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GOVT.DEGREE COLLEGE
PEDDAPALLI
STUDENT STUDY PROJECT

NAME.....K. Ajay, A. Akshitha, A. Ramya, V. Sai Saneeth
CLASS. B.SC (BZCA) YEAR..... I
TOPIC..... R.K. Narayan... Biography

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

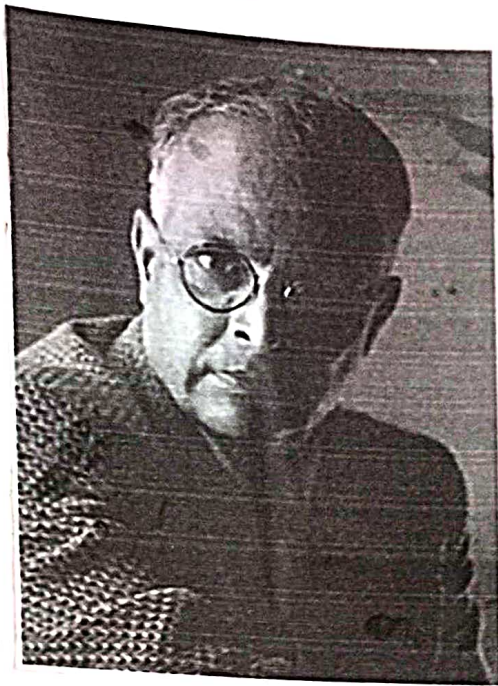
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"R K Narayan"



Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami (10 Oct 1906 - 13 May 2001) commonly known as R. K. Narayan, was an Indian writer known for his work set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi.

He was leading author of early Indian literature in English along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao.

Narayan's Mentor and friend Graham Greene was instrumental in getting Publishers for Narayan's first four books including The semi-autobiographical trilogy of Swami and friends The Bachelor of Arts and The English Teacher. The fictional town of Malgudi was first introduced in Swami and friends.

Narayan's The Financial Expert hailed as one of the most original works of 1951 and Sahitya Academy Award winner. The Guide was adapted for film (winning a filmfare award for Best film) and for Broadway.

Narayan highlights the social context and everyday life of his character. He has been compared to William Faulkner who also created a similar fictional town and likewise explored with humour and compassion the energy of ordinary life.



Malayan's short stories have been compared with those of Guy de Maupassant because of his ability to compare a narrative

In a career that spanned over sixty years Malayan received many awards and honours including the AC Benson medal from the Royal Society of Literature the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan Indian's second and third highest civilian awards and in the 1994 The Sahitya Akademi fellowship

His father was a school headmaster, and Narayan did some of his studies at his father's school as his father's job entailed frequent transfers. Narayan spent a part of his childhood under the care of his maternal grandmother Parvati. During this time his best friends and playmates were a peacock and a mischievous monkey.

His grandmother gave him the nickname of Kunjappa, a name that stuck to him in family circles. She taught him arithmetic, mythology, classical Indian music and Sanskrit. According to Iyengar, the family mostly conversed in English and grammatical errors on the part of Narayan and his siblings were feared upon.

While living with his grandmother Narayan studied at a succession of schools in Madras, including the Lutheran mission school in Purasawalkam.

The highest honour of india's national academy of letters

He was also nominated to the Rajya Sabha the upper house of the indian parliament



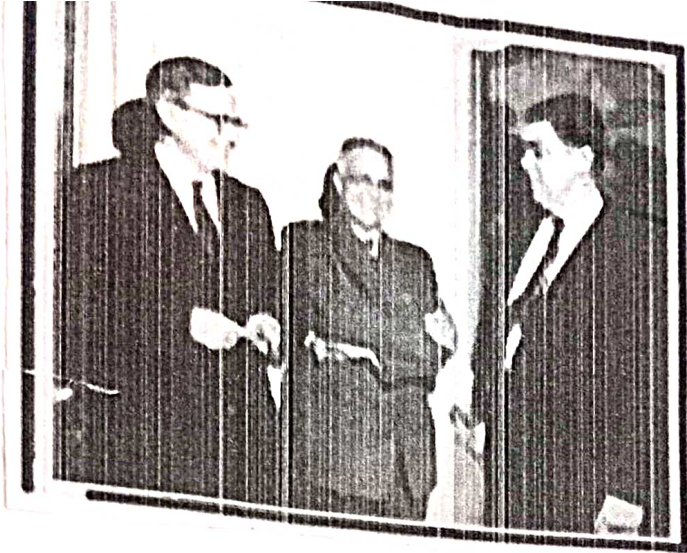
R K Narayan was born in Madras (now Chennai, Tamil Nadu) British India into a Uru Vadama Brahmin family

He was one of eight children. Six sons and two daughters

Narayan was second among the sons his younger brother

Ramachandran later became an editor at Gemini studios

and the youngest brother Jagan became a cartoonist

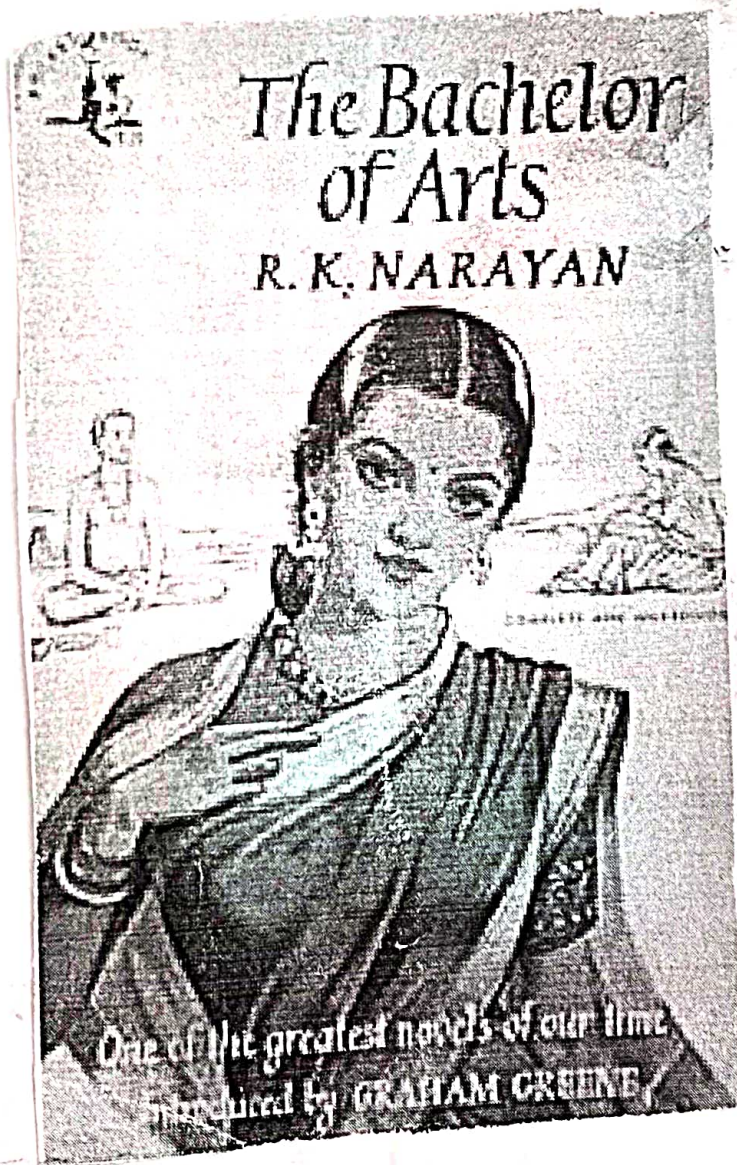


While vacationing at his sister's house in Coimbatore in 1933 Narayan met and fell in love with Rajam, a 15-year-old girl who lived nearby. Despite many astrological and financial obstacles Narayan managed to gain permission from the girl's father and married her. Following his marriage, Narayan became a reporter for a Madras-based paper called *The Justice*, dedicated to the rights of non-Brahmins.

The publishers were thrilled to have a Brahmin eye in Narayan spanning their cause. The job brought him in contact with a wide variety of people and issues. Earlier, Narayan had sent the manuscript of *Swami and Friends* to a friend at Oxford and about this time the friend showed the manuscript to Graham Greene.

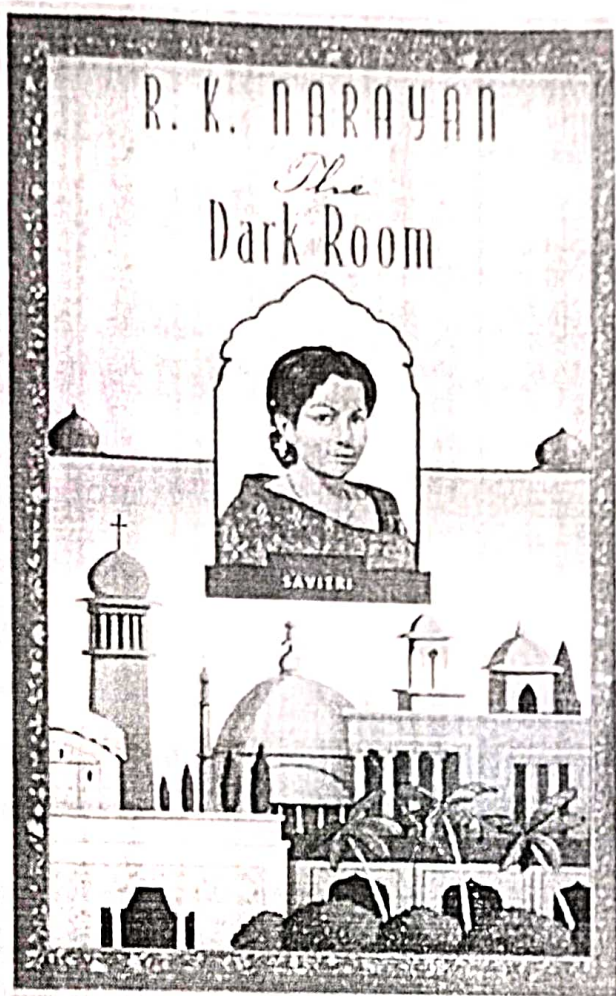
Green recommended the book to his publisher, and it was finally published in 1935. Green also counseled Narayan on shortening his name to become more familiar to the English-speaking audience.

The book was semi-autobiographical and built upon many incidents from Narayan's own childhood. Reviews were favorable, but sales were few. Narayan's next novel, *The Bachelor of Arts* (1937), was inspired in part by his experiences

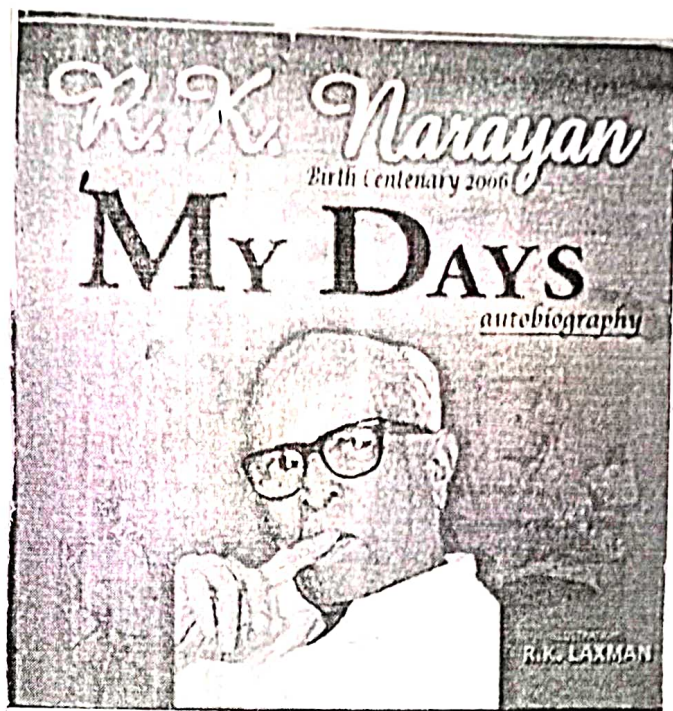


It was published by a different publisher, again at the recommendation of Greene. His third novel *The Dark Room* (1938) was about domestic disharmony showcasing the man as the oppressor and the woman as the victims within a marriage and was published by yet another publisher. The book also received good reviews. In 1937 Narayan's father died and Narayan tried to accept a commission from the government of Mysore as he was not making any money.

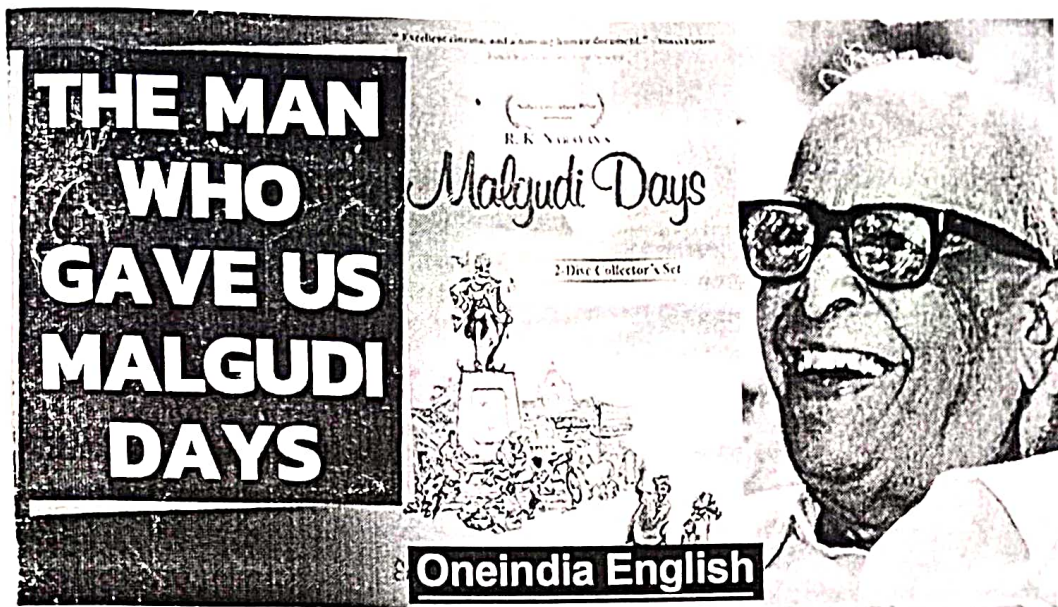
Lejiam died of typhoid in 1939. Her death affected Narayan deeply and he remained depressed for a long time. He never remarried. In his life he was also concerned for their daughter Lejiam, who was only three years old. The bereavement brought about a significant change in his life and was the inspector behind his next novel *The English Teacher*. This book, like his first two books is autobiographical but not so, and completes an unbroken tematic trilogy following *main and friends* and *The Bachelors of Mysore*.



Boasted by some of his successes in 1940 Narayan tried his hand at a journal, Indian Thought, with the help of his uncle C. V. Sreenivasan. Narayan managed to get more than a thousand subscribers in Madras city alone. However, the venture did not last long due to Narayan's inability to manage it and it ceased publication within a year. His first collection of short stories, Madurai Days, was published in Nov 1942. The English Teacher in 1945



Occasionally, Narayan was known to give form to his thoughts by way of essays. Some published in newspapers and Journals, others not. Next Sunday (1960) was a collection of such conventional essays and his first work to be published as a book soon after that my detailed diary describing experiences from the 1956 visit to the United States, was published also included in this collection was an essay about the writing of the Guide



Narayan's next novel *The man-eater of Malgudi* was published in 1961. The book was reviewed as having a narrative that is classical art form comedy with delicate control. After the launch of this book the author Narayan once again took to travelling, and visited the US and Australia. He spent three weeks in Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne giving lectures on Indian literature. The trip was funded by a fellowship from the Australian writers' group. By this time Narayan had achieved significant success both literary and financial. He had a large house in Mysore and wrote in a study with no fewer than eight windows. He drove a new Mercedes-Benz a luxury in India at that time. He visited his daughter who had moved to Combaratore after her marriage.



1964, Narayan published his first mythological work, Gods, Demons
Other a collection of rewritten and translated short stories from
epics like many of his other works, this book was illustrated
by his younger brother R.K. Laxman. The stories included were a selection
chosen on the basis of powerful protagonists, so that the impact
would be lasting irrespective of the reader's contextual knowledge.
Again, after the book launch, Narayan took to travelling abroad.
An earlier essay he had written about the Americans wanting to
understand spirituality from him during this visit. Swedish-American
theorist Greta Groos asserted him on the topic, despite his denied
any knowledge.



Narayan's next published work was the 1967 novel, *The Vendor of Sweets*. It was inspired in part by his American visits and consists of more characterizations of both the Indian and American stereotypes along with the many cultural differences between them. While it displays artistic comedy and narrative the book was received as lacking depth. This year, Narayan travelled to England where he received first of his honorary doctorates from the University of Leeds. The next few years were a quiet period for him. He published his next work a collection of short stories *A Horse and Two Goats* in 1970. While Narayan remembered a promise made to his dying uncle in 1938 and started translating the *Kamba Ramayanam* to English. *Ramayana* was published in 1973 after five years of work. Almost a decade after publishing the *Ramayana*, Narayan started working on a second translation of the Sanskrit epic the *Mahabharata*.

he was researching and writing the epic he also published another
The painter of signs 1977 The painter of signs is a bit longer than
the and makes a marked change from Narayan's other works as
do with his hitherto unadmitted subjects such as sex although the
opment of the protagonist's The Mahabharata was published in 1978

13
May

Death Anniversary

R. K. NARAYAN



gan was commissioned by the government of Karnataka to write or
to promote tourism in the state The work was published as
of a large government publisher in the late 1970 He thought it
and better and republished it as The Emerald Gate The books
in his personal perspective on the local history and heritage, but
of benefit of his character and creation it misses his enjoyable
time The same year he was elected an honorary member of the
Karnataka Academy of Arts and Letters and won the AC Benson Medal
the Royal Society of Literature around the same time Narayan's work
is translated to Chinese for the first time