

DELUSIVE NIGHT

Origin (Telugu) By: Prof. P Laxminarayana

Translated by: Elanaaga

This blind night is a bat
It's lying in a long deep-seated penance.
Reverberating
with deceitful chants of *mantras*
the sky is turning black and naked.
The innocent people are stars
scattered with bomb scare in the pitch dark sky
The night's ugly laugh
is splitting both the sleep and silence
The moon is an insane street- singer
strolling and singing amid ruined fallen cities.
While I was flung into a scorching desert
you're ever ensconced among pleasant blossoms
in lush meadows
The face that became primitive
in night will be seen again
The sprouted smiles will be crushed.
Here lie the roots of gloom
This dark night is merely a sign
of a sombre oil-painting
Yet I keep donning everyday
the disguised human face
behind curtains of darkness

Bio

Elanaaga Born into a lower-middle class family in Elgandal village of Karimnagar district, Telangana state in 1953, Elanaaga (Dr. Surendra Nagaraju) is a poet cum translator. He is a paediatrician by profession. So far, he has penned 22 books; 11 of them are original writings in Telugu, while 11 are translations from English to Telugu and vice versa. His Telugu works include metrical poetry, experimental poetry, translations and writings on propriety of language and so on. The number of his books on poetry, i.e. originally written ones plus renderings is 13. Besides rendering Somerset Maugham's *The Alien Corn* into Telugu, he translated Latin American Stories, African Stories, Somerset Maugham's other stories and World Stories into Telugu and published as books. Of his 11 translation works, 3 are from Telugu to English. He can be contacted at elanaaga@gmail.com