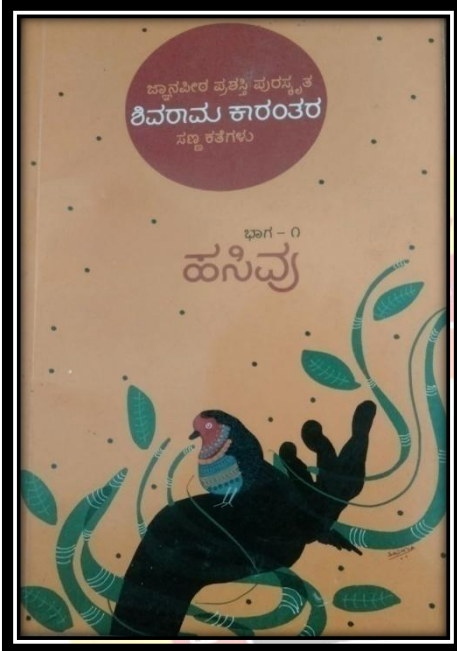


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**A HUNGER OF HONESTY AND HUMILIATION: HASIVU BY DR.
SHIVARAMKARANTH: A CRITICAL REVIEW**

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About Book:



Title:

Hasivu

Author:

Dr. Shivaram Karanth

Publisher:

*Geethanjali Pustaka
Prakashan, Shivamogga*

Year of Publication:

2020

Price of Book:

75

Pages:

80

Full Book Review

An anthology in literature is remarkable information regarding a destined area of subject. A coherent idea which is shared and argued over a point that deals with the existing society of a speaker in his words of experience, reading, research and. A case study of a marginalized community will always unfold several closed chapters, reveals the unspoken and hidden world of many victims.

To disclose those unique episodes, we need some protagonist characters to strongly make their impressions among the audience or readers. In such cases here, a Jnanpith awardee Dr. Shivaram Karanth's *Hasivu* – part one an anthology of short stories in Kannada published by Geethanjali Pustaka Prakashana, Shivamogga.

The variety of topics discussed under the Umbrella terms 'survival' and 'Sustainability'. Advancing into this book which contains ten discrete short stories belonged to the people of mere value and recognition. By and large this series of stories by Karanth has the vivid nature of narration, demands a complete attention and focus on the readers to exhibit and interpret the storyline.



As Karanth mentioned in his foreword that he is not a known writer in this genre of short stories, but a man for couple of plays and novels. Here it was his first experimentation propounded through his writing displays a serious subject matter with lot of irony, satire and symbols. When one looks into the title, that itself shows the depth and the intensity carried and the ability to showcase the unheard voices from the unvalued individuals.

Hasivu means hunger of life, hunger to sustain, hunger to dominate, hunger to humiliate, hunger to eradicate poverty. Poverty is like the essence of every possible manner to uplift the weaker personalities.

This piece of literary work also spread some light towards the feminist view in many such stories like Subbi a middle-aged woman suffered as a victim of a murder. Despite her innocence Sayitri a three years old daughter of Sannappa unfortunately and unknowingly got killed by her own father due to frustration and anger. In another case, Nagamma the only daughter of Kittappa died of ill-health caused by the internal struggles and the societal stereotype mind.

Kanakamma a teenage girl of Paramayya lost her husband soon and worked in Janardhanayya's house as a maid and served her father. But she physically got abused by Janardhanayya himself and that ended in her tragical death along with her bedridden father.

Slavery is a sublime theme in this work that subtly surrounded in few of the fables displayed. The mutual co-operative relationship of slaves and their lords show the long history of this slavery in Indian countryside. Being a slave of some wealthy man, it is evident to serve the interest of him to save from their hunger!

Nonlinear and suspensive climax stands great and curious about the conclusive portion in each of the line that covered all the deeply rooted and unexposed scenarios and lifestyles of common people. In many instances we can witness lot of examples and proverbs centered around the criticism of orthodox Hindu practices and rituals that paved in an anticlimax of the characters and here is the approach of our author to disseminate and radicalize the young minds to evaporate the superstitious believes.

Kalla Phakira is one interesting character who is well known as a thief of a village. He is the symbol of societal sarcasm over innocent fellows. Phakira stands as a major sufferer of many like him. Even though he is not thief, people blamed him as a thief to hide the theft among them. They have stolen the joy, mindfulness, respect, concern, living, and finally the freedom of Phakira. Nandayya Nayari a crazy like savage creature in a village who is named as nomadic behavioral and treated very poorly by everyone then not supposed to accept as normal as others due to his mischievous attitude. His desire to eat food from every household made him the whole he destined to be.

In all these discussed small chapters of the book, internal conflict and the shattered unequal distribution of power, rule, and hegemony are evidently marked with profound examples of haves and have-nots. Each person possesses particular yet unforgettable imageries over the proofreaders. Lack of education and illiteracy is commonly seen feature among the protagonist characters and due to this reason, they are vulnerable and deceived through many oppressive ways so that the significance of educative mindset and civilization among rustic and pastoral mass living is thrashed out.

By the way there are several situations that demand a solution in terms of a rebellion or a revolution to question the existed administration. But the tragic end of this central persona reveals us about the lack of courage to carry forward the attitude of asking for their survival and sustainability.



The intention of the author is successful in raising a concern over the subordinate class of people, rather the emergence of mass culture and its mania to modernize the psyche is essential to counterpart.



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