

hagiographical novel has intellectuality, spirituality and religiosity with its unbounded potentialities latent therein.

HH Sri Siddharudha had been preaching renunciation and conquering desires and greed, lust and pride and exercise self-control to achieve true happiness, realize the meaning of life and fulfill the joy of living. He also humbled the scholars who showed arrogance. They would all listen calmly, nod their heads with a sense of resignation and show themselves to absorb and assimilate the teachings and sermons of their God Himself “who can protect, destroy and create the world,” the real God, their Lord Nagabhushana Himself, they found it “impossible to describe the greatness of Master Siddha,” revered and idolized him as he performed miracle after miracle to alleviate their sufferings and pains and fulfill their wishes and desires.

Master Siddha’s spiritual discourses and discussions, his divine knowledge of the working of life, his stunning ability to understand and respond to the issues enraptured everybody wherever he went and with whomever he was. His followers, his disciples and the general public crowded his place. However, the way the highly Rev. Swami Siddharudha was involved in litigation, interrogated and examined in the court and later, forced to drink poison as a cure for all ailments by his very own, reveal that the world, if it gives bouquets today, the same world shall welcome you with brickbats. The Swami accepted all this with utmost humility as the Will of the Supreme Guru. Perhaps everything and everybody, the mighty and the meek, the Divine and the earthy, the learned and the ignorant are all bound to the wheel of Time. However, life beyond life is not meant for all. WE know how the world has treated its benefactors, be he Socrates or Buddha or Christ... or Swami Siddharudha.

An inimitable forte of this hagiographical novel is that its reading is very meaningful and faithful both for the ordinary and simple reader and the serious scholar of great literature who will certainly be fascinated at the extension of the boundaries of his knowledge when he reads Dr. Basavaraj Naikar’s brilliant and illuminating capsule history of religious literature only to end up elevated and enthralled.

Not only the title, but its print out in the dark background, symbolic of the darkness till infinity enveloping our world brightened with the name of the novel on the top with the name of the writer at the bottom within which is sandwiched soul in flight – all eclipsing the darkness leaving no room for doubt about the Truth!

The style of narration is truly marked by simplicity, sonority and spontaneity as is the unconscious necessity of such an attempt.

I am sure that the novel will enrich and elevate and enchant readers of all shades and hues.

**R K Bhushan**

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***What is a woman. This is trash. Leave it by Shweta Mishra ‘Shawryaa’. New Delhi: Authors Press 2016 P. 138***

The book ‘what is a woman’ is authentically raising several burning issues related to female identity, equality, rape and harassment. It is a nonfiction subjective expression of the feminist author who dares to ask those questions which still remain untouched

and perplex the mind of the reader .The book is divided into nine chapters. In these chapters the writer boldly exposes the hypocrisy of the patriarchal mindset with hidden agenda of placing women on the periphery of the society. Her suppressed anger on behalf of the rape victims and prostitutes and the house wives out bursts in the form of the book.

As she writes in her foreword “I erupt that which has distressed, depressed and disturbed me most. I share something and try to suffocate out of some questions to breathe, questions that torment me endlessly though they are usually sidelined as “useless muttering” .”

Though the gender issue is not a new phenomenon . The movement like feminism has already announced a war against the male dominated society . The significance of the book lies in its treatment and projection of the female problems at a deeper level . The writer delves deep into the psych of the female victims. The picturesque details of perennial exploitation, violation, mutilation and assault are evoked by the author horrify the reader .In second and third chapters she is elaborately working on the presentation of the mindset of the patriarchal ideology which considers /defines woman as a body without soul and mind. The discussion directly penetrates the heart of its reader.

Every chapter except ninth is written in the letter form. Through these letters to God she is asking several questions but answers are not provided by God. The methodology of writing might help her to unburden the experiences of the male gazed society.

I speak from here and I speak for those who do not realize their status as being in existence .I speak for those who too think and feel, and yet have never considered Who too think and feel and yet have never considered that their exploitation or body use was not something that just happened as a ruining event or that they were just too unfortunate that it happened to them [p. 129].

She is candid in her discussion and the use of different literary form like letter, prose poetry and dialogue is impressive. Language is lucid and she has strong hold on her style. The work is really commendable on her part.No other woman writer would dare to write with such insight and frankness.

**Mamata Dixit**

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***A Study of Raja Rao's Novels* by O.P.Mathur, New Delhi: Sarup Book Publishers Pvt Ltd, 2014.Pp.103. Rs. 600.**

Raja Rao happens to be a philosophical novelist of India, who enjoys an international reputation. Dr. O.P. Mathur (Former Professor and Chairman, Dept of English at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi) has made a special study of Raja Rao's philosophical trilogy due to a variety of reasons. For example, Dr. Mathur has a philosophical bent of mind (unlike a majority of scholars) like Raja Rao himself and met him personally and discussed his novels with him. Dr. Mathur is a resident of Varanasi, the holy place, which is repeatedly evoked by Raja Rao in his short stories and novels. Thus there is a philosophical and geographical connection between Dr.