

***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](mailto:elanaaga@gmail.com)