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(The National Academy of Letters, India)

25 June 2009

Invites you to

An Evening with Tamil Writer
Vaiyavan (M.S.P. Murugesan)



M.S.P. Murugesan

*'Fruits I prefer; not fanfare and fire works.
When compared to the pioneers and
literary personalities I am nothing; just
another beginning. That's all.'*

-Vaiyavan's remarks about his works.

Vaiyavan (M.S.P.Murugesan) was born on 24th December 1939 in a village named Vellakkuttai, surrounded by hills and hillocks, 11 kilometers from Vaniyambadi in Vellore District. His parents Mr. M.S.Paramasivam and Mrs. T.A. Amirtha Sigamani belonged to humble lower middle class. They went to Madras for doing business, bringing the son with them. As Vaiyavan's father was a voracious reader, he initiated him to have a taste in literature. His father liked his son to become well versed in English, arranged a special tuition in English before joining him in any school. It encouraged him to read Bernard Shaw at his eleventh year. His ardent love for Tamil did not restrain him from loving English also. Nurtured by mother's high powered imagination and story telling Vaiyavan's early childhood was made fertile with imagination and readership. Due to a debacle in business they could not thrive in Madras. But Vaiyavan continued his studies in an orphanage. It had a great impact in his mind, which helped to know the trials and tribulation of life.

In his hostel days his love for Tamil literature found exposure through editing a manuscript magazine named as '**Tamil oli**'. He wrote skits, short stories and editorials and circulated it among the hostel mates. After completing S.S.L.C. he went to settle at Tiruppattur(now in Vellore District), his mother's native place which paved the ground to Vaiyavan's literary and social activities.

He became the secretary of Ilango Ilakkiya Manram, a literary association serving for seven years, conducting weekly readings of Cilappadhikaaram, arranging functions and literary meetings. He traveled by cycle to establish branches in Sanitary Workers' Trade Union, Beedi Workers Trade Union offering his humble service for the working class. He became the news paper agent for Janasakthi, a daily news paper.

Meanwhile he did many jobs as Section Writer, Newspaper boy, Servant in a General Merchant Shop and a Cloth Shop, lending library maintenance, Newspaper agent, Jaggery mundy servant, National Malaria Eradication Scheme supervisor, as epsom Salt packer, as house-keeper and as office boy in 'Pesumpadam' the Film news monthly and untrained teacher. All the experiences were portrayed as true life pictures in his whole core of writing. He wrote taking true characters from his own life.

When he was serving as an N.M.E.P Surveillance Inspector, the Unit Officer objected his writing career. Vaiyavan then and there resigned his post. Considering that the teaching profession alone could give him freedom, he joined the Teacher's training course and became a Secondary Grade Teacher in 1963. He procured all his P.G. Degrees and diplomas by self study. After his post graduate studies both in Tamil and English, he passed Rashtira Basha in Hindi and had undergone a P.G. Diploma in Malayalam at C.I.I.L. Mysore staying there for one year, where he read all the prominent Malayalam writers. Serving as a P.G. English Teacher and Tamil Pundit with a total service of 31 years and he retired from service in June 1996.



With Son, Wife and Daughter



Hon'ble Minister S.T.S. Awards State Prize

Being a voracious reader he had read works of Russian writers, American Writers and Indian writers. Indeed Pudumaippithan the great short story writer and Poet Bharathiyar impressed him, moulding his literary path.

In 1956 his first short story was published in Amudha Surabhi. He had written more than 800 short stories, which were acclaimed by the critics for the illumination of truth, humanitarian handling and spectacularly simplistic style. Another critic revered his purity of social awareness, new angles in story telling and realistic portrayals.

His first novel *Inru pudhithai Piranthom*, which won Tamil nadu Govt. Award, has opened new vistas in the human consciousness on nationalism, idealism and expansion of the mind through service. This novel was first of its kind to give importance to dignity of labour which could be found reflected in almost all his works.

In his second novel *Jamuna* he has portrayed highly humanitarian characters drawn from the life and won State Bank Literary Award. A critic appreciated the novel as 'having International standard and could boldly be translated into all world languages for propagating hope and faith. Like simple lamp lit in the modern times of cruelty, violence, vengeance, crookedness, the message of the novel would remain lit forever'.

In his novels *Junctionilae oru Membalam, Manal Veli Maangal, Kanniya ragi Nilavinilaadi*, he stresses that no oppression should be left out without any social reaction. The society should raise voice against injustice, unafraid of the consequences. All his 10 novels, 10 short novels, were wholeheartedly welcomed by the readers for his

mastery in dialogue writing and originally simplistic style. He has written 80 poems, many essays, 40 books for school children, 15 books for the neo literates in Tamil.

Vaiyavan's drama *Ananda Bhavan* was acclaimed by the critics, and won the Best Drama Award from State Bank for exciting admiration for its well knit plot, veracity of character for its brilliant Brahminical dialogue, comparable to Louis Pirandello's statement on drama.

Vaiyavan's study on Kerala *Mahabaliyin Makkal* which won Govt. of Tamilnadu award for the best book on other state and acclaimed by the Director of C.I.L.L. Mysore for its depth of knowledge and love for the language and the people stuffed with extensive materials by meeting the people in person and through writings.

As a literary critic he stood apart from the routine critics and criticized the critics for their bias on magazine writing and offered a very evaluative study as well as appreciative criticism on the late Tamil writer Jegasirpiyan in his book *Jegasirpiyan oru Paarvai* (which was sponsored by 'Ilakkiya Chinthanai,' a literary trust.

His second criticism on Bharathi, *Mahakavi* revealed many new dimensions of Bharathi .had won the best book award of Amudha Surabhi-Shriram Trust and won the best study reward on Bharathi from Bharathi Panpaattu Maiyam and Sriram Trust. Many readers and critics found that Vaiyavan's writings have a magic spell of absorbing the reader and making him or her part and parcel of the work.

His two English books *Nation builder Nehru* and *Loving Animals* were chosen for Blackboard Scheme of Govt. of India. The minister for Animal welfare praised the book 'Loving Animals' as an unusual one and occupying a special place of merit in her library.



Kannada Writer Ramachandra Sarma Honours Vaiyavan

After his retirement he devotes his time for writing English and Tamil books. He had written the story and dialogue for the short film made by Chozha creations *Namma Ooru Nalla Ooru* (Under Rockefeller Foundation aid).

He took part in the Arivoli Thittam under the auspices of State Resource Centre, Chennai went for area supervision regarding the functioning of the Neo literate Projects at Tiruvananthapuram, Pune and Mysore, and took part in many of the writers' workshop and seminars conducted for the Neo literates for which he was awarded Malcolm Adiseshiah Award. Being the Managing Trustee of Aikya Trust (Amalgamation of Indigenous Knowledge for Youthful Action), giving training to the School drop outs in job oriented courses under Jan Sikshan Sansthan.

Many of his works have been used by M.Phil and Ph.D students for procuring

their degrees. Vaiyavan is shy of publicity and prefers low key because nothing should deviate him from doing his work as in a 'Karma Yoga' way. His ideal motto was taken from Hatimtai. (Do only good and then throw it in the river) Being a great admirer of Albert Schweitzer he stands for 'Reverence for life through out the entire universe' and opines that a writer's life should have integrity between what he writes and how he lives.

Being a staunch humanist he respects nationalism, and considers literature is a means to unite the whole world without any prejudice among the ethnic groups.

Vaiyavan's youngest brother P. Srinivasan. M.A.B.L (Poet Vasantharajan), wife Sakunthala, daughter Dharini and his son Dr. Jeevagan an Urologist are the sources of strength in all his endeavours in life and literature. He is residing in Chennai with his son and family.



Chief Minister MGR Awards State Prize



State Bank General Manager Awards for the Best Novel

Drama

- 1998 Ananda Bhavan
2001 Idipaadugal

Short Novels

- 1970 Paadipparandha Kuyil
1971 Nangooram
1982 Shenbaga Marangal
1992 Nilaakkala Nesangal
1994 Aaravaramum Perumoochum
1999 Deepika

Translation

- 2001 Oru Kaadhal Diary
(Vaikom Md. Basheer's Kamukandae diary)

Science

- 1988 Naveena Ariviyal Kalanjiam
1989 Mannvalamum Neerppadhukappum
1999 Noyariyum Karuvigal
2000 Laser
2001 Aazhkadaliyal
2001 Azhivilla Aatral
2002 Vinnveliyum Manidha Membadam

Short Story Collection

- 1991 Isai Naarkali
1992 Vendumadi Eppodhum Viduthalai
1993 Kodhikkum Thagarak Kooraiyin
Meedhoru Poonai
1994 Ennarumai India
1995 Samakalathavar
2000 Vaiyavan Kadhaigal (Part I)
2000 Vaiyavan Kadhaigal (Part II)

Poetry Collection

- 1995 Nisabdhha Gopuram
1999 Vedi Vazhipaadu

Essay Collection

- 1982 Mahabaliyin Makkal
(A Study on Kerala history, language and culture)
1988 Oru Pudhiya Paarvai
1992 Ella Kaatrottamum Pudhithu thaan
1999 Kannadi chirayil sila Kadalgal

Criticism

- 1987 Jegasirpiyan Oru Paarvai
1993 Mahakavi (On Bharathi)

Children's Books

- 1990 Roja mottu
- 1991 Venrukaattiya Veera Mangaiyar
- 1992 Maavendhar Kadhaigal
- 1993 Kagithappunnagai
- 1994 Bhagavan Buddhar
- 1995 Yesu Kristhu
- 1996 Karunai Manu

Novels

- 1976 Inrupudhithai Piranthom(2 parts)
- 1977 Jamuna
- 1978 Sangiligal
- 1982 Koodiya Seekkiram
- 1985 Junctionilae Oru Membalam
- 1997 Manalveli Maangal
- 1998 Kanniyaragi Nilavinil Aadi
- 1999 Idho ippodhu Udhayam
- 2002 Seedhai Illadha Ramayanam

Radio play

- 1983 Junctionilae oru Membalam

Editorial assistance

- 1976 Gnanaratham (co edited)
- 1983 Kalki
(Sub editor for a brief period)
- 1995 Mangalam Weekly
(Editor in charge)

Awards

- 1981 Calcutta Tamil Writers association
First prize for essay on Bharathi
- 1981 Inru Pudhithaip Piranthom
(Best novel for two years)
- 1982 Mahabaliyin Makkai
(Govt Of Tamil nadu Award for
the best book on culture)
- 1983 T.K.C.Centenary Essay
competition second Prize
- 1991 Jeevi Films award for Manalveli
Maangal (The best novel)
- 1992 Amudha Surabhi Shriram Trust
award for the best book on

English Poetry Collection

- 1988 Delight and the Drums
- 1999 Ventilation
- 2002 Journeys
- 2005 River runs empty

English Novels

- 2006 Om
- 2008 Yogi

English essays

- 1992 Nation Builder Nehru
- 1995 Jesus Christ
- 1998 Lord Buddha

Philosophical essay collection

- 2007 The light everyone longs for

Science for Children

- 1999 How to save oil?

Translation

- 2008 Red Soil and Rain Water
(Selections from Kurunthogai)

- Bharathi 'Mahakavi'
- 1992 State Bank Award for the best
short story collection 'Isai
Naarkali'
- 1992 Govt.of Tamilnadu award first
prize for the best Sciecee book
'Laser'
- 1992 Lilly Deivasigamani Award for
the best short story collection
- 1994 State Bank Award for the best
drama 'Ananda Bhavan'
- 1996. Dr.Malcolm Adishesiah Award for
the active participation in Neo
literate activities

Some of Vaiyavan's short stories and short novels have been translated into English, Hindi, Urdu, Kannada and Bengali



Central Minister Dhanushkodi Adithan Awards
Dr. Malcolm Adisheshia Award