

# Kannada Sangha

Kannada Sangha, Christ University released its 237th publication 'Aakhyana', a collection of stories by Murthy (Maruti Ankolekar) on 15 September 2015. A renowned critic and scholar Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya released the book. After the book launch, in his speech, he said that it was home coming feeling for him to be at Christ University as it was Christ University Kannada Sangha (then Christ College Kannada Sangha) which motivated, nurtured and encouraged him and many other budding writers by publishing their works. He recollected his memory, where his book (in which there was a Forward by G.P. Rajaratnam and a Hinnudi by Masti Venkatesha Iyengar) was published under the banner of the Christ College Kannada Sangha when he was still a student at Central College.

When he spoke about the book, he mentioned that he went nostalgic to his teenage after reading the stories. The strength of any piece of writing is to be able to disturb the readers. It should make the readers feel and experience what they read and 'Aakhyana' does it effectively. The two drives that move, influence and an effect human the most, are the drive for Sex & power and this phenomena is present throughout the book, he said.

If one can relate himself/herself to what he/she reads then that writing has something to offer and if one doesn't gain anything by reading some writings, then such reading is useless. All great works help us to understand ourselves, explore our inner and outer world and are relevant to most of them, this is the fruition of literature, he added.

He insisted upon Murthy to write more and more and said that Literature plays a vital role in forming character, spreading love, affection and care. If anyone has the strength and talent to write something they must and should write or else it would be unfair on their part to do so. Even writing gives something back to the society, he added.

Reviewing the book, writer Dr. Sridhar Balagara said that the stories in the book stress the present need for the human race to remain human and humane. Influence of Karl Marx, Camus, Sartre and other giant thinkers is well evident in the stories. Stories are eclectic in nature; characters are vividly portrayed and are from all walks of life, hence everyone can easily relate to the stories.

Author's positive attitude towards life is reflected throughout the book. The descriptions of geography (example: Malenaadu) makes us 'watch' the novel, he said. Through contextual references he showed how various mathematical techniques are used in the stories and said that the unique technique used in the stories of narrator being invisible but omnipresent is indeed rare. The huge gap (of all kinds) between the stories (as all the stories were written in the span of 13 years) shows that the collection as a whole is not inclined to any genre of modern Kannada literature. All these makes the stories very unique and interesting, he added. He also said that, Legendary Kannada writer Masti Venkatesha Iyengar and his works came to his mind while reading this collection.

He appreciated and thanked Christ University Kannada Sangha for its silent revolution and termed it as true service to Kannada literature.

Author of the book, Murthy said that Literature, art, science, culture, etc are the powerful instruments that lead to positive changes in the society. It is through literature that we can break the barriers of the four C's (caste, colour, creed and country) and hence literature plays an important role in spreading human values. He thanked the Christ University Kannada Sangha.

Rev.fr. Dr Varghese, financial officer of Christ University who presided over the function mentioned that a copy of Aakhyana will be given at free of cost to those who are really interested in reading it. He insisted and advised the students to cultivate the habit of reading.

M T Rathi,  
Coordinator, Kannada Sangha.