playground for political-consciousness, there lived the then intellectual writers like Gudipati Venkata Chalam, K. Kutumbarao, Gopichand and G. V. Krishna Rao who made deep mark on the literary scene. Sthanam Narasimharao, Govindaraju Subba Rao made their mark on the theatric arts and the stage-craft. Our family was deeply interested in socio-political arena, extensive reading habit and incidental social-reform activities. Each day we had occasion to hear and learn about the Theosophical Movement, Brahmno-Samaj, Gandhian thought, Marxism, Charvakam, Buddhist innovations, Puranic discourses. The listening did not end there. We were discussing, recapitulating, analyzing the episodes and emulating them into our own lives. My family was involved in the widow-remarriage, anti-notch reform movements. My cousin-brother Munipalle Ramarao just then returned as a hard-core communist from the Banaras Hindu University, and he made enormous influence on us. My father had an untimely death and our family had to go through penury; and this led me to seek

a job and had to travel around the country. These travels made me come eye-to-eye with the varied cultural impacts and civilization inputs. An introduction and intrusion into the works of Russian literary masters helped me to develop a sort of conviction that 'humanism' alone is the mark needed. I sincerely believe that my writings exhibit this trend. Though wrote some sort of poetry in student days, I immediately turned towards prose writing. I sincerely believe the 'Magic Realism' is widespread in Vyasa's Bharata anecdotes. Rabindranath Tagore was my first literary god. Munshi Premchand's stories (Kafan and Fathima) laid distinct marks on my brain-path. The live experience I had from the reform movements made the underprivileged become the female protagonists of my short stories. I could successfully mix the social realism and sublime philosophy, making them an invigorative facet of life. My brother Munipalle Ramarao, a great humanist and lover of poetry, helped me broaden my vision and committed writings. Human passion, compassion and divine grace directed my vision of the totality of life. I could see anger, cruelty, revenge everywhere and could mould them into a rational structure.

My eternal search for self and identity began at an early age; and this continues to have its influence on me. Man's incessant struggle in search for the right track and identity with the unseen remains the main theme of my fiction.

The inner conflicts in human

predicament, the corresponding humaneness are the key-points for his short-stories. 'Varala-pilladu' is a story that exhibits one's inherent desire for voluntary vagabond life drawn out by the uncongenial situations met with and carries a socio-ethical message. This marks out the specimen of human ingratitude that drives the youth astray. An old lady considering the collective good as her own a mother toiling for the good of her sons; Seshamma, Janakamma, looking into the spiritual values in mundane sphere and Doddamma, are some of the characters. Each stand unique in their own way. No one could define life and Sri Raju's pieces are exacts to the contemporary spirit of living. 'His stories make our minds sensitive and alert,' says a reader, B.V. Ramireddy.

His 'Poojari' is the only novel he spun in the web of life, and this produces the basic theme for Sri B.N. Reddy's full length film "Pooja Phalam". The native park of the village uncared for by one and all is the locale and the same time a symbol of socio-relation among the public. Upspring of social consciousness and human advancement get embodied here. The main character of the novel Madhu happens to be the recipient of a legacy. Parents lost, he was under the care of a grand-father ailing in a T.B. Sanatorium. The clerks and servants take good care of him and yet his mind loses all passion for life. He becomes a desperate Vedanti for

all practical purposes. Being a constant loser becomes his way of life. He imbibes deep interest in music and attends college with religiosity. A bank manager, who rents out the lower portion of their mansion had a daughter Preethi who attracts his attention. She arrives as a Zephyr and vanishes leaving the flowery fragrance is his considered opinion. He has a college-mate Sriram who supplies the aspirations and self-confidence that he lacks. The bank manager gets transferred and so disappears Preethi too. The estate manager's daughter Sushila takes care of the situation after the grand-father's death, litigations of property suits and ultimately joins him in wed-lock. The novel receives certain cinematic changes to bring a happy ending. While his wife and the new-born baby die, Madhu erects a new cottage in memory of the past, as the novel closes. It would appear as a simple romantic story for the first view but the content has deeper perceptions into the inequalities in life, and living in currents of the spirit insights. Though a bit influenced by the Bengali writings of the day, the novel fulfills the Telugu nativity and environment. Defeatism, as a literary module, has a say here besides the writer's look into a bright future for humanity.

His short-story 'Yasoda's Son' depicts the human situation in 1940s and again a defeated love-product. Literary critic N.C. Ramanujachary 'Srivirinchi' labels this an exemplary one depicting the maturity in



Felicitations to Sri Munipalle Raju



Sri N.C. Ramanujachary, Sri Munipalle Raju, Sri Sampath Kumaracharya,
Sri Vakati Panduranga Rao, Sri Akkiraju Ramapathi Rao

narrative expression of the writer. Dealing the social atmosphere of the contemporary times, the piece gives out ten to twelve factors such as: the rural life, youth going out into urban locales for education and employment, the internal struggles of people, correspondence of variant attitudinal changes, the Trans-services then available, extra-marital affair, issues connected with inter-caste marriages, sacrifice of certain classes in the independence movement, secret under-currents of 'Dharmic' contemplations etc. the culture described here is not that traditional but an admixture of new reflections, insights leading to a universal way of existence. True 'Magic Realism' is the key-note. His short-stories 'Astitwa Nadam Aavali

Teerana', 'Naimisaranyamlo Satyagraham', 'Mahabodhi Chayalo' are decidedly specimens of clear magic realism the writer dreams of. He comes face to face with the magic realism of the ancients and this was the excellence of his literary work, rightly inviting the Award of Sahitya Akademi.

His collections 'Journalismlo Srijana Raagaalu' and 'Sahiti Mantranagarilo Suswaraalu' imprint the ever-green, enlightening sway to the future generations.

His knowledge and outlook in periodical reviews of books and theatrical pieces remains unparallel and are not easy to emulate. His pen is, beyond doubt, a magician's wand producing the will of the wish.



Sri Gudipati, Sri Munipalle Raju, Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, Sri Pothukuchi Sambasiva Rao,
Sri Puligadda Viswanatha Rao, Sri Kaladeekshitulu

HIS WORKS

STORY COLLECTIONS:

- Muniapalle Raju Kathalu
- Pushpalu - Premikulu - Pasuvulu
- Divo Swapnalatho Mukhamukhi
- Astitwa Nadam Aavali Teerana (*Magic Realism Stories*)

NOVEL:

Poojari (Pooja Phalam Film Story)

POETRY COLLECTIONS:

- Veroka Aakasam - Veranno Nakshatralu
- Alasi Poyina Vadi Aranyakalu

ESSAYS:

- Journalismlo Srijana Ragaalu
- Saahiti Mantranagarilo Suswaralu

AWARDS

1993	Noothalapati Sahithi Satkaram Jyeshtha Literary Trust (First) Puraskaram Ravi Sastry Smaraka Sahithi (First) Puraskaram
1994	Amara Jeevi Pulupula Sivaiayya Puraskaram
1995	Uttama Katha Samputi
2001	Sadguru Sivananda Murtry Sanathana Dharma Charitable Trust Puraskaram
2003	Andhra Saraswatha Samithi Puraskaram (Machilipatnam) Kalla Tapaswi Polavaralu Koteswara Rao Puraskaram (Vijayawada) Thilak Puraskaram (Thanuku) Telugu Viswa Vidyalayam
2004	Pulikanti Sahithi Satkaram Sahrudaya Sahithi Trust Puraskaram Gopichand Award Delhi Telugu Akademy Award
2005	Uttama Katha Samputi
2006	Sahitya Akademi Award
2007	Venguri Anjaneyasarma Smaraka Trust Puraskaram
2010	Aalapati Ravindranath Trust (Tenali) Puraskaram
2011	Vanguri Foundation of America Sathkaram A.P. Government - 'Nandana Ugadi Puraskaram'
2014	Sripada Subrahmanya Sastri Smaraka Kathanika Puraskaram

A CHRONOLOGY :

1925	Born on 16-3-1925 - Garikapadu (Guntur District - Bapatla Taluk). Education : Tenali, Ponnuru, Nidurole upto F.A.
1939	First published work.
1943-1983	40 years service in Indian Defence Service in various capacities.
1983	Retired as A.O. Grade - I Settled at Secunderabad.