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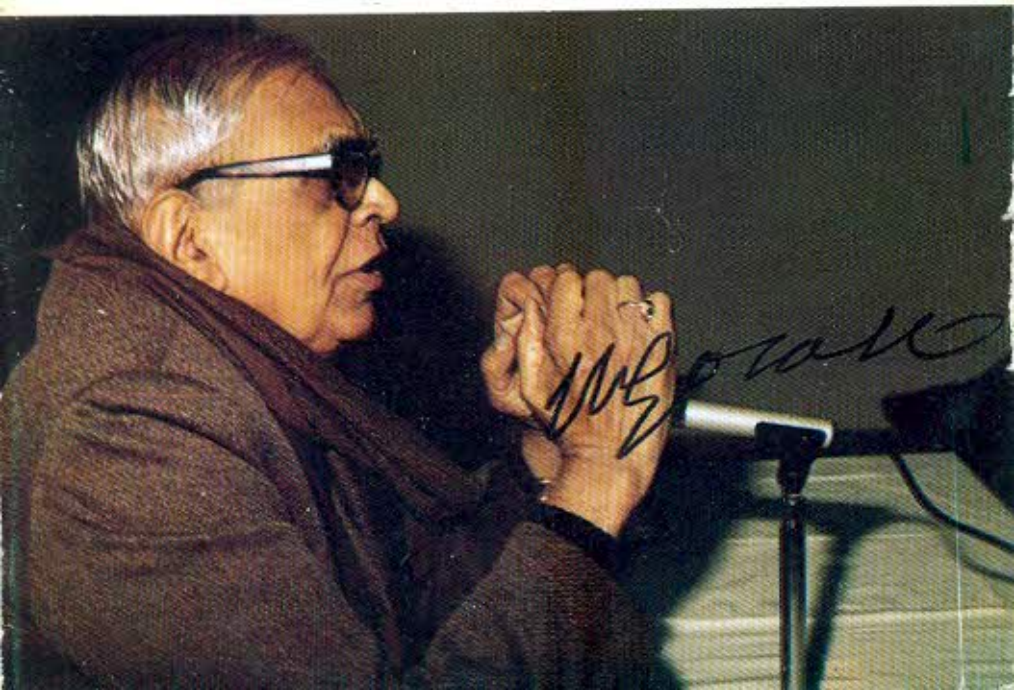


India International Centre

invite you to

meet the author

Vinayak Krishna Gokak





GOKAK RECEIVING
THE SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD
FROM JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, 1961

Twenty-seven years ago Vinayak Krishna Gokak had received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his *DYAVA PRITHVI*, "Nirada" and "Ilgita", the two long poems in the volume, present symbolic pictures, of the cloud as viewed from the earth, and of the earth as seen from the sky, a unique conception of man's evolution and his future. The grandeur of the poet's vision and its lyrical expression have been cited as outstanding contribution to Kannada poetry.

Gokak is the pioneer of modern Kannada poetry and is also the first to write of travel abroad in the form of letters; *SAMUDRADACHEYINDA*, in 1960, giving an insight into the life and letters of the British.

Gokak is an eminent poet, playwright, novelist, critic and educationist and is presently the President of the Sahitya Akademi, the National Academy of Letters. His place in the history of Kannada literature is an assured one, as R.S. Mugali writes :

"Gokak is one of the brilliant poets, in whom one can see

a rare combination of the visionary and the realist. Nature on the fringe of the Malenad has thrilled him. The mystical tradition in Kannada and English poetry has nourished his genius. Journey abroad towards the east and the west, residence in different parts of India and wide contact with varied people — all this has widened his horizon and enriched his experience. The philosophy of Sri Aurobindo has provided the base for his thought. The study of socialist ideology has heightened his social awareness. He has opened new paths in Kannada poetry and made unique experiments in form and content. In more than 15 of his collections we come across lyrics, longer poems and verse plays, set to a high key. His lyrics mirror the moods and thoughts of an aspiring and assimilating personality. In them, the high ideals of surrender to the Divine have sought powerful expression in intense language. The dreaminess of Shelleyan temperament is part of the poet's make-up. But it is noteworthy that he does not swing to any extreme and that he brings together all the different notes into his own symphony, as a result of his Indian background and his own Sadhana.



GOKAK WITH BENDRE ON
BENDRE'S SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY



KARANTH, GOKAK AND MASTI

"His journey to England on board the ship brought him face to face with the sea in all its moods and inspired him to write his songs of the sea, SAMUDRAGITAGALU. These songs, written in free verse, have been acclaimed as a rare gift to Kannada poetry, departing as they do from the conventional descriptions of the sea in old classics. Poems like "Naukayantra" occurring in this collection revealed a new dimension and a new social awareness in the poet. It became more pronounced in ABHYUDAYA and NAVYA KAVITEGALU. With the latter, Gokak came out with his modernist poems and ushered a new trend in Kannada poetry

"Vinayaka has not only written significant verse and song plays like MAHASVETE and TIRADA DARI, he has also

written full-length social plays in prose like JANANAYAKA and YUGANTARA; and a one-act farce, VIMARSAKAVAIIDYA. In JANANAYAKA, the conflict between the private and public life of a leader ending in tragedy has been depicted through a series of tense situations. YUGANTARA is a very new kind of play to Kannada as it delivers a message, embodying the synthesis of communism and spirituality in dramatic form

"It is noteworthy that an eminent poet, considered to be romantic and spiritually-minded has shown himself as no less a realist in his fiction. Gokak has written his comprehensive novel, SAMARASAVE JIVANA, portraying accord and discord in the conjugal life and filled it with a gallery of significant characters."



A Select Bibliography

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GOKAK AS VICE CHANCELLOR
BANGALORE UNIVERSITY

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21 cm. Essays



GOKAK IN HIS STUDY

ENGLISH

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- LITERATURES IN MODERN INDIAN LANGUAGES. Delhi : Publications Division, 1957. Introduction 7.36. 831 p. 22.5 cm.

A Chronology

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|------|--|------|---|
| 1909 | Birth | 1959 | Visit to Belgium;
Director of Central
Institute of English,
Hyderabad |
| 1929 | Graduation | 1960 | Visit to East African
countries;
Sahitya Akademi Award;
Padmashri |
| 1931 | Master's Degree from
Bombay University;
Professor of English,
Fergusson College,
Poona | 1961 | Presided over All-India
English Teachers
Conference;
Vice-President,
Commonwealth
Conference on the
Teaching of English |
| 1934 | Presided over Raichūr
Kavi Sammelana | 1966 | Vice-Chancellor,
Bangalore University |
| 1936 | Departure for Oxford | 1967 | D. Litt. <i>Honoris Causa</i>
Karnataka University,
Dharwar |
| 1938 | M.A. Degree from
Oxford;
Professor of English,
Willingdon
College, Sangli | 1969 | D. Litt. <i>Honoris Causa</i>
University of the Pacific,
California |
| 1940 | Principal of the
Willingdon College,
Sangli | 1970 | Founder-Director,
Indian Institute of
Advanced Study, Simla |
| 1945 | Professor of English,
Osmania University,
Hyderabad | 1978 | Vice-President,
Sahitya Akademi;
Chairman, Jnanpith
Award Selection
Committee |
| 1946 | Principal, M.N. College,
Visanagar | 1981 | Vice-Chancellor,
Sri Sathya Sai Institute
of Higher Learning |
| 1949 | Principal, Rajaram
College, Kolhāpur | 1983 | President,
Sahitya Akademi. |
| 1950 | Presided over Mumbai
Kavi Sahitya Sammelana | | |
| 1952 | Principal, Karnataka
College, Dharwar | | |
| 1957 | Visit to Japan for PEN
Conference | | |
| 1958 | Presided over Kannada
Sahitya Sammelana,
Bellary;
Visit to the U.S.A., | | |



SUNSET AND THREE POETS - VI. S. VINAYAKA, BENDRE, 1938