

PRAYER

ORIGIN (KANNADA): ROHINI SATYA

TELUGU TRANSLATION: ROHINI SATYA

RENDERED INTO ENGLISH BY: ELANAAGA

My house is just by the main road.

Fruit shop, dairy parlour
and auto stand are nearby.

Coffee cafe is few steps away;
metro station is just beyond.

Jewellery shops, textile stores
of all kinds are closely located.

Amble a little more, you'll find a mall
and if you walk a bit further, also bars.

As if an anthill is burst, numerous small vehicles
appear in lines and bigger ones here and there

on the road.

We, staggering, on either side of it.

Then, from far, is heard the peal
of the vehicle carrying birth or death
as though someone cut its throat.

If others condescend to make way for it,
its laser beam- like sound dwindles slowly.

Inside,

a life may be about to enter this world
or one about to leave.

The heart that's nearly in a coma state
in the mechanical chores of day-today life
becomes moist with tenderness for a moment.

When I pray for safe birth
or pay homage to the departed soul,
my selfless short prayer appears meaningful

Bio

Rohini Satya:

Born in Anantapur of A.P. state and settled in Bengaluru, Rohini Satya is one of the leading translators from Kannada to Telugu and vice versa. Her poems, translations and articles are published from time to time in various Telugu and Kannada newspapers, magazines. She rendered 2 anthologies of Telugu poetry to Kannada. Of late, she translated the prose part of Sri. Veerappa Moily's book into Telugu. She wrote about 50 poems and rendered 30. They were all published in various newspapers, magazine. She got a few awards.

Elanaaga (Actual name: Dr Surendra Nagaraju)

A doctor (Paediatrician) by profession, Elanaaga is one of the well-known poets / translators in Telugu literature. He penned 17 books so far. Eleven of them belong to poetry. They include metered poetry (*Chandobaddha Padyalu*), translation, experimental poetry (*Prayoga Padyalu*) etc. Besides translating Somerset Maugham's *The Alien Corn* into Telugu, he rendered Latin American Stories, African stories and Somerset Maugham's stories as well and published them as books. He has also translated Vattikota Alwaru Swamy's Telugu stories *Jailu Lopala* into English under the title 'Inside the Prison'.

Nearly a thousand of his poems, essays, stories, book reviews etc. belonging to different genres of Telugu and English were published in various magazines in the last 45 years. He won several state level prizes for his writings.