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Book Review of Dr. H. Narasimhaiah's Autobiography "Porata Patham" by Kasturi Murali Krishna

Book Review of "Porata Patham" – The Telugu Translation of Dr. H. Narasimhaiah's Autobiography "Horatada Haadi" by Kasturi Murali Krishna. 'Porata Patham' Illuminates Dr. H. Narasimhaiah's Legacy in Telugu.

Introduction

"Porata Patham," the Telugu translation of Dr. H. Narasimhaiah's Kannada autobiography "Horatada Haadi," offers a compelling insight into the life and legacy of one of India's most distinguished educationists and rationalists. Translated by Kodihalli Murali Mohan, this work transcends linguistic barriers to bring the inspirational journey of Dr. Narasimhaiah to Telugu-speaking readers. The translation is a testament to Mohan's skill in capturing the essence of the original work while making it accessible and engaging for a new audience.

Dr. H. Narasimhaiah: A Life of Commitment and Rationalism

Dr. H. Narasimhaiah was a towering figure in the fields of education and rationalism in India. His life story is a rich tapestry of dedication to science, education reform, and the relentless pursuit of truth. From his humble beginnings in Karnataka to his influential role as Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, Dr. Narasimhaiah's journey is marked by a steadfast commitment to rational thought and scientific inquiry.

"Porata Patham" captures this journey in vivid detail. The translation effectively conveys Dr. Narasimhaiah's passion for education and his unwavering belief in the power of science to transform society. His efforts to debunk superstitions and promote a scientific temper are particularly highlighted, showcasing his role as a pioneering rationalist in a society often bound by traditional beliefs. This book is not just an autobiography as it contains parts of Quit India movement, History of Bangalore University, and more of National High School, College and National Education Society.

The Art of Translation: Fidelity and Fluency

Translating an autobiography requires not only a deep understanding of the subject's life and philosophy but also a mastery of both the source and target languages. Kodihalli Murali Mohan excels in both these areas. His translation of "Horatada Haadi" into "Porata Patham" is a seamless blend of fidelity to the original text and fluency in Telugu. Mohan's prose captures the spirit of Dr. Narasimhaiah's narrative, ensuring that the translated work retains the emotional and intellectual impact of the original.

Mohan's choice of words and phrasing is particularly noteworthy. He manages to preserve the authenticity of Dr. Narasimhaiah's voice while making it resonate with Telugu readers. The translation does not feel like a mere transposition of words from one language to another; rather, it reads as a thoughtfully crafted work that stands on its own merits.

Thematic Depth and Relevance

"Porata Patham" delves into various themes that are as relevant today as they were during Dr. Narasimhaiah's lifetime. The book explores the importance of education in empowering individuals and communities. Dr. Narasimhaiah's efforts to improve the education system in Karnataka, his innovative teaching methods, and his dedication to nurturing scientific curiosity among students are vividly portrayed. These themes resonate deeply with contemporary readers, emphasizing the enduring significance of his contributions.

The book also addresses the challenges of promoting rationalism in a society steeped in superstitions and religious dogma. Dr. Narasimhaiah's fearless investigations into paranormal claims and his confrontations with so-called

godmen are recounted with clarity and conviction. These episodes highlight his courage and intellectual rigor, inspiring readers to question unverified beliefs and embrace a more rational worldview.

Personal Anecdotes and Historical Context

One of the strengths of "Porata Patham" is its rich collection of personal anecdotes and historical context. Dr. Narasimhaiah's interactions with prominent figures in Indian politics, education, and science add a fascinating dimension to the narrative. His meetings with luminaries such as V.V.Giri, Devaraj Urs, Goparaju Ramachandra Rao(GoRa) etc., provide insights into his intellectual milieu and the broader socio-political landscape of his time.

The translation captures these anecdotes with an engaging and accessible style. Mohan's attention to detail ensures that the historical context is well-preserved, allowing readers to appreciate the significance of Dr. Narasimhaiah's achievements in the context of India's post-independence history.

The Translator's Craft: Balancing Accuracy and Readability

Kodihalli Murali Mohan's translation is a fine example of balancing accuracy with readability. He stays true to the original Kannada text while ensuring that the translation is smooth and coherent in Telugu. This balance is crucial in an autobiography, where the authenticity of the subject's voice must be maintained alongside the need for an engaging narrative.

Mohan's translation also reflects a deep understanding of the cultural nuances of both Kannada and Telugu. He navigates

these nuances with skill, ensuring that the translated work is culturally resonant for Telugu readers. This cultural sensitivity enhances the reading experience, making "Porata Patham" a compelling and relatable work.

Impact and Inspiration

"Porata Patham" is more than just a translation; it is a bridge that connects Dr. Narasimhaiah's inspirational story with a new audience. The book serves as a source of motivation for readers, encouraging them to pursue knowledge, question unverified beliefs, and strive for a better society. Dr. Narasimhaiah's life is a testament to the transformative power of education and rational thought, and "Porata Patham" effectively conveys this message.

Conclusion

In conclusion, "Porata Patham" is a remarkable translation of Dr. H. Narasimhaiah's autobiography "Horatada Haadi." Kodihalli Murali Mohan's translation is faithful to the original text while being engaging and accessible for Telugu readers. The book offers a deep and nuanced portrayal of Dr. Narasimhaiah's life and legacy, highlighting his contributions to education and rationalism. "Porata Patham" is a must-read for anyone interested in the life of a true visionary who dedicated his life to the pursuit of knowledge and the promotion of scientific temper.

About the Translator: Kodihalli Murali Mohan

Kodihalli Murali Mohan is a well-known writer, translator, researcher and a publisher in the field of Telugu Literature. He lives in Hyderabad, Telangana State and works in South Central Railway as Senior Sectional Engineer.

About the Reviewer: Kasturi Murali Krishna

Kasturi Murali Krishna is a towering personality in the contemporary Telugu Literary world. He is a short story writer, Novelist, Historian in all genres. He is an editor of Sanchika, a much read Telugu web magazine. He is a critic and wrote several books in Telugu. He lives in Secunderabad, Telangana State. He is a double post graduate.

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