

ASCENT AND DESCENT

By Elanaaga

Unintentionally, I climb a tall pinnacle. It's all pleasant and mirthful there. After a few days, I descend the pinnacle unintentionally. For a period of time, I walk on the earth's surface.

On a morning, a small problem hits me and suddenly I start falling into a deep gorge. I drop a few ice cubes in half a glass of melancholy and gulp it down. By evening, my body hits the bottom of the chasm with a bang. I don't die but wriggle in pain. In the valley, appears a giant cypress tree looking like a ghost with disheveled hair. Under the tree, I writhe around in agony. Baiting my heart and body to melancholy, the moonlight sprawls on the meadow. Pitying my hapless predicament, clouds shed tears from above. Tides of dejection rise in distant seas. Commiserating with me, angels sing a poignant song in a plaintive tune. When I see up after the song is over, the moon gets entangled in the branches of a tree and breathes his last. I resume my struggle to come again onto the earth's surface.

OMNIPOTENCE

To make one quiver with rapture
a single brushing ray of *swara* is enough.
To make tears well up in someone's eyes
a bowstring like taut *raga* is enough.
To make one melt and flow as water at once
a small breeze of *laya* is enough

MAGNIFICENCE OF MUSIC

A kind of coziness comforts our heart.
Pleasure pervades deep inside.
A swinging wave

pours nectar from heaven above.
A ladder rung appears in front
to move us up the paradise above

(These poems are translations to poet's own Telugu poems.)

Bio

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.