

***THE DEPARTURE AND OTHER POEMS***

**Origin (Telugu): Vijay Chandra**

**Translated by: Elanaaga**

The love between them....  
Began with glances, raged with touch  
got steamy with smooch, reached pinnacle  
with embrace and mingled in the sea of wedlock

Their love yielded a baby  
The baby sullied many a bed cover  
Frightened were they,  
with the work of endless washing.  
Their love stopped for a while  
at a nursery school

Their love crawled with burden of debts  
till the children's college days,  
swayed between hope and despair  
and halted at the middle age station

Their love was overjoyed with son's job,  
the arrival of daughter-in-law, grand daughter  
and it unwound briefly on life's shore

Their love suffered with daughter-in-law's fights,  
son's silence and halted at an old age home

On an anonymous day  
their love departed the world  
along with themselves

***THE JEWEL CASE***

Long ago, I stowed away  
a star in a jewel case.  
Along with it, a teardrop  
of my mother too

A few more things I hid:

My youngest brother's sixth digit  
An elephant tusk found on a road  
with the death of Venkat Rao  
who carried me in his lap all the time  
when I was a small kid  
A blue ring bought for me by my mother  
A shell picked by me on seashore long ago  
A marble played by me along with street chums  
The strident yell of Moulana  
in the mosque of Bhapoor bazaar  
The bang of my father's hammer  
on a tin piece over the anvil

Many things I stowed away.  
Now, the jewel case is moving  
Perhaps wings sprouted on it

**Bio**

**Elanaaga**(Dr Surendra Nagaraju) was Retired as Deputy Commissioner from medical department of erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh state. Published 12 books (11 in Telugu and 1 in English) so far of which 7 belong to the genre of poetry. Five of the books are translations (4 from English to Telugu and 1 from Telugu to English). Hundreds of poems written

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