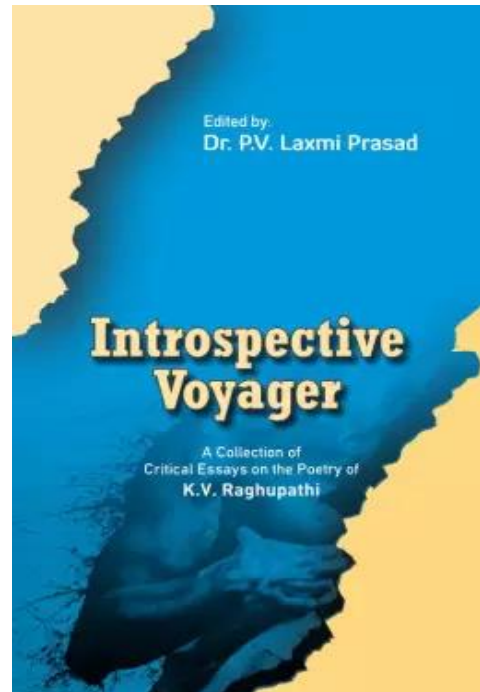


***Introspective Voyager: A Collection of Critical Essays on the Poetry of K.V. Raghupathi* Edited by Dr.P.V.Laxmiprasad, New Delhi: Authorspress, 2014, pp 256, ISBN978-81-7273-850-1, Price. 995/-**

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The book under review contains 21 research papers on various anthologies of poetry written by K.V.Raghupathi, who is a notable Indian poet cherishing Indian sensibility, Ecology, transcendental philosophy, spirituality through his poems, and the papers discuss almost all the aspects dealt by the poet in his volumes.

One of the notable qualities of Raghupathi is his insatiable thirst towards the different manifestations of this world and he engages himself in interpreting the mystery behind the happenings of this universe. His search for knowledge has become a favourite theme of the research papers in this anthology. T.V.Vasudeva



Reddy in his paper "Shadows of Echoes and Images in the Poetry of K.V.Raghupathi" declares Raghupathi as a committed writer with social consciousness as he has analysed all the major anthologies of Raghupathi and finds his treatment of themes quite unusual but are partly intellectual and partly philosophical. According to T.V. Reddy, Raghupathi's poetry is charged with images that create a strong impact on the minds of the readers as it reveals his disenchantment with life and this feeling of aversion is noted in many of his poems. Further, Reddy notes that in some of his poems, the poet has brought out the glorious past which is obscured by the frantic present that makes the lives of humans pathetic as they are confused by the strange noises of the growing city. They do not know how to distinguish good from bad and in spite of all their knowledge, humans find it difficult to comprehend the meaning of life. Another notable trait of Raghupathi, identified by Reddy, is his reflection of various topics. In some of his poems, the poet reveals his existential world view and involves in deep

philosophical reflections of life and the reflections include spiritual, social and psychological aspects of life.

Professor Rama Rao in "Quest and Revelations: A Study of Voice of the Valley" points out the valuable and pious poetic imagination of Raghupathi. Rao identifies Raghupathi as a wanderer who goes to a valley filled with silence and is amazed at the silence of the valley. The valley has recognised the poet as a seeker of truth and it answers all his doubts and provided him the knowledge to experience bliss amidst chaos. Further, the voice has made him to understand the philosophy related to human nature and the quality of existence too. Rama Rao has also examined the volume "Wisdom of the Peepal Tree" and brought out the spiritual and philosophical aspects of the volume. According to Rao, the tree answers all the prayers of the devote worshipper who is the poet himself and it is also ready to illumine whoever is in dark. The tree talks to the poet and offers him the wisdom of human nature and the knowledge of human condition.

Professor Prema Nandakumar in "Search from the Unknown to the Known" examines Raghupathi's "Desert Blooms" and points out how the collection reveals the agony of the individual soul which finds it difficult to match the collective humanity. Prema Nandakumar ascertains that the collection has abundant death imageries that reflect the longing for death and the obscurity of human life.

D. C. Chambial in his paper "Desert Blooms: A Socratic Discussion" has identified the conversation among three invisible souls who look at life from different angles. However, they have not arrived at any conclusion as they find no solution to the problems of human life. What is projected is the voice of the poet, his arguments about human life and also his philosophical reflections on life. In fact, Chambial has summed up the collection as "an outburst of a young mind which is full of ideas" gained from the reflection of life.

Dr. S. Karthi Kumar in his paper "Life vs. Existence: An Appreciation of K.V.Raghupathi's Desert Blooms" has brought out the unexplored aspects of life which have been unheard so far. According to Karthi Kumar, this collection is a guide to "ones philosophical enquiry into life". Further, Kumar has identified three points of view as stated in "Desert Blooms." There are three souls involving in an imaginary conversation. The first soul longs for the freedom from life and the second soul lives in the present regardless of past and future. Whereas the third soul deviates from the remaining souls and it explores human life through the means of soul itself. The same concept has been explored by Dr.Banibrata Goswami in "Unending Journey

of Life in Desert Blooms." Goswami reveals how the three souls speak on various aspects of life which is inimitable as they point out the frustrations, disappointments and failures of life faced by the poet and also shows his mysterious understanding of human life.

Dr.D.Gnanasekaran in "To the Eternal through the Ephemeral" explores the poetic thought process of K.V.Raghupathi and points out the evolution of his thought as well as his philosophical bent of Mind which is detached. Gnanasekaran has found that the poet isolated himself the human world and examines the weaknesses as well as the ironies of human life with a touch of sarcasm. Dr.P.Raja in "Lofty thoughts of a Philosopher Poet" shows Raghupathi as a philosophical poet who has eyes and mind to look at the ills of society to address the problems that disturb the "equilibrium." Dr.Palukurthy Dinakar in "Indian Sensibility in K.V.Raghupathi's Orphan and Other Poems" finds out the representation of Indian culture and beliefs in the poetry of Raghupathi as the poet expresses the life of the country with Indian images and similes.

Dr. Lipipuspa Nayak in "The Propensity for Transcendence: K.V. Raghupathi's Later Poetry" reveals the commitment of the poet in pointing out the sad reality of the present day world which is "dispossessed" and which is devoid of understanding. According to the poet, there is no escape from the existential trauma of human life which they ought to experience and learn.

Dr. Sheena S Nair in "Silent Yet Stiring Echoes" finds out that the poems of Raghupathi are full of themes and images which elevate the spiritual and philosophical inquiry among the readers. According to Sheena, Raghupathi's poetry is the search of an "ambitious" young man who is confused with the complexity of the world and who wants to establish his own identity. The poet shows how materialistic life does not have any meanings and how it disturbs the harmony of human soul. Though the poet struggles very hard to come out of the materialistic world, it always disturbs him with its strong hold. Yet the poet surrenders himself to nature and has found a suitable way to overcome materialism.

Though Nature has been perceived in different ways in literary writings, K.V.Raghupathi's poems reveal it as the manifestation of the Supreme Being that makes humans realize the divinity of the Universe. To some extent, Raghupathi's perception of Nature resembles Wordsworth's perception of it as Nature is shown as a living presence in both their works. Like Wordsworth, who has listed out his three stages of love for Nature, Raghupathi credits Nature as the harbinger of all lives. Raghupathi's faith in nature has been explored by the following papers.

Prof. Shujaat Hussain in "Wisdom of the Peepal Tree: An Influential and Ignited Force" shows how the poet is much impressed by the quality of the Peepal Tree and how he prays to the tree to penetrate each cell of his body like the river that cuts into the bowels of the earth. The tree is not just an ordinary thing rather it is like a god to the poet as well as to all human beings. Through the tree, the poet has made an attempt to enlighten people about the radiant world of wisdom. P.V. Laxmiprasad in "Wisdom of the Peepal Tree" takes the reader along the poet towards the mysterious aspects of human life and provides them the knowledge of the ancients which is sacred and noble. The tree resembles the cosmos which exists time immemorially.

D.C. Chambial in "Clouds: A Critical Appraisal" has brought out the desire of the persona to become a famous poet though the theme develops with the help of natural images. The poet finds place in the lap of nature and surrenders himself to its bounty. Ms. Sujitha Elango in "An Eco-critical Reading of Three Poems: Co-Tenants, Drought, Ignorance" explores the ecological values in the select poems. In the poem, "Co-Tenants," the poet becomes nostalgic and reveals his deep concern and love towards the disappearance of birds. In "Drought" the poet shows the sad plight of human beings without water and the reason for the loss of water is nothing else other than human negligence and the disturbance of the ecosystem. In "Ignorance," the poet discloses how human beings destroy nature without understanding its implication for human life.

Dr. G. Srilatha in "The Enigma of Human Existence: A Study of Select Poems" has studied the notable poems of Raghupathi and finds his Eco-consciousness as well as his concern for nature. The poet explores the meaning of life and death through nature and reflects the "enigma of human existence with Indian sensibility." Dr. S. Kumaran in "Samarpana: Nature as a Divine Force" has revealed Raghupathi's reverential attitude to Nature and illustrates how he portrays the world as a sanctuary, in which all the objects are holy. The poet has pointed out the intrinsic value of Nature and the inherent worth of non-human others and has found a way to achieve harmonious living in the world. Further by showing the transforming power of physical environment in the enhancement of mental and spiritual environment, he has educated humans about the necessity of physical environment for their sustenance. Thus, the analysis reveals the manifestation of Nature as a divine force and captures Raghupathi's unwavering faith in its transforming power.

Dr. P. V. Laxmiprasad in "Eco-critical Reading of Dispersed Symphonies" has brought out the ecological consciousness of Raghupathi and his role in establishing the ecosystem. The poet keeps on searching for the viable ways to integrate humans with nature as he found eternity in the universe which is the “pulse of life that grows in everything” but unnoticed. T.Venkata Ramana in "Symphonies of Nature" has studied Raghupathi's “Dispersed Symphonies” and shows how the poet listens to everything carefully and integrates his soul with that of nature. The poet has realised there is a music in nature which is superior to all other human music and he explores it to overcome the madness of human life. Dr.V.Sunitha in "Dispersed Symphonies: A Treatise on Nature" reveals Raghupathi as the poet of nature who is always on look out for spiritual enlightenment in the natural world. The poet has filled his poems with the aroma of the natural world and it enlightens humans of the reality of human life.

Thus, the papers in this anthology are quite diverse in their selection of themes and they appeal to the intellectual thirst of the readers. Further, the way they have analysed the poetic volumes are interesting and they arouse the curiosity of the learners to read the poetic volumes so as to merge with the voice of the poet.