



ದರ್ಪಣಿ DARPANA

ಮಂದಾರ ನ್ಯೂ ಇಂಗ್ಲೆಂಡ್ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕೂಟ ಶುವಣ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವದ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು ದಿ. ೨೦೦೬

Doyens of Kannada Literature:

Perhaps being the oldest language next to Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Tamil, Kannada language has a rich heritage. 'Kavirajamarga' of king Nrupatunga (9th century A.D.) is believed to be the earliest literary work in Kannada. It is a treatise on poetics or a guide to poets written in 9th century thus indicating that Kannada was a fully developed literary language when Kavirajamarga was composed. It refers to earlier linguists and poets whose works are not forthcoming. But from epigraphical evidence it can be surmised that spoken Kannada language evolved much earlier than the Halmidi inscription (c. 450 A.D.). Belonging to the Pro-Dravidian group it has close affinity with the Tamil language, prevalent now in the neighboring Tamil Nadu. But the language of the Halmidi inscription is highly Sanskritized.

By the 10th century AD Kannada had its greatest ancient poets like Pampa (born 902 A.D.), Ranna (born 949 A.D.) and special prose work like 'Waddaradhane' (c. 930 A.D.) suggesting that classical Kannada literature had fully evolved at least one or two centuries earlier, perhaps back to 'Kavirajamarga'. Since none of the earlier works have survived, we have to stick to the established norm that written Kannada came into vogue by the 5th century A.D.

Modern Kannada language has been well served by many poets, story writers, thinkers and social reformers. Some of the well known modern literary personalities include K.V. Puttappa (Kuvempu), D.R. Bendre, Maasti Venkatesha Iyengar, Shivarama Karanth, D.V. Gundappa (D.V.G), T.N. Srikantiah, B.M. Sreekantiah, G.S. Shivarudrappa, Nissar Ahmed, P.T. Narasimhachar (Putina), K.S. Narasimha swamy and many others.

In this article I would like to briefly introduce you to the seven literary figures of Kannada who have been honored with Jnanapith award. **Jnanapith Award** is the highest literary honour conferred by the Republic of

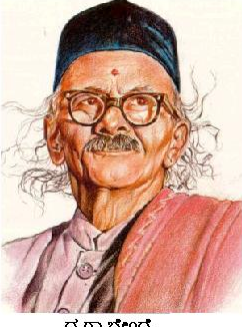
India. It is presented by the Jnanpith Trust, which is largely owned by the Jain family who also publish The Times of India. The award carries a cheque for Rs. 500,000, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Vagdevi. The award was instituted in 1961. Its first recipient was Malayalam writer G. Sankara Kurup in 1965. An Indian citizen who writes in any of the official languages of India is eligible for the honour.

Before 1982, the awards were given for a single work by a writer. From 1982, the award has been given for a lifetime contribution to Indian literature. So far Kannada writers have won 7 awards, which is the highest for any language.



Kuppalli Venkatappa Puttappa (1904-1994): Born in 1904, in Kuppalli, a remote village in Shivamogga district, Kuppalli Venkatappa Puttappa is well known by his pen name '**Kuvempu**'. Kuvempu has penned 3 novels, 18 poem collections, 10 plays, 3 short story collections, 7 literary criticisms, 3 biographies and 6 children story collections. He also spread the message of Universal Humanism or, in his own words, "Vishwa maanavataa Vaada".

He was the first Kannada writer to receive Jnanapitha honour in 1969 for his work *Sri Ramayana Darshanam*, the rewriting of the great ancient Indian epic Ramayana in modern-day Kannada, which is regarded as revival of the era of Mahakavya (Epic poetry) in a contemporary form and charm. He was awarded the first ever Pampa Award and the Karnataka Ratna award. He is a recipient of the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan. He also was awarded the 'Kendra Saahithya Academy' award for his continued excellence in enriching Kannada literature.



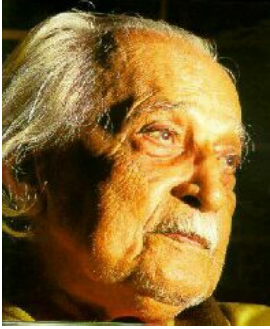
ದ.ರಾ.ಬೆಂದ್ರೆ

Dattatreya Ramachandra Bendre (1896-1981): Born in 1896 into a Marathi-speaking family in Dharwad, Dattatreya Ramachandra Bendre is popularly known as 'Da. Ra. Bendre'. He wrote under the pen-name of **Ambikatanayadatta**. He started off with simple and earthly

romantic poetry, often using the "spoken" language. His later works dig deeper into social and philosophical matters.

In 1943 he led the 27th Kannada Literary Conference at Shivamogga. He won the Sahitya Academy Award in 1958 for a collection of poems entitled *Aralu Maralu*, and the Jnanpith Award for **Naku Tanti** in 1964.

He became a fellow of the Sahitya Academy for his dedicated works and enriching Kannada literature. He has written 16 poem collections, several plays and a host of other literary articles.



Kota Shivaram Karanth (1902 - 1997): Born in 1902 in Saligrama in Udupi district, Shivaram Karanth was a major Kannada writer, social activist, environmentalist, Yakshagana artist, movie maker and thinker. He was described as the "finest novelist-activist of modern India" by Ramachandra Guha. He was an intellectual and

environmentalist who has made tremendous contributions to art and culture of Karnataka. His contribution to the revival of **Yakshagana** will forever be remembered. He was the winner of Padma Bhushan and was bestowed with Jnanpith award in 1977. Along with Shri S.L. Bhairappa he was considered as one of the greatest Kannada novelists of this century.

His work includes 42 novels, 31 plays, 4 short stories, 6 books of essays and sketches, 13 books on art, including a history of world art and an authoritative work on Chalukyan sculpture and architecture, A standard treatise on the Yakshagana, a three volume book of knowledge for children, a four volume encyclopedia on science for grown ups, 240 children's books and 6 books on travel.



Maasti Venkatesh Iyengar (1891 - 1986): Born in 1891 at Masti in Kolar district, Venkatesh Iyengar was a famous Kannada writer and is renowned for his beautifully written short stories. He obtained a master's degree in Arts in 1914. After joining the Indian Civil Service, he held various positions of responsibility in different parts of Karnataka, rising to the rank of District Commissioner. He retired in 1943. '*Maasti Kannadada Aasti*' meaning Maasti is Kannada's Treasure is how he is remembered by Kannadigas. His other works include historical novels such as Chikka Vira Rajendra and Channabasava Nayaka. He wrote under the pen name *Srinivasa*.

A prolific writer, Masti Venkatesh Iyengar wrote more than 120 books in Kannada and 17 in English, over a period of seventy years. He was awarded Jnanapith award in 1983 for his novel Chikkaveera Rajendra.



Vinayaka Krishna Gokak (1909-1992):

Born in 1909, Gokak, began his literary work in 1925 when he was swayed by the magnetic force of the towering figure of Kannada poetry D.R.Bendre like many other young poets of his time. Seeing his knowledge of English literature, and his talents in English poetry, Bendre prophesied "if Gokak allows his talents to blossom in Kannada, his own poetry as well as Kannada will have a great future." Thus with Bendre as his Kavya Guru, Gokak embarked upon a unique career in the world of Kannada letters, a career in which he made unparalleled contributions to poetry (including composition of the epic Bharatha Sindhurashmi), drama, criticism and various other forms of literature, apart from producing many scholarly works in English.

The literary distinction of Gokak naturally attracted scores of awards and honors. Of these, mention must be made of his Presidentship of the 40th Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in 1958, honorary doctorates from the Karnataka University and the Pacific University of the USA, the Central Sahitya Academy award (1991) for his 'Dyava Prithivi', and of course the highest award for literary excellence in India, the Jnanapith award in 1990 for his monumental contributions to Kannada literature.



U.R. Ananthamurthy (1932): Born in 1932, Ananthamurthy is a prominent modern Kannada writer. After doing his post graduation in English literature he went to England for higher studies. He joined the University of Mysore in 1970 as a lecturer and later on became a Professor. He has served as the Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University at Kottayam, Kerala. He also served as the Chairman of the National Book Trust and as the Chairman of Kendra Sahitya Academy. He has traveled widely around the globe and has the honor of being a visiting Professor of many Universities in India and abroad.

His novel Samskara (Funeral Rites) revolutionized the orthodox concepts of a community in Karnataka and the film based on the novel won the President's Gold medal. His other novel Bharatiputra has also become a classic as has Samskara. He has been honored with Kannada Sahitya Academy award, Padma Bhushana award and was honored with Jnanapith in 1994.



Girish Karnad (1938): Born in 1938, Karnad has been recognized as one of the foremost playwrights of India. He was a Fulbright Playwright-in-Residence and Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago in 1987-88. For five decades, Karnad has continued to compose top-notch plays, often using

history and mythology to tackle contemporary themes. He has also forayed into the jungle of cinema, working alternately as an actor, director, and screenwriter, and earning numerous awards along the way.

Karnad's second play, Tughlaq, established his eminence. Drawing his themes largely from mythology, history, folklore and legends his plays have added a new dimension to the Indian stage and also literature at large. His other plays are Hayavadana, Yayati, Nagamandala and Raktabeeja. He has been decorated with a Padma Bhushan by the President of India and was the Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of the Performing Arts during 1988-93. He was honored with Jnanapith award in 1998.

Recipes - Puja Shetty

Gobi Manchurian

Ingredients:

1 Medium-sized Gobi (Cauliflower broken into big florettes), 2 tb sp - Corn flour, 2 tb sp - maida, 2 tbsp - Soya Sauce or more according to taste (preferably Chings Dark Soya Sauce available in Indian Stores, more the better, darker the dish more tastier), 3 green chilies, 1 inch ginger (finely cut), 5-6 pods garlic (finely cut), 1 bunch Spring Onions (finely cut), Oil for frying, 1 tsp Pepper powder or more according to taste, Salt to taste.

Method:

Clean the Gobi florettes, Add maida, corn flour, water, salt and pepper and make it into a mixture consistency of flour being like bhajji's consistency and add Gobi and mix them well till they evenly cover all the Gobi florettes and marinate for 45 mins. Fry them in oil separately and keep them aside, Fry the green chilies, ginger and garlic to a light brown color in another pan, Add fried Gobi pieces to it, Add Soya sauce to the Gobi and garnish it with spring onions. Serve hot. Makes 6 servings.

Red Bell Pepper Chutney

Ingredients:

2 big sized Red Bell Peppers (Capsicums), 1 tsp Ginger Garlic paste, 1 Onion, Cilantro (1 small bunch), 1 tsp Channa dhal, 1 tsp Urad dhal, 1 tsp Jeera, 1/2 tsp Mustard seeds, 3 or 4 Dry Red Chilies, Curry Leaves few

Method:

Cut peppers into cubes. Fry all the above ingredients in a pan with 2 tsp. of oil for 5 minutes on medium heat. Then grind the mixture with salt and tamarind to taste without adding water. Enjoy this with chapattis or rice with little ghee.

Lychee Soufle

Ingredients

2 tins lychee in sugar solution, 3 packets of Knox unflavored gelatin, 1 small tin condensed milk, 4 tins (condensed milk tin measurement) of milk, 1/2 tsp vanilla essence.

Method

Soak gelatin in lychee sugar solution. Heat and stir the gelatin solution till it dissolves and becomes a clear solution. Keep it aside. Cut the lychees into thin strips, Mix milk, condensed milk, gelatin solution, lychee strips and the vanilla essence in a serving bowl. Set it in the freezer. Once it sets transfer it to the refrigerator. Don't keep it in the freezer for long. It becomes icy

Mango Cheesecake

Ingredients

8 oz 1 small Philadelphia whipped cream cheese, 8 oz Cool Whip, Graham Crackers pie shell (3 small or 2 big), 2 cups water, 1 1/4cup sugar, 3 sachets of Knox unflavored gelatin, 30 oz mango pulp

Method

Mix Mango and sugar. Add Cheese and cool whip. Blend cheese well so that no lumps are formed. Soak gelatin in warm water. Heat and stir the gelatin solution till it dissolves and becomes a clear solution. Put the ingredients in the shell and set it. Once it sets transfer it to the refrigerator from the freezer. Don't keep it in the freezer for long It becomes icy.

My trip to Australia

Last time, I traveled to Australia as a People-to-People Student Ambassador. People-to-People is a youth student ambassador program, they select recommended students from all over the US to travel the world as ambassadors. Only one percent of America's student population is selected.

We traveled all around Australia, washing our own clothes, handling our own money and having a wonderful time. We toured different cities: Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. We stayed on a farm and worked there for two days. We camped in the outback and snorkeled in the Great Barrier Reef. We even went to school for a day.

Before we knew, our trip was over and we were back in Logan Airport in Boston. We all had a marvelous time and made plenty of friends. But even with all the fun we started to miss home, and were happy to see our families again.

Going to Australia was a wonderful experience and would recommend it to every one. People-to-People travels around the world to China, South America, Europe, even Antarctica, and if you're not ready to go that far away they have programs in North America too.

For more information go to:

<http://www.studentambassadors.org/>

Secretary report

NEKK committee congratulates all Kannadigas on the Golden Jubilee anniversary of Karnataka Rajyothsava. This year is being celebrated as "Suvarna Karnataka" with the Government of Karnataka spearheading many cultural events all over the state. It is our pride and pleasure to celebrate the Rajyothsava day here in New England area. We look forward to your active participation in our Rajyotsava, Deepavali and Children's day celebrations.

NEKK committee also wishes you all a very Happy and Prosperous Deepavali. We hope this festival of lights brings joys and cheers to you all.

As our committee headed into its second year in office, we have included few new faces to our committee. R. Balachandra, Gajanana Bhat, Lokesh Bangalore and Shantharaj Chennabasavegowda have joined our team and if you see them don't forget to congratulate them.

Here is a brief report on our Koota activities for the year 2006.

Ugadi - 2006: "Vyaya" naama samvatsara Ugadi function was celebrated on April 22, 2006 at Keefe Technical School auditorium. We had great cultural entertainment program on the occasion that included songs by our Koota children, Kathak and Bharatanatyam jugalbandhi choreographed by Sangeeta Bansal, melodious Kannada movie songs by Padmashree, kids dance by Lasyapriya group and Bala Vrunda group, and poetry recitation by Malli Sannappanavar. This program was attended by more than 150 members.

Picnic - 2006: NEKK annual picnic was held at Pumps Pond/Recreational Park in Andover on Saturday, 15th July 2006. More than 150 members, including 40 children attended the picnic. There were lots of fun-filled activities arranged during the picnic for both children and adults. For sports enthusiasts we had Tennis, Cricket, Volleyball and Croquet. For kids we had running race and for those interested in Kannada movies and songs we had the ever popular Antakshari program. The biggest attraction of the picnic was spin art machine where in children made their own art work! To make the event more interesting and fun, we also had Bingo conducted enthusiastically by our president Rajendra Rao. The prizes were awarded to the winners in the evening. This year we had tasty cotton candy to take all of us back to our childhood days and ice cones (golas) to quench our thirst.

On popular demand we had Tennis clinic for the second year in running. It was coached by Mr. Al Jagannath (Alagawadi Jagannath) and catered to both novice and experienced players. The Tennis Clinic covered Ball Sense through Forehand Drive, Backhand Drive and Serve. Other essential skills like basic grip, stance, stretching and general fitness were also discussed. More than 10 participants took advantage of the Tennis clinic.

This year NEKK sponsored the Pizzas for lunch for both children and adults. It was a very different experience as we moved away from our normal pot-luck lunch practice. We had spicy buttermilk (masale majjige) and watermelon to quench the thirst of our members. Spicy cucumbers were also served. Bhel-puri and Samosa were also available on the occasion.

Ganesha Festival - 2006: Lord Ganesha Pooja was performed with enthusiasm on Saturday, 23rd September 2006 at Marlborough High School, Marlborough, MA. Sri Ganesha Pooja was performed with religious fervor and deity by Sri. K. L. Kodandapani. We had two great programs on the occasion - singing of melodious Kannada songs by Mr. Badari Prasad and Yakshagana by Keremane troupe. Noted Kannada play back singer, Badari Prasad entertained the gathering with more than 20 melodious Kannada songs. His performance was well received and he was given a thunderous applause. It was followed by Yakshagana performance by internationally known "Shri Idugunji Mahaganapathi Yakshagana Mandali", Keremane group. The troupe performed "Gadhayuddha", the mythological story from Mahabharata of final battle between Bheema and Dhuryodhana. Veteran actor Mr. Shambhu Hegde donned the role of Dhuryodhana and thrilled the audience with his sheer performance. Shambhu Hegde is a recipient of Central Sangeeth Natak Academy award and is currently president of Karnataka Janapada and Yakshagana Academi, Bangalore. Bheema's role was majestically performed by Mr. Shivananda Hegde, son of Shambhu Hegde. Mr. Rajendra Kedlaya mesmerized the audience as Krishna. The Bhagavatha was provided by Mr. Narayana Hebbur and he was accompanied on Maddale and chande by Mr. A. R. Krishnamurthy. The sheer refreshing craftsmanship, abhinaya and sophistication of the troupe combining tradition with aesthetics were astounding. The colorful costumes and elaborate makeup as well as the vigorous dancing, singing and stylized movements enthralled the audience. The performance lasted for over 75 minutes. We had in excess of 275 people for the program and it is a new landmark for our Koota.

ವಿಡಂಬಣೆ

ಸುತ್ತು

ಗುರುಗಳು: ಸೂರ್ಯನ ಸುತ್ತ ಗ್ರಹಗಳು ಸುತ್ತುತ್ತವೆ. ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಉದಾಹರಣೆ ಕೊಡಿ

ವಿಶ್ವ: ಹುಡುಗಿಯ ಸುತ್ತ ಹುಡುಗರು ಸುತ್ತುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಕಳ್ಳ

ಪೊಲೀಸ್‌ಠಾಣೆಗೆ ದೂರು ಕೊಡಲು ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ಪಾಂಡು "ಮರಗೆಲಸದವನೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆ ಕಳ್ಳತನ ಮಾಡಿರಬಹುದು ಸಾರ್" ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ.

"ಅಷ್ಟು ಖಾತ್ರಿ ಹ್ಯಾಗೆ ಹೇಳ್ತೀರಿ?" ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕೇಳಿದ.

"ಕಿಟಕಿ ಮುರಿದು ಒಳಗೆ ಹೋದ ಕಳ್ಳ ತನ್ನ ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ಹೋಗೋವಾಗ ಕಿಟಕಿ ರಿಪೇರಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾನಲ್ಲ, ಸಾರ್?" ಎಂದ ಪಾಂಡು.

ಆವರು ಸಿಕ್ಕುವುದಿಲ್ಲ

ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಿಂದ ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ಭರಮ ಅರಿಯದೇ ತಿಂಡಿಗಾಗಿ ಸ್ಟಾರ್ ಹೋಟೆಲ್‌ಗೆ ಬಂದ. ವೆಯಿಟರ್ ಆವನ ಕೈಗೆ ಮೆನು ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ನೀಡಿ "ಏನು ಬೇಕು ಸಾರ್?" ಎಂದ. ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಬಾರದಿದ್ದರೂ ರೇಟುಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ ಗಾಬರಿಯಾದ ಭರಮ ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಬೆಲೆ ಹಾಕದೆ ಇರುವ ಪದ ತೋರಿಸಿ "ಇದು ಬೇಕು" ಎಂದ.

"ಅದು ನಮ್ಮ ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಯಜಮಾನಿ ಹೆಸರು ಸಾರ್. ಇಷ್ಟು ಹೊತ್ತಲ್ಲಿ ಆವರು ಸಿಗೋಲ್ಲ" ಎಂದ ವೆಯಿಟರ್.

ಸಂಗ್ರಹ: ಗುರುಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಸಾಮಗ

ಕವಿವಾಣಿ

ಎಲ್ಲೋ ಹುಡುಕಿದೆ ಇಲ್ಲದ ದೇವರ
ಕಲ್ಲು ಮಣ್ಣುಗಳ ಗುಡಿಯೊಳಗೆ
ಇಲ್ಲೇ ಇರುವ ಪ್ರೀತಿ-ಸೇವೆಗಳ
ಗುರುತಿಸದಾದೆನು ನಮ್ಮೊಳಗೆ

ಎಲ್ಲಿದೆ ನಂದನ ಎಲ್ಲಿದೆ ಬಂಧನ
ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಇವೆ ಈ ನಮ್ಮೊಳಗೆ
ಒಳಗಿನ ತಿಳಿಯನು ಕಲಕದೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ
ಆಮೃತದ ಸವಿಯಿದೆ ನಾಲಗೆಗೆ

ಹತ್ತಿ ರವಿದೂ ದೂರ ನಿಲ್ಲುವೆವು
ನಮ್ಮ ಅಹಮ್ನಿನ ಕೋಟಿಯಲಿ
ಎಷ್ಟು ಕಷ್ಟವೋ ಹೊಂದಿಕೆ ಎಂಬುದು
ನಾಲ್ಕು ದಿನದ ಈ ಬದುಕಿನಲಿ

ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. ಶಿವರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ

ಮಹಾರಾಜರ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಡಳಿತ

ಮಹಾರಾಜರ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಜನರ ತೊಂದರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು

ಎಂಬುದು ಡಿ.ವಿ. ಗುಂಡಪ್ಪ ನವರು ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದ ದಿವಾನರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಮಿರ್ಜಾ ಇಸ್ತಾಯಿಲ್ ಕುರಿತು ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಘಟನೆಯಿಂದ ತಿಳಿದುಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

“ಮಿರ್ಜಾರವರು ನಿಧನಹೊಂದಿದ ದಿವಸ ನಾನು ಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದೆ. ಶವಸಂಸ್ಕಾರಾದಿಗಳು ಮುಗಿಯುವವೇಳೆಗೆ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಒಂಬತ್ತು-ಹತ್ತು ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಜನಸಂದಣಿ ಬಹಳ ದೊಡ್ಡದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಗದ್ದಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂ.ಪಿ. ಸೋಮಶೇಖರರಾಯರೂ ನಾನೂ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆಯಾದೆವು. ನಾನು ಅವರನ್ನು ಹುಡುಕಾಡುತ್ತ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಗೇಟಿನವರೆಗೆ ಬಂದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬಾತ ಬಿಕ್ಕಿ ಬಿಕ್ಕಿ ಆಳುತ್ತ ನಿಂತಿದ್ದ. ಆತನ ಬಟ್ಟೆಯ ರೀತಿಯಿಂದ ಆತ ಹಿಂದೂ ಎಂದು ನನಗೆ ತೋರಿತು. ನಾನು ಆತನನ್ನು ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿದೆ.

ನಾನು: “ನೀವು ಯಾರು?”

ಆತ: ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ನಾನು ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪೇಟೆಯವನು. ಅಕ್ಕಸಾಲಿ ಜಾತಿಯವನು. ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಹೆಡತಿ ನೀರಿಗಾಗಿ ಬನ್ನಪ್ಪ ಪಾರ್ಕಿನ ಪಕ್ಕದ ಕೊಳಾಯಿಗೆ ಹೋದಳು. ಬಹಳ ಹೊತ್ತುದರೂ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆ ದಿನ ನೀರು ಹಿಡಿಯುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದವರು ಬಹುಮಂದಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿದ್ದರು. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಜಗಳಗಳೂ ಗಲಾಟೆಯೂ ನಡೆಯಿತು. ಸುಮಾರು ಒಂದು ಗಂಟೆ ಕಾದ ಮೇಲೆ ನನ್ನ ಹೆಂಡತಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿತು.”

ಆಕೆ ಬಸುರಿ. ಆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕೊಡವನ್ನು ಹೊರಲಾರದೆ ಹೊತ್ತುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಳು. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಜಗಳವಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಯಾರೋ ಆಕೆಯನ್ನು ಬೈದಿದ್ದರಿಂದಲೂ ಆಕೆಗೆ ಮೈ ಸ್ವಸ್ಥವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ನೋವಾಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದಲೂ ಆಕೆ ಕಣ್ಣೀರು

ಹಾಕುತ್ತ ಮನೆಗೆ ಬಂದಳು. ಆಕೆಯ ಹಿಂದೆ ಒಬ್ಬ ಸರಕಾರದ ಜವಾನ ಬಂದು “ಈ ಮನೆ ಯಾರದು?” ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದ. ನಾನು ‘ಏಕೆ?’ ಎಂದು. ಆತ ಹೇಳಿದ: ‘ದಿವಾನ್ ಸಾಹೇಬರ ಸವಾರಿ ಸೇಂಟ್ ಮಾರ್ಥಾಸ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಹತ್ತಿರ ನಿಂತಿದೆ. ಸಾಹೇಬರು ಈ ಹೆಂಗಸಿನ ಜತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೋಗಿ ಮನೆ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡು ಬರುವಂತೆ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇನೆ’ ಎಂದ.

“ಅದನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿ ನನಗೆ ಗಾಬರಿಯಾಗಿ ಏನು ಸಮಾಚಾರವೋ ನೋಡೋಣವೆಂದು ಆ ಜವಾನನ ಜತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿವಾನರಿರುವ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಹೋದೆ. ನಾನು ಹೋಗಿ ಕೈಮುಗಿಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಸಾಹೇಬರು ‘ನೀನು ಯಾರು’ ಎಂದು ಮುಂತಾಗಿ ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿದರು. ನಾನು ಇದ್ದ ಸಂಗತಿ ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ಅವರು ‘ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಳಾಯಿ ಇಲ್ಲವೋ?’ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರು. ನಾನು ‘ಇಲ್ಲ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಅಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಿಲ್ಲ. ಬೀದಿ ಕೊಳಾಯಿಯಿಂದಲೇ ನೀರು ತಂದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇವೆ’ ಎಂದೆ. ಸಾಹೇಬರು ‘ಬೀದಿ ಕೊಳಾಯಿಗೂ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಗೂ ಎಷ್ಟು ದೂರ?’ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರು. ನಾನು ‘ಅರ್ಧ ಮೈಲಿ ಅದೀತು ಸ್ವಾಮಿ. ನನ್ನ ಮನೆ ಇರುವುದು ಹಿಂದುಗಡೆಯ ಸಂದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. ಸಂದಿಗೊಂದಿ ಸುತ್ತಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಬೇಕು’ ಎಂದೆ.

ದಿವಾನ್ ಸಾಹೇಬರು ಆಗ ಅವರ ಜತೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ಸಾಹೇಬರನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ‘ಈತನ ಮನೆಯ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಎಲ್ಲಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ಕೊಳಾಯಿ ಹಾಕಿಸಿಕೊಡಲಾದೀತೆ?’ ಎಂದರು. ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರು ‘ಖ್ಲಾನು ಬರಿಸಿ ಸಾದರು ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ’ ಎಂದರು. ದಿವಾನರು ‘ಈಗಲೇ ಇಲ್ಲೇ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಕೆಲಸ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ. ನಾಳೆ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ಅವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ನೀರು ಆ ಹೊಸ ಕೊಳಾಯಿಯಿಂದ ಬರಬೇಕು. ಜನನಿಬಿಡವಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೋ ಎರಡೋ ಕೊಳಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಬಹುಜನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡಿದಂತಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದೊಂದು ಸಣ್ಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೂ ಮಧ್ಯ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾದ ಕಡೆ ಕೊಳಾಯಿ ಇಡಬೇಕು. ನಾನು ನಾಳೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಇವರಿಗೆ ನೀವು ಕೊಳಾಯಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಉಪಕಾರ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು’ ಎಂದರು.

“ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಅದರಂತೆ ಕೆಲಸ ನಡೆಯಿತು. ಎರಡು ದಿವಸಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಕೊಳಾಯಿ ಬಂತು. ಈಗ ನೀರನ್ನು ಕುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ನೂರಾರು ಮಂದಿ ಹೆಂಗಸರು ನೀರಿಗೆ ಜಗಳವಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದನ್ನೂ, ಬಸುರಿ ಹೆಂಗಸು ಕಷ್ಟಪಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದನ್ನೂ ನೋಡಿ ಕನಿಕರಪಟ್ಟವರು ಆ ಧಣಿ. ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಹಾಗೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವವರು ಬೇರೆ ಯಾರಿದ್ದಾರೆ? ಹೀಗೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ಗೋಳಿಟ್ಟ.”

ನಮ್ಮ ಈಗಿನ ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಗಳು ಇಂತಹ ಘಟನೆಗಳಿಂದ

ಕಲಿಯುವುದು ಬಹಳ ಇದೆ.