

**PEDDLING BETWEEN EXISTENCE AND ALIENATION:
A CRITICAL STUDY OF K. V. RAGHUPATHI'S
*DISAPPOINTED***

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The novel *Disappointed* aims at depicting social irony and scintillating satire on the human conditions of the modern world. It is about the two encounters between two people in a span of fifteen years. *Disappointed* deals with the Realistic Narratives they deal with the ordinary people and the situation that can happen in day to day life. The novel is penned down by the author by seeing such people in their personal life. The element of alienation and the struggle for existence is seen and experienced by the protagonist in different ways. The character J.N. Rao in *The Disappointed* experience despair, all through his life he longs for things to happen in the right way but it goes wrong always and still he hold on to hope. J.N. Rao waits to get his promotion in the company where he works though he is capable to be promoted he is denied promotion to higher position due to over work pressure he loses his health and he is being ill-treated in his office by his colleagues. The characters in this novel are put into a situation, till the end his hopes aren't fulfilled instead he is pushed into a state in which all hopes is lost and absent. The protagonist keeps on striving to live a good life but he is not recognized as a person in the place he works and he is being alienated in his working place and cheated by the people to whom he has given money. The lack of humanism in human being is clearly depicted in the novel and the condition of the Protagonist in the end of the novel evokes pity on the character as the human emotions are left to gutter.

Key Words: Existence, Alienation, Realistic Narrative, Despair, Hope.

INTRODUCTION

K. V. Raghupathi is an Indian author. He was born in 1957. He is best known for his poetry in English language but in Indian mood. His poetry is rooted in the abundance of philosophy, nature, transcendentalism, imagery and social perspectives, and replete with similes, metaphors, personifications, apostrophe, irony, climax, anti-climax and full of rhetoric and symbols. More often he takes the readers on the spiritual exploration of radical philosophical thoughts which strongly speak through all the collections. K.V. Raghupathi received Post-graduate degree in English Literature and Ph.D. in 1979 and 1997 from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. He holds PGDTE from the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.

He began writing seriously in 1985. Since then he has published Fourteen books which include: *Ten Books in English Verse: Desert Blooms* (1987), *Echoes*

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Silent (1988), *The Images of a Growing Dying City* (1989), *Small Reflections* (2000), *Voice of the Valley* (2003), *Wisdom of the Peepal Tree* (2003), *Samarpana* (2006), *Dispersed Symphonies* (2010), *Orphan and Other Poems* (2010) and *Between me and the Babe*(2014); *Four Critical Books: Emerson's Orientalism* (2007) and *Brave New Wave: 21 Indian English Poets* (2009), and *Critical Exposition of Gopal Honnalgere Poems* (2011); *Two Books on Yoga: Yoga for Peace* (2006) and *Yoga and Zen: A Monograph* (2007) and *Two Novels: The Invalid* (2012) and *The Disappointed* (2014). He has attended many conferences and seminars and presented papers on literature, language and philosophy. He has published innumerable articles in various international journals. After having taught for twelve years in S.V. University, Tirupati and Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa for four and half years he moved to Central University of Tamilnadu, Thiruvavur, where he has been teaching in the Department English since 29.12.2011. He is a great lover and promoter of classical Karnatic music.

He is a recipient of several awards that include Michael Madhusudhan Dutt Award, Kolkata in 2001, H.D.Thoreau Fellowship, Dhvanyaloka, Mysore in 2000, The Best Chosen Poet for 2003, Poetry Society of India, New Delhi, A Citation and Cash Award by Chennai Poet's Circle, Chennai and Rock Pebbles National Award for 2014, Bhuvaneswar.

BACKGROUND OF THE NOVEL /PLOT

'*The Disappointed*' was born out of writer's personal experience. It has two Encounters. The first was written 30 years ago; and the brief second one was added 15 years after the first. It was a real experience, and not conceived in imagination. It does not conform to any pattern of writing a novel like the first one *Invalid* (2012) as the writer simply does not believe in such stuff of writing. For him human experiences do not constitute any form and pattern. It was just a recorded experience nothing else. The novel is before the readers, in their hands, whether they like it or not, it is for them. Read, burn and forget says the author about the novel. The Protagonist life experience is drawn into a world full of misery, deceit, and anger. The author has personally met Mr. JR and the experience which he shared to the author has evolved into the novel. K.V. Raghupathi's second novel *The Disappointed* (2014), the author narrates the story in first person singular. The name of the old man is Jagannatha Rao affectionately called as JR. He worked in a commercial bank situated near the campus. Every time the author found him on the S.V. Campus, Tirupathi. The author (KR) felt to know about him and wanted to talk to Mr. JR. Fortunately, one day, a professor by name PND asked the author to go and meet Mr. JR. Prof. PND and Mr. JR are close friends. Prof. PND told the author that Mr. JR has expressed his desire to meet the author and gave him the address of Mr. JR directing him how to reach his home and then JR narrated his whole life experience and that turned out to be the novel.

The author narrates the story in first person singular and he tells about a old, short and stout man. He was fifty two years old as he had told him about it in his first meeting. He is stout man with bulged neck, rotund belly and he wore bifocal glasses in order to cover the defects of his eyes, myopia and heteropia. He always looks as though he is lost in some world of frustration. He is Jagannatha Rao affectionately called as JR. he worked in a commercial bank situated near the campus. Every time he saw him on the campus the author felt to know about him and wants to talk to him. And fortunately a professor by name PND asked the author to go and meet Mr.JR a friend of his own and he told that Mr.JR has expressed his desire to meet him personally and he gave him the address and he directed him how to reach his home.

Accordingly that day evening at 5 he took his cycle and started peddling towards Mr. JR house. He reached his house. He knocked the door. Much to his surprise this was the same old man whom he has seen several times on his campus. At first Mr.JR looked at him strangely from head to toe adjusting his thick glasses. Then he asked him who was he and later on he introduced himself stating that if he knew Professor PND and immediately he told yes, and he continued saying that this morning he met him, and he told about you and asked me to see you at once. So, I came over here to honor your sincere wish. And I am KR. As soon as he finished his introduction Mr.JR recollecting perfectly said “oh, yes I remember in our last meeting, Professor PND told me a lot about you, and I expressed a sincere desire to see you and told him to send you to meet me the moment he saw you any time so, you are KR and you have come here to honor this old man’s request. Thank you very much he said and invited him inside.

EXPERIENCE VS YOUTH

Mr. JR started speaking and he said to him that it was his private room and he doesn’t allow anyone inside his room. As soon as he returns from his daily work he retires into his room and if he is in his home he will be only in this room saying this he asked him how old was he and he replied that, he was 31 and he told that his age was 53 and said that you are young and I am old. What a contrast. But I don’t feel any distinction between you and me.

Today you are young and after some years you will also become old. Age doesn’t appeal to me. And I don’t look human being through their age. Generally old people hesitate to talk to young. Because, they think that they are more experience, more read and more learned than young and they think that the young are inexperienced and immature. But this is sheer nonsense. The old are stupid, proud, and nonsensical they are quite envious about the young. They think that they are superior, and can do things better than young. But the old become arrogant by virtue of progress in age. Though I am old but I am not stupid like other old people I treat people equally and he stopped his talk. Seeing his speech the author

was pleased and he found that he must be sharp and intelligent. Later on he said to him that you are young and smart looking and asked him whether he was married? He said no then immediately he said then you are blessed and he stated that he got married at the age of 25 to a girl of 20 at that time it was a good matching between us in the age. And it is good that you haven't got married but one day you also have to marry. Though marriage is a must you can't escape from it.

SURVIVAL FOR LIFE

Man is materialistic. And he cannot find his livelihood, food and shelter in the forest. Man is nothing without food. He is dead. Isn't it? He looked at him deeply with his authoritative voice. The author thought to speak out and contradict but he kept his mouth shut. And he continued saying that man will die without food do you agree with me are not? Of course said the author and he stopped. Though it was his first meeting he was cautious and he maintained some silence and he gave some respect to his age. Then Mr.JR stated that it is not of courses it is a fact. All other philosophies, economic theories, religious organizations, political system, and parties will have no meaning what so ever without food. Food is very essential for human activity. Without survival what meaning is there for life? For food we have struggled so much in our human history and civilizations. We have fought several battles. But still people don't have proper food that can provide them energy. Millions of people are dying of starvation, my heart goes to them but sympathy won't work at all. We are fortunate that we eat food three times a day.

Why he was insisting more on food is that in the 1950's he struggled for five years for food but now he is working and has his food properly but still he is not contented with his food and he stated that there is a problem in his food. He feels that he has lost something terrible and invaluable. With all these food, clothing, shelter and comfort. He says that he is not at all happy and as a man he feels that he is lost amidst all the inventions developments and progresses. And he says that he wants it but he is not able to get it. And he himself asks the author that don't you want to know what it is and the author said yes then he states that he need peace. Man is not at peace, with peace and in peace.

EXPERIENCE IN WRITING

Mr. JR's voice became grin and suddenly he deviated from his topic and he said that, I learnt that you have published a book in verse then he asked him when he published the book and what he was writing and the author replied that he wrote something but he doesn't know of what he is writing about. Then Mr.JR asks him whether he knew the immediate consequence of writing he paused for a while and said "They will spit on your face. They will sling mud on your face. They will call you mad. They will ostracise you."(13).¹

Then the author says to him let them do so sir. Every work of art is the sincere and honest expression of self, so, we are creators nothing but of words instead of flesh and blood, emotions and feelings. Then Mr. JR continues that now a day's nobody asks me to do so. In my office they are feeling jealous, indifferent and hostile to me. They don't treat me as human being. And I don't publish but for all these fifteen years I have been writing and he went near the cupboard and took a bag and it contained bundle of papers, everything was his poems which he has written staying in his room in these 15 years and he gave the poems to him and he started seeing the poems he made a quick glance and he finished it and Mr. JR asked for him to spell out his quick impressions. He told him that he has written only about the inner most deeply felt frustrated feelings and it poured out as a poem and when the author asked him why you didn't publish it he says that his poems are his outcomes of feelings and emotions so it should die within him and the author asks him if anyone can publish his poems after his death? For that he says that his poems should die with him. Then the author says to him that if you don't want your poems to get published why you are keeping it for the worms and rats to eat its better you can destroy them. For his harsh comments he became quite for some time and then he said even his daughter too likes his writings. For her birthday he composed 45 lines and gave it to her she loved it and she preserves it. Then the author became restless and mosquito started biting him. He asked him to keep his legs on the cot but the author avoided it and Mr. JR appreciates him for his respect.

SEARCH OF LIFE IN THE CITY

He continues to tell the story that he came to the city in 1970 and before that he was working in Kolkata it is the highly populated city there's no security over the life. He led a strenuous life for four years and he likes Chennai because it is spacious and accommodative and he started to say about the city and suddenly he asked him do you like to have a cup of coffee. Soon without waiting for reply he called for his wife vijaya and asked her to bring coffee and he bolted the door again. Then he started to say about his wife he tells him that he calls her as viji and she is always caring about his health and she doesn't want him to die soon and he says that any how one day he has to die. And he tells that his wife is always worried about death, and she can't withstand the word death because she loves him a lot. It was not only his wife but all men are scared of death because man himself wants to live long and enjoy life. In fact he himself has fallen sick and experienced death many times and he started to vomit out his personal experience.

Mr. JR completed his post graduate in Economics when he was 21 and he wanted to become a civil servant so he went to Delhi with his friends for coaching classes. Four years passed some of his friends got through the exams but he didn't pass in it then he returned home and his parents insisted him on marriage and he

felt that first he has to secure him and then only he can secure his wife and children. He was searching for jobs but his parents kept on insisting him on marriage he was deaf to it. They had heated arguments and one day he left home and only after one week he returned to his house his parents felt so happy to see their son back and from then on they never talked about marriage and he started doing odd jobs. Few months passed by and his father passed away by cardiac arrest and it was a great shock to him. And his mother kept on insisting him on marriage so he married a girl whose mother also was widowed and they could never give him dowry and he never asked for it. One day his mother also collapsed and died. And for two years he did odd jobs and maintained his livelihood. In the 29th year he got a clerk position in commercial bank with the help of his friend from then on he was able to meet out his needs.

And a knock came on the door and he opened it got the coffee from his wife and again he bolted the door. And he praised him for being a good listener so he liked him a lot. He continued that he was sent on probation to Hyderabad for one year and there his wife bore a daughter and they felt content for it and stopped there on. And again he was shifted to Bhubaneswar and then to Calcutta where he worked for four years. And Calcutta was so hectic place for him to survive because he spent a lot on his daughter's education though being a middle class family his wife supported him a lot. In spite of her illiteracy she cared our daughter so well and now my daughter is studying in university and she is proud of it. Then he felt that he want to get rid of Calcutta so he gave humble supplications to the higher authorities and he was transferred to thirupathi on 1971, and he is working there for almost all these years and even when he was asked to go to other places he avoided it. The initial stages of the job were good but later on he felt the monotony. He virtually surrendered as a prisoner to the banking hours but he want to enjoy life while all his friends were enjoying the life he felt that he was not a cog in the wheel. He wanted to do something more and he wanted to be free but day by day he was being cramped by his work. Day by day his frustration towards the office and his colleagues went on increasing and a sudden feelings of change came into him he hated the job and the colleagues and he stopped talking to everyone in the job and they had ill feeling on him. Even in his home he locked himself in the room and never came out except to eat. His wife and daughter worried that he would do something strange and they came near his room every time and went. Days went on and after ten years of working as a clerk he was given the position of junior management cader.

Though his wife and mother in law felt happy but he felt frustrated that his work has been increased he was burdened with lots of responsibilities and he worked in the office late at night nine and he reached home late. He hated human life. People appeared to him as strange creatures on earth. He felt that other people are like alien to him. He said that "I used to look at them so strangely, so oddly, so

quizzically that I felt like spitting on their faces with a lot of shame, disgust and repulsion” (38)². He felt that something has happened to his feelings and emotions he touched his left part of his chest and heard the beating of his encaged heart. Then he felt that “so, I thought I was alive, I was alive physically, but psychologically and spiritually, I was not I was like a log.”(38). He often looked into the mirror to see as if he was alive. A strange metamorphosis took place within him he became pale and he thought that death might come to him at any time. He was waiting for death. Though he longed for it, it never came in any manner. He says that “I never entertained the idea of dying myself in real sense, in the sense that I never thought that I must kill myself instantly, that I must put an end to my life abruptly”(38). He also says that the idea of death is heinous. He can’t kill himself. Life was dragging. It was much painful to him. He was aloof. They way he separated himself from the world and family made his wife and mother in law get irritated and they took care of his daughter’s education. Now his daughter is doing post graduation in chemistry in Sri Venkateswara University. He wants to let his daughter do her research but she wants to work. Though she is grown up let her decide what she wants.

STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

Mr. JR sat for long hours to work he became fat his eye sight got affected he wore glasses and then after some days he went again to doctor and to his great shock he was affected with white cataract and it has to be operated as soon as possible. The thought of his health saddened his wife and mother in law. He underwent the operation and for fifteen days he was confined to bed and he was blindfolded for two weeks. For the first time he felt the grace of listening. he says that “I recognized the beauty of nature without seeing her through my eyes but by listening – the beauty and splendor of nature through listening.”(43). He enjoyed nature and for two month he was in confinement and with that he felt he was free from bank duty and after two months he went again to job with disgust and hatred. There was a lukewarm response from all his colleagues as he resumed to work. He said that “they continued to treat me as something uncommon and idiocentric Freudian creature in the office they scantily respected me.”(46). only for officials matter they approached and talked to him. The work load in his office got increased even his subordinates left the work incompletely and left the office soon but he was forced to sit for long hours in the office. The result of it was eye pain. His eyes became bloodshot and it looked like Dracula. Then he said that “As a result of it I began committing some errors here and there which incurred a lot of displeasure and wrath from the higher authorities. Soon I started receiving memo after memo” (47).

He was branded as an irresponsible, reckless employee in their office. The employees isolated him, segregated him, and treated him as an untouchable. He was quite innocent for his errors and mistakes. Again his health got deteriorated

and when he went to hospital for checkup to his shock the doctors advised him to undergo immediate surgery and if he delays it he will lose his eye sight. Then he underwent an operation and was confined to bed rest for a month. We never know what freedom is and only by seeing birds we can get to know that how free the birds are. He says that "For them there is no 'self'; there is no conscience. They are most blessed creatures on earth "(50). The period of rest was over and he went to office they received him coldly. Again over work was given to him he wrote about it to the management pleading him not to give more work he even showed the medical reports but they were quite insensitive to his appeals. But he never knew why they have developed such a negative attitude towards him. His health started getting worse again he started writing letter to the head quarters situated at Hyderabad. He said that "I wrote twelve letters with no result whatsoever at all. None cared to look into my complaints and redress my grievances sympathetically. All of them, it seemed developed bad faith in me". (52).

It was during this time that his office received a circular from headquarters that the interview for the departmental promotions from the junior management cadre to the middle management cadre. He now belonged to the junior management cadre and the list of the people to attend the interview was prepared by head quarters. He was the senior most in his office and he was called to appear before selection committee. He was interviewed. And he felt satisfied that he had answered well with that enthusiasm he comes to the office. And it was a great shock to him. "Contrary to my own expectations, I was denied promotion."(53) But a list of the selected candidate appeared but his name was not found it shattered his dreams and expectations. He never knew on what grounds he has been denied the promotion. In fact he had service, experience and qualification for the post that the people selected but he was not been selected. His office mates felt happy but they just expressed lip sympathy. He was the source of laughter and fun. That year passed again he was called by the selection committee for the promotion of higher cadre. Again he attended the interview and he came out with satisfaction that he would be selected this time. Again he stated that "But, much to my shocking bewilderment, all my expectations and hopes were once again turned upside down. They went fut., like the prickled balloon in the air".(54) all my junior cadre was moved to higher positions and he was left for fun in the office. Then he planned to write letter to General Manager regarding his promotion issues and to ask the reason for not selecting him. If he knew the reason then he can rectify his mistake and not to do it again. To his great dismay and shock he didn't receive any reply from the general manager. One day suddenly he got fever and his fever touched to 105°F, and he was moved to hospital and the doctors told that he has developed hypertension and sugar and again he was advised by the doctors to take two months of bed rest. "To tell truth, my frequent breakdown in my health and hospitalization was indeed a great relief and joy to all my colleagues in the office. It was quite

nauseating for them to look at me. Thank God, they had not wished my death once and for all. But I believe that they might have wished it in their hearts though they never expressed it through their facial gestures at any time before me".(55)

It was during his confinement in bed he was asked again to attend the interview for the third time this time he was dumb and he didn't hope for promotions. A conflict arose within him whether he has to attend the interview or not. "With all my ill health, I appeared before the committee without losing the opportunity. But the results were of the same old story. For the third time again I was not considered for promotions". (56). this time again he wrote a lengthy letter to the general manager stating the reason for denying him for the third time. Though his junior and sub junior were promoted and he was not but the reason for his denial wasn't answered. If anything was wrong in his service the action for it shouldn't be taken in the process of promotions but it should be the other way. But he was confident that he was perfect, prompt and punctual to his work. While on the other hand it must be only his co-employees who must have taken the tales of him to the authority for their advantage and development. He hasn't done anything then why he should be carried away by all the bad against him to higher officials. "Their main intention was to shatter my career and see that I suffer all through my life; they wanted to see my suffering, humiliation and torcher. To all my silence the higher officials maintained absolute silence. They were quite indifferent and callous to my petitions. They failed to answer my questions and give necessary explanations". (57).

Everybody was in their world of job and happiness. Once again he fell sick but this time he never felt to say it to any one because there was no use in telling it to them and no one bothered about him. He was in the hospital and there was fluctuation in his temperature and later on he was detected that he has malaria. He was totally kept aloof from the world even his wife and daughter was not allowed to meet him due to the disease.

"At least, a beggar on the pavement will have someone at his side. If not someone, he will be able to, look at passer-by or people might look at him with sympathy or no sympathy at all. For me there was none. Everything was cut off from me or rather I was cut off from the external world."(59)

He said that its hurting to be isolated. He was placed in a separated room and no one was allowed near him and it was like a prison and even in the real prison they might have companions but he was left all alone and daily his wife and daughter will visit him but they will stand near the door and shed tears. And it was during the confinement that he experienced death and he fought with death he nearly died but he never died, from every dying experience he awoke with painful life. Death is other coin of life both are inextricably woven with each other. "The more experience are the more the degree of thinking is. The less the experience are the less the degree of thinking is since I had virtually no experience, my thinking was also limited" (72). He was discharged and was advised to take complete bed rest.

EXPERIENCING ALIENATION AND DIS-RESPECT

He lived for six month ideally taking rest. Then one day he got a letter stating that he should join in the job viewing the expiry of his leave. If he doesn't join in the job on the said date then he will have a reduction every month in his salary. Though his health condition was not good he felt that he should go and rejoin in the duty. The news of him rejoining in duty created sensational flutters to his colleagues. He was again loaded with work and one day he asked the office boy to bring a file for verification from the old racks. He disobeyed him and he worked for others lovingly. Then he got angry and shouted at him. After that he came with the file and when he asked why he disobeyed him he never replied. Instead he gave an irresponsible reply another day he ordered him to get a file. But again the office boy didn't obey him so he felt angry and shouted at him even if he writes about this to higher official no one will hear his words. Then the office boy replied so harshly in front of others and he took the paper weight and threw it back on his face then he fell down unconscious with bleeding, when he opened his eyes he found that he was given first aid treatment from his office colleagues. He knew that they didn't do it whole heartedly. After this incident he logged a complaint against the office boy no one came forward for evidence. Everyone kept cold silence. Eventually his health became so weak and he started committing errors and mistakes here and there not deliberately and intentionally but ignorantly out of sheer helplessness of his ill health. The management started sending memo after memo for explanation from his side. Though they knew that he was suffering from illness but still they planned for him to get suspended. Finally he was suspended. "The suspension brought me a great deal of disgrace, insult, humiliation and dishonor to me. My career was shattered into pieces". (78).

No one bothered about his suspension in his office. He came home and he never revealed about the suspension to his wife. After three days his wife asked him has he applied for leave and he told yes and he asked his daughter and his wife not to disturb him. Then he went into the room and he was free from his work but few things disturbed him a lot. And he received a letter that he should present himself before the enquiring committee. After one month of suspension he appeared before the enquiring committee and told his state and he was ignorant for the errors he committed but they asked him to appear before the court so that if others make mistake they also will be aware of the punishment. Then he pleaded them and he told about his situation clearly to them. But they never accepted it and later on he started shouting at them. And the committee was shocked to see his face with so much anger and rage. Then he bent on his knees he cried and pleaded later on the committee got over.

He was not well so he applied leave for one month but they shortened his leave only for 15 days and he stayed in his home after that incident his wife and daughter asked him about the reason. But he stayed inside his room and never

answered them. After two weeks again he joined in the office but they invited him coldly. He couldn't work as before he passed on his day very badly in his office. Later on his higher officials wrote a lengthy complaint on him and sent it to the management. He was named as mad among his office colleagues. Again the selection committee for promotion was held for the fourth time. He knew that he will never be selected. And he attended the interview. He answered so badly because he has nothing in memory at present. Then he pleaded to the people of the selection committee to promote him he begged them and he literally cried finally he asked them at least to change his office but they were quite and asked him to leave. But he was still pleading the officers then they called the security and they caught his hands and dragged him out.

LOST HOPE

Again the selection list for promotion came his name was not there and he wrote again to the management asking for the reason and they replied him this time stating that he was mad and he has to meet a psychiatrist and he behaved totally insane to the interviewers. Then he paused for a while and asked him was he mad? For so long he stated that he has talked to him by sharing his personal experience and asked him to tell whether he had traced any insanity in him. The author replied no and he said that sir you are totally sane. There was a knock at the door and it was his wife who came to tell him that the food was ready. He said he will come and have and then she left. Again he said to him that it was hurting for him to be called insane and how can a man blame someone who is innocent as insane.

Incident in which Mr. JR was deceived

Then he said him that there are two incidents in his life where he got cheated. The first one was a close friend. He asked him for twenty thousand rupees. Since he was jobless he wanted to deposit it in building tender he continuously asked him for money he came to his house and pleaded him. Until he got a positive reply he was asking him for money and after considering his valid reason he gave a sign that he will help him and his friend told that he will return the money as soon as the contract comes to his hands. Later on after a month Mr.JR went and visited his friend's house his wife told that he has left to Chennai regarding his contract work. Repeatedly he went to his house but his wife told he was not there and this created a foul smell and he felt that he must be inside the house pretending not to come out. Later on he caught hold of him in the market. And he came to know that he was in the house for all these days but was scared to face him and within two weeks he said that he would return his money back. Later on after two weeks he went to his house and to his surprise he found that his house was locked and he went daily to see if he had come and he asked about him to his neighbors they told him that he was out for a tour and he would return only after months and after a

month he went to his home and found it was locked one morning he saw him in the market and he asked him for money he told that he will repay the money on the same place and asked him to come in the evening and he knew that he would cheat so he went straight away to his home and he was shocked to see him in his house and he called Mr.JR and came out and spoke to him and called him to the place where no one was there and told him that he don't have money. Then Mr.JR started scolding him harshly he kept his mouth mum and never replied and later on he asked Mr.JR to take the utensil from his home and make money and Mr.JR started to scold him and later on he felt that he was being cheated and he told his friend that if you don't return my money he will complain to police then he caught hold of his collar then his friend diverted the topic that what proof he had to show them that he has borrowed money from him. It created a great shock In his face. He scolded him harshly and caught his collar but he dragged Mr.JR and went and he tried to release himself from the clutches so he started beating him back then he hit him and his glasses fell down before he could pick his glasses in the dark he ran away.

Again he chased him and found him. He shouted thief and people gathered and his friend was caught but he told the people that he never knew that man and he was simply walking on the road and found him and he started asking him for money. He asked the crowd to ask him for evidence of which he gave the money but Mr.JR couldn't reply for it because he trusted him and he had no evidence so the people went away. Then he went to police and even the police said that if he is went to the court also they will ask for evidence and he might not win the case so he dropped the effort for getting money. "Afterwards, I hated mankind. I only thought how man has degenerated himself to the meanest level of cheating and living as a parasite in all virtual sense".(105).

Then he narrated the second incident in which he got cheated. A friend came and told about his situation that his wife has got a tumor in the left side of her chest and she is admitted in CMC Vellore for treatment and the doctor have told that she should be immediately operated or else she may not survive then he explained to doctors his situation that he is not able to pay such an huge amount the doctors gave a reduction in the bill and it came around 25 thousand rupees. He took the jewels which he had in home and got an amount of 10 thousand. Still he needs 15 thousand so he pleaded him for that amount and he even stated that he had no one to ask for the amount other than him. He begged him to save his wife. His heart moved for his pathetic situation then he gave a promising word to him that he would return him the money. For which he checked his bank balance and he had only 10 thousand still he was in need of 5 thousand. He couldn't ask any one he knew that none would help him so he thought to pawn his wife's necklace which she wore only once that was only on their marriage. And it was locked into the iron box for last 20 years.

Without the knowledge of his wife he pawned the necklace and he got the amount and gave it to the person. For it he thanked him and said he was like a God who helped him at the right time and he promised him that he would return the money soon and he left. Two months passed but he never returned the amount then he went to his house and he found that it was locked. He felt an inner urge that a person who praised him as God would not cheat him then he asked the neighbors around his house about him. Then he learnt that he was cheated they told him that the person has left the house two months before and his wife and his children were healthy and they didn't know where he went. He was shocked to know about it he felt that again he was cheated. Then he told the author that these immoral and dishonest people will be surely punished by God. Then he reminded him that the food was getting dried up. Then he said oh yes I will have it and started eating. And he said to him that when he starts to speak he forgets everything. Again he continued saying that likewise he has lost 35 thousand rupees. "I lost my thirty five thousand rupees for no good because I trusted man. I reposed my complete faith in him.... On the contrary, my goodness, my generosity, my charitable nature, was exploited and misused by all. The world is very bad. And man is extremely worse." (115).

one day that his wife asked him for that necklace in order to go and attend the function. At first he neglected her and told her not to attend the function later on she pestered him for the necklace and finally he told the truth to his wife and daughter and they started shouting at him and even his mother in law joined them in scolding him. For all through their frustration and rage he maintained silence and finally he spoke out saying God will surely punish those people and they would never reap harvest in his money. And it was his money so he would do anything with it. Because he earned it and he even questioned them that what if I had lost the amount by myself likewise don't concentrate too much on this matter he said and kept quite. In order to hide his soft cornered heart and foolishness he broke the silence and questioned them.

LOST HUMANITY IN HUMAN

From then onwards they noticed each and every movement on him. "So, my wife and my daughter began treating me like a mentally ill-gotten patient in a psychiatric hospital. Even today they have not changed their way of viewing and treating me." (118). He ended those words with misery and sadness and tears trickled in his eyes. Then he said that he became too emotional and wiped his tears. Then again he continued to have his dinner and he said to him that after the fourth time of promotion incident everyone in his bank had an upper hand by saying that he was mad. But he never minded it because his consciousness knew that he was not mad. After four months, after the denial of his promotion a man from another branch visited him and asked him to file the case against the bank but he wasn't ready but he pestered him and told him that he would help him win the case and only 5 thousand rupees was enough for him but he never yielded to his wishes so he came and shouted in his bank and used abusive languages.

Mr. JR said to author “You have listened to my pathetic story. Look, how people made me mad although I was not in any sense. Even now people dare not come near me.”(121). Then he said not to trust anyone in the world. Suddenly he put forth a question to him asking him whether he looked as if he was mad for so long time he had narrated his life. Immediately the author told that he wasn’t and tears trickled from his eyes. He became emotional. “He uttered a few words in choking voice, “people..., made..., me mad..., though I am not...”.(122). The way he cried moved the author. And he asked him not to weep. Then he talked to him about life and told that only death can give internal freedom for man.

“Man is unfree, from birth to death, it is death that provides man eternal freedom. Life is opposite of freedom. It is confinement, it is struggle, it is conflict, it is worship, it is devotion, it is adoration, it is corruption, it is dishonestly, it is worship, it is devotion, it is aboration, it is corruption, it is dishonesty, it is hypocrisy and that all.”(125)

Then he later said that even death is mysterious and he is not bothered about the people who think that he was mad.

“What is the use in working in an organization where I am treated as mad, an untouchable, an outcast, where people have become quite inhuman, insensitive, apathetic, brutal and cruel towards their own fellow being.”(126).

He told him that he feels to quit the job where human are not treated as humans. For almost 23 years of his service in the bank he lost something invaluable. He wants to quit the job and he isn’t bothered for quitting his job because his savings would be enough for his family. And they would be happy if he quits the job. And he says that today man has grown to a stage where man considers himself important, significant, thinks of himself and no other thing or creature on earth, think of nothing except himself, thinks that he is the centre of all the existence in the world. Then he asked him for forgiveness that he talked for a long time and the clock struck 12 and he took leave from him to go but still he was praising him saying that he was so honest and silent in hearing his speech and he never talked to anyone for a long time it was a great pleasure to talk to him. And he also stated that he hasn’t spent six hours in the first meet for any person. He came near the gate and bid him saying that he should come home often whenever he was free. He left his home took his bicycle to ride and the road were empty with two dogs barking and he reached his home. These were the things which happened in the first encounter of that man.

After a decade and a half the life style has changed he was biologically changed he sold his father’s bicycle and one day he went to bank for transactions and he moved to counter number 9 and he saw the lady working in the counter and asked her if she was Mr.JR s daughter and she said yes and he introduced himself that he was KR who visited her father fifteen years ago and he asked how is Mr.JR for which she told that they have kept him in the confinement because he behaved so

madly and he screamed suddenly banged the door and urinated in his pants so they have chained him with the cot. It was a great shock to him for which he said that he wants to see him immediately for which she said that he can come after office hours to meet him and gave the address of nalandha nagar. It was evening he located the house easily and he went there his daughter greeted him and made him sit but to his curiosity he asked can I see your father? She called him to the backside of the house there was a small room a window and it was bolted from out and he could hear the groaning sound and as she opened the door he couldn't see such horrible sight of that old man who was untidy with unkempt white hair saliva dripping from his mouth and his leg was chained to the cot.

He asked his daughter weather he can have some private moments with him. She accepted and left the room. It was like innocent aged man confined and caged like a animal in the circus. He couldn't speak but he recognized him and tears trickled down from his eyes. He raised him up slowly to make him sit on the bed but he couldn't because he lost his balance. And he smelt so badly he hasn't taken bath for almost a month. What made him to be in such a state he was insane to the world and even to his wife and daughter but he was sane to him? He was dying in his room. Then his daughter came in and told that it was getting darker and it's time for him to start home. Again he took a glance at him and started home. Two months passed when he went again to his house he came to know that he passed away and his daughter and wife moved to some other place to stay. That was all. And after fifteen years he felt the urge to share this to the world so he wrote this story. One day he went to pay his homage to the vacant body. He asked many questions for himself.

“so on this day I asked myself inevitably: am I a human being to ever look over human? Have I faithfully respected my fellow beings? Should man ever want to lead such an unrealistic life? He taught me, most of all, about the power of feelings. He taught me the art of sympathy and empathy.” (141)

Thus the author retold the story of the man he feared that the experience told by the old man will remain rooted in his consciousness he wanted to share it to the world and that is all.

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