

A NEW NOVEL FROM VINDHIYA, AUTHOR OF CUPID'S ALARMS

(A Note from the surviving KNS family members)

Kurinji Publications is proud to bring out RAJESWARI, an English translation of our sister *Vindhiya's* Tamil novel *SUTHANTHIRAPPOR*, the only novel the author ever penned during her brief, notable, literary career (1947-60).

The novel has been written as early as in the late Forties, but portions of it were lost to theft. It was deemed incomplete, but after some reflection and consultation, we decided to resurrect the novel and translate into English and Telugu.

RAJESWARI is a story how the protagonist, a fifteen-year old girl living hundred miles away from her Tamil moorings, navigates between two worlds, the public and the private: her life with her parents and in-laws in a public world; her violin and music lessons enclose her private world. Her constant struggle to balance between her adolescent stirrings and her wifely obligations, and how she finally resolves her dilemma, becomes the novel's theme.

It is also a novel that celebrates the noble and lofty ideals of a young woman who has grown up in a family influenced by Gandhian ideals; naive and optimistic, she is brought up in a sheltered home in a small town where decency, freedom and kindness are alive. Around this sensitive, idealistic daughter, the author builds a story of a spiritual struggle.

While RAJESWARI is not a political novel, there is a whiff of Gandhian principles pervading the narrative. We may note, in passing, that at one point, a hesitant Rajam is convinced that her demand for freedom was no less meaningful than the Mahatma's campaign for total freedom from the British.

This English translation is by Andy Sundaresan. His translation of *Vindhiya's* short stories was previously published in an anthology titled CUPID'S ALARMS.

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