

Alternative Haikus

Mallikarjun B. Mulimani



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Dedication

I dedicate this book to my mother.

About the Author



Mallikarjun B. Mulimani, born on 17 September 1979, is an Electronics and Communication engineer turned writer. He initially wrote poems; later took up writing short stories, novellas and novels. So far he has contributed to eleven books viz. 'Abstractions', 'The Holy Plumber and Other Stories', 'Operation Epiphany – God's Journey on Earth', 'Victims Incorporated – Circles of Sub-consciousness', 'Dams Across the Flow', 'What Happened to my Creativity?', 'Star Ride to Nirvana', 'Bhakti Sans Religion – Dilemmas in the Search of One's True Inner Self', 'Politics – A Love Story', 'Buddha In A Mercedes' and 'Poems to Myself'.

Four of these books have been published by Writers Workshop, Kolkata, one by Current Publications, Agra, another was self-published by CreateSpace, and his four latest novellas, 'Star Ride to Nirvana', 'Bhakti Sans Religion – Dilemmas in the Search of One's True Inner Self', 'Politics – A Love Story' and 'Buddha In A Mercedes', and his book of poems, 'Poems to Myself', were published by Leadstart Publishing Pvt. Ltd.

The author's style is one in which he feels that brevity is of the essence.

In his work, the author wrestles with the aspects of the social milieu, life, love, sex, death, religion, realisation of self and God and other serious issues.

The author touches upon the metaphysical side of all the above-mentioned issues whenever he deals with them in his work.

He is a serious writer, who also has a very subtle sarcastic wit about him.

Even though he is still young, many eminent personalities including the late Prof. U. R. Ananthamurthy have appreciated him.

Acknowledgements

I'm grateful to my Guru Prof. K. Raghavendra Rao and his family who over many years have encouraged and showered love upon me.

Foreword

I am happy to write a few words of appreciation of the hundred Haiku poems of my young friend, Mallikarjun Mulimani. I am especially happy at last he has found the right verse form for his metaphysical yearnings, anxieties and insights. Haiku is a pithy structure which can reduce complex ideas to a condensed form. Mallikarjun is very successful in reducing his earlier prose poems with admirable economy through this form. Like Veerasaiva Vachanakaras, he is able to invest prose with poetry. He is essentially a poet and his prose cannot escape from this fact. I can cite many Haikus to prove this but content myself with a couple:

He tried hard to save
She too their relationship,
Love didn't come to help.

or

Like water from springs,
Poems, they are crystal clear
Lay bare Truth for sure.

I think his readers will welcome Mallikarjun in his new, Haiku garb. I for one will offer him a hearty welcome.

Dharwad
27 May 2017

Prof. K. Raghavendra Rao

Haikus

Silent universe
Disturbed by the loud crowd here,
But calmly suffers.

~

The muse and madness,
Somehow look like they are mixed
Life seems to be jinxed.

~

You left me again
My loneliness in between,
Takes its toll on me.

~

You are near my dear
 Yet do not exist for me
 Never together.

~

Is incredible,
 Creative if in mourning
 Helps in the healing.

~

He tried hard to save
 She too their relationship,
 Love didn't come to help.

~

Man is quite cunning,
 Why bring in his many gods
 And with them his games.

~

Born are we and die
 But what happens in middle,
 Defines lives of men.

~

Heights of achievement
 The universe in your hand,
 If spirit, not mind.

~

Make new friends said all,
 Unable to see the scars,
 Left back by old friends.

~

Scared to close my eyes,
 Afraid if I fall asleep,
 In, nightmares may creep.

~

Like water from springs,
Poems, they are crystal clear
Lay bare Truth for sure.

~

She, a wildflower,
Me, a lowly gardener,
I can watch, not tend.

~

He felt out of place
Like an oasis in midst,
Of God's paradise.

~

Love in just letters
Exchanged without having met,
Words give love its worth.

~

A small bird tweeted,
Hashtag a love for the dawn,
Wake up with the sun.

~

One dull afternoon,
He kissed the girl of his dreams
Didn't want to wake up.

~

Don't fight with the wind,
Instead fly a kite quite high
Then cut string, set free.

~

For us all breathe trees,
Yet them we cut, killed are trees
Life breath gone, next us.

~

She is a monkey
 Jumping between fruit filled trees,
 Unable to choose.

~

The sun shines, moon glows
 Stars brighten the universe,
 I have my candle.

~

So very fragile,
 My colourful butterfly
 Still shares love since dawn.

~

To please someone else,
 Wrecked his mind writing rubbish
 Alas, not selfish.

~

First learn to survive,
 Then to win day after day,
 But crave no medals.

~

Comets hurtling on,
 Through space, as if to escape,
 Life forms on planets.

~

Another fresh dawn,
 Another new day. Erase
 yesterday's slate clean.

~

Hear subtle whispers,
 In the woods, whispered by trees
 Please don't ruin peace.

~

Young, poor, but, will, strong
 Odd jobs paying the school fee,
 Shamed powers that be.

~

An illusionist
 Makes precious moments seem short,
 Time plays its own game.

~

Both wore beer goggles
 Fell in love by noon, next morn,
 Lost goggles, more beer.

~

Set your soul on fire,
 Let it burn with passion. Get
 some haiku action.

~

Hung her heart to dry,
 Wet by her tears. Luckily
 somebody stole it.

~

Looked in the mirror,
 Found I needed a shave. Boy
 to man, how time flies!

~

Names we give to forms,
 Forms illusions, names a farce
 The indignity.

~

Poor people's hunger,
 Food for thought, used by parties,
 Hungry for power.

~

A stranger said, "Thanks"
 When I asked why, he replied,
 "Just wait, watch and learn."

~

Don't weep, dear old man,
 It's rightly said, 'Child is the
 father of the man'.

~

Picky are poems,
 Allowing only select
 Few to savour them.

~

You say you are bored,
 Look without, give you can from
 within. To the world.

~

When young, school was fun,
 Disciplinary action
 Enjoyed every time.

~

Was inside a bar,
 Raised a toast, shot the man. Now
 inside gas chamber.

~

Sleep was my friend. But
 when stayed up late, woke early,
 Vent insomnia.

~

Know inner to know
 outer. Wonder. Chrysalis
 and its butterfly.

~

Our car accident,
My love died. Accident? Or
determined by fate?

~

Joke, six degrees of
separation. You live next
door. Never a smile.

~

Social media
Where friends meet, not face to face,
Over coffee mugs.

~

Run fast, be healthy,
As fast, as best you can be,
Age, death made Buddha.

~

One road goes to hell,
other heaven. One before
death, other after.

~

Complexes because,
of wealth, power. Look within,
find pride, modesty.

~

Reaching milestone, great!
He knows effort taken. For
friends, celebration.

~

Wish was a bird. With
empathetic symmetry,
Migrating to be.

~

Call me an armchair
 philosopher or comrade.
 I will write my bit.

~

Sun burns, its nature.
 For us life, but ungrateful.
 Universe at loss.

~

If meek inherit
 earth, what next amidst ravaged
 homes, fields and rivers?

~

Planets are marbles,
 God has stopped playing. Wonder
 when chaos game starts.

~

Why think all should like
 your song? Everybody's heart
 sings its lonely song.

~

In my studio
 Had aged scotch, sprung a fountain,
 Creativity!

~

If you cannot do,
 Anything exacting, start
 writing few poems.

~

Love or pure friendship,
 Shivered within, truly taut
 string, arrow in bow.

~

Prince left, Buddha came
back. When asked said, "Yes, I could
have achieved it here."

~

Hungry? Break eggs, make
omelette. Angry? Don't break
head, eat omelette.

~

Fury enemy,
Turns glory to infamy
Is vasectomy.

~

Committed mistake
Feigning absence of insight,
Showed incompetence.

~

Feeling good indeed
Everybody in my home,
Made my day today.

~

With no clear vision
Walking through the mist of life,
Intoxicated.

~

Most don't understand
poems and poets. Truly,
they have not been blessed.

~

Commits mistake if
she, cut punishment into
two halves. One for me.

~

Gazing out window
 Of my studio at trees,
 What inspiration!

~

A bottle of rum,
 To escape gloom. Rum over.
 Gloom there forever.

~

A spiritual
 book was born, because of a
 king rejecting war.

~

Love honey, though hate
 stealing from bees. But they can't
 eat it all, right friends?

~

White becoming sketch
 on blue. Hallucination?
 No, clouds in the sky.

~

Light comes from the sun
 But brightness, I see in you,
 Dispelled my darkness.

~

Saves every penny
 He can for his child. Ends up
 in an old age home.

~

Labour pain endures,
 Mother, scratch on finger, soothes,
 Mother. Still her child.

~

Negative men, with
 morning newspaper. Full of
 all kinds of horror.

~

Love the sea, love the
 beach. Cannot swim, but can walk,
 On the lovely beach.

~

God made snowflakes. They're
 beautiful. But which higher
 power dreamt you life?

~

He, a poet, she,
 a painter. His poems the
 soul of her paintings.

~

Party was very
 nice. Champions mixed with mice
 Serendipity!

~

Trying to blindfold
 others. Do not realize,
 They are victims too.

~

Too many sleeping
 pills. Swallowed with neat whiskey.
 Insomnia rules.

~

Beggar, in diner,
 Ate dishes many, belly
 full, can face any.

~

Beautiful flower
 blooms. Universe is richer,
 Sadness made poorer.

~

Is she beside me?
 If yes, hallucination
 Reality maims.

~

Built home beside road,
 Tore it down to build shopping
 complex. That's road rage.

~

Gave myself time, to
 think about taking off time,
 Rediscover joy!

~

In evolution,
 Cockroach too is competing
 Man beware, be smart.

~

People are cruel,
 A sorry state of affairs
 Say sorry, end game.

~

She is an angel,
 More kind than others. To make
 mine, impossible.

~

A tree, a branch, a
 leaf, a flower, took time. Don't
 rush. Learn to wait, think.

~

Not to face us men,
 God created gravity,
 Making us earthbound.

~

Universe I sail,
 Lonely sailor in spaceship,
 Stars bring light to life.

~

Bird in room, struggles
 Can't find way out, exhausted,
 Lets you embrace it.

~

I pray to you God,
 But do you trust me enough
 To reveal secrets?

~

Was agnostic, thoughts
 became atheist. Life not
 understood, theist.

~

Artistic farmer,
 Made crop circles. Aliens
 wondered, "Who beat us?"

~

One must always think,
 Whether someone was touched by
 Your haiku or not?

~

Who telephones whom?
 When two hearts sing the same song
 Soulmates forever.

~

Lion is king in
its prime. Next, younger ones in
pride, destroy its pride.