



**"Voices of Silence: Treasure Trove of Multiple Themes and Refined Sensibilities,"  
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Katta Rajamouly is a familiar name and not a new voice in Indian writing in English, particularly in the field of Indian poetry in English. He has already published a few collections of poems and a few books on English Language teaching, published by APH Publishers, New Delhi. His critical work on the poetry of Philip Larkin, published by Prestige Publishers, is considered a prestigious critical study in centres of higher learning. His book on Grammar is now very popular in academic institutions. He has published three collections of poems- *Beauty in Variety*, *Cherished Cherries* and *Petals of Insight*--two collections of short stories- *Post Gandhian Days* and *Thorns in the Path* and a novel entitled *Rajarshi in Quest of Peace*, all the six literary pieces published in addition to his critical essays, *My Observations* by Authors Press New Delhi. All these have received much critical appreciation. But primarily he is a poet and a poet of high calibre by inspiration who loves nature, and his feeling heart responds to every heartbeat and minute throb of life in nature which has an irresistible attraction on him.

The present volume *Voices of Silence* is a collection of nine distinct poetical collections brought under one banner as a single book. *Appeals to Dears* is the first of the nine slender collections. All these reveal the multiple aspects of love, life and the life today in the society he lives in. He as a poet has boundless zeal and youthful gusto, vivacity and joyous elasticity. He has devoted his creative energies and abundant resourcefulness in bringing forth all these prettily penned thoughts as verses.

The last one in the series is *Appeals to Dears* written in the usual verse form with stanzas and there are 18 verses with distinct titles. It begins with the poem 'O Moon! My Boon' and obviously it is addressed to the moon and the poet as he reflects on the moon gets transported to the subject of this poem:

'Your light fills my heart with delight

I wait for your glimpse ever in night,

You are my true life-long companion

To give me ever unclouded satisfaction.'

The image of the moon makes an everlasting impression on the mind of the poet and it goes without saying that Rajamouly is largely influenced by the British Romantic poets such as Wordsworth, Shelley and Keats. Again, during the poem, we find lines imbued with different shades of the spirit of romanticism: You are my sport, my sight, my bliss/You lead me all from darkness to light.' The next poem 'True Work for real Worship' is almost a song of praise for good work that by itself is worship. The poet says: To undertake a work its worship is a must/And feel it victory in your actual execution; Not to loot all treasures of others for joys/ never to be corrupt and not to tears.' The nature of work should be such that it should lead to peace and harmony, unity and welfare of mankind without giving any scope for hatred and violence. Now as a son of the soil he conveys his deep love and regard for the river Godavari which he describes as the Ganges of South India in the poem 'The South Ganges':

'In the holy course for graceful race



For Goutama's penance under Shiva's grace  
To pace on from generation to generation  
To bless all with bliss on ablution/ In no bounds.'

The next poem 'When I look at' is a faithful expression of the sheer sense of joy he feels as he looks at the familiar objects of nature, living and non-living. He says during such occasions he forgets himself and the environs, and he feels as though he has stepped in the land of the object and identifies himself with it. This is the feeling he gets whenever he looks at the green pastures, creepers and flowers or a stream flowing in rhythmic movement or a cuckoo singing its melodious song or a peacock dancing to the friendly tunes of nature. In this context, he is reminded of his early days when he swam in the river by his village and avidly listened to the gentle notes of cuckoo and how he imitated and mimicked its notes in the same shrill note at the same pitch. While the poem 'Undercurrent' seems to have been designed for the effect of rhythm, the piece 'Pebble Throw' tries to trace the effect of the ripples caused by throwing a pebble in calm waters and the way it distracts the mind. The nature of the adverse effect of the disturbance is compared to a tiny hole that causes the sinking of the ship itself and to a small drop of poison that kills a healthy life:

A small hole sinks the whole ship  
A slight evil spoils the society-origin  
A poison dose kills the life-tree  
Like the pebble for virtue-crisis.

The poem 'Source for Inspiration' is a beautifully penned composition on Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam the former President of India who always remains as the perennial source of unfailing inspiration for all the people of India and particularly to the younger generation. Rajamouly pays homage to this illustrious son of India in a fitting manner: 'He was People's President doubtless/ With his patriotic fervour applicable/ In 'Making of the World More Livable'. The poet continues his tribute to the great leader who is the real leader and a visionary and a dreamer of virtues loftier and values higher:

His mission to ignite young minds  
To do great in great fields of all kinds  
His life for them is not just inspiration  
But a perennial source of inspiration  
To own the highest wealth of knowledge.'

The poem 'Unique Offerings' is a tribute paid to the gifts of nature such as cool shade, fragrant flowers, flowing river, the light of the sun and the moon and the legion of twinkling stars, clouds and rains. While the verse 'God pervades there' is written on the greatness of God, the poem 'Human Bond' describes the nature of various types of human bonds such as marriage bonds, societal bonds, political and commercial bonds etc. that bind people, societies and humanity.



‘Successful failure’ is the penultimate poem that describes the limits of temporarily successful people. It explains it with the known examples of legendary kings and mythical characters such as Ravan, Suyodhan and Kamsa who with all their wrongdoings could be successful for a limited period because the mighty power of righteousness asserts itself in due course of time by punishing the vice. The last poem happens to be ‘I do not know what I am’ and here the poet speaks of numerous hurdles that lie across his way, and he has to move forward without getting cowed down the jealousy and hatred of others. In this verse he intelligently makes brilliant use of a series of negatives to produce the desired positive result. With courage and confidence, one has to march in the journey of life, reach the goal and people who hate now would definitely, at least grudgingly, recognize the merit of the person. One should have a positive attitude that works wonders and leads the person to the desired heights of glory.

All these poems in the present anthology “Voices of Silence” reveal the poetic potentiality of Dr. Rajamouly who has established himself as a signature in the field of Indian poetry in English. At every stage, we see the abundance of his love of nature and the profound influence nature has imprinted on his mind, which in turn has shaped him into a poet of nature. His poems on the multiple facets and features of love reveal the intensity of his love for the theme of love and the treasure house of his vast and wider knowledge. Moreover, the lines reveal his passion for rhythmic words by a conscious use of assonance and alliteration which naturally results in word music. Along with his love of nature, social consciousness forms the undercurrent of his verses. The dynamic effect of social awareness sharpens his mind in exposing the incredible presence of corruption at all levels and in all fields with the sole objective of bringing correction at all levels. Proper use of image is his forte. The image in his use makes a poem and breathes life and aesthetic beauty into the body of the poem. Thus, we derive great pleasure in reading his poetry, which is indeed a treasure house of multiple themes and refined sensibilities.

Thirupathi

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