

The Book of Lamentations

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Mukundans *Kesavan's Lamentations* represents the postmodern sentimentality of the Malayalam novel. It focuses on how the creative novel is evolving into the intellectual spaces of the new age. The exaggeration produced by the rubrics of Munkandan's novels such as '*Oru Dalit Yuvathiyude Kadhanakatha*', '*Kesavan's Lamentations*' and so on comprises reminiscent of the postmodern era of surrealism. The story and lamentations referred in these are not confined to one person. Here the narrator urges the reader to exercise intellect. In *Kesavan's Lamentations*, Kesavan being a clerk and novelist in a government office, writes a novel

'Appukuttan's Lamentations' based on the life of E.M.S. The novel's story revolves around the inner struggles of the novelist Kesavan in the context of writing this novel.

Through his novel about E.M.S., Mukundan speaks eloquently about the history of E.M.S. and the Communist party, the meaninglessness of contemporary political activity and the idolatry that befalls idealistic forms. Here the novelist stands aside and presents another narrator. Here, Mukundan tactfully follows the tradition of the old poets who tell stories with the help of birds to escape the dangers that come upon him. Following the writing of this Novel, the intelligent Kesavan became addicted to alcohol like a blockhead. Eventually he was executed by the unknown. History, political Ideology, writing, criticism, social life, women and all that are discussed in this novel. It is a novel that offers enormous recitation facts from different perspectives. The novel also has the potential for controversy, leaving room for both opponents and proponents.

The novel is postmodern in its narrative features. This embodies a deliberate novel production. M. Mukundan has incorporated various techniques such as textual participation

in language and parodying history. The observation that postmodern works are self deconstructing through additional strategies is veracious for this novel. This novel provides a description of the novel writing. This work can be evaluated metaphysical work. Kesavan, the novelist within the novel, writes the novel by destructing it. In 'Appukuntan's Lamentations' the novelist has an extensive presentation style. At the same time, the political issue discussed in it remains very serious. Numerous modern the ologians and works are mentioned in this novel. The literary discourses like Death of the Author and Intertextuality, writers such as Julia Kristeva, Roland Barthes, Ionesco, Samuel Beckett, Emmanuel Levinas, Salman Rushdie, various Malayalees like Sree Narayana Guru, Aadishankaran, Kunjan Nambiar, the autocrats such as Hitler and Stanley are specified in the novel. The major characteristic of this novel is that it has maintained a perfect composition style innovating the reading of the Malayalam novel in the late nineties.

Kesavan, the novelist in this novel, resembles the early writer Mukundan. This is evident in the author's description of his personal life and reference to his inner

circle from society. The novelist is fifty years behind in his approach to women and female character creation. In this novel the modern novelist Kesavan is being eliminated by the postmodern novelist Mukundan. 'Appukuttan's Lamentations' is the fourth novel by Kesavan, a regular novelist who leads a happy family life with his wife Sujatha. Kesavan, a modern novelist who trembles when he hears that he is writing a novel on a computer that is concerned with the production of meaning because he has to be postmodern. Having limited friendships Kesavan is a novelist who exemplifies the characters of the people around him. Kesavan rewrites the novel about E.M.S that was abandoned to imperfection two years ago. Kesavan felt that the characters in his novel were bothering him. They swarm like mosquitoes and deprive him of sleep. Kesavan's literature, in which he reads only his writings and does not like criticism, articulated the cry of a dumb writer. Here the reader can perceive a failing modern novelist.

In this novel, Mukundan critically presents the socio-political climate of Kerala after the nineties. It is at this time that India begins to reconcile with globalized economic

policies. Political visions disappear into fragmentary narratives and become relevant to practical politics. Instead of honest and democratic politics, counterfeit currency and counterfeit currency entered the political arena. The writer valued self-esteem and his own interests more than anything else outside of society. Writing began to be regarded as an intellectual activity rather than reading. *Kesavan's Lamentations* encompasses this circumcision of social life. In this novel, M. Mukundan presents the social and personal life of the writer and the current face of political activity.

The novel represents a new era in which history is being internationalized. In this novel E.M.S. comes as a myth into play with significance. While lying in the cradle, Appukuttan, the main character in the novel, he worships E. M. S. as a cult figure. When Appukuttan grows up and goes to school, he is told about the picture of E. M. S. by the communist, Aman master. Aman tells the story by mixing imaginative story to make Appukuttan a communist sympathizer. This presentation does not evoke ideological or conceptual reactions in Appukuttan. However, the icon of E.M.S., which has been imprinted in Appukuttan's mind since

childhood, is worshiped here. In the second chapter of the novel, there is a scene, when the baby in the cradle cries ceaselessly, the cradle is turned towards the picture of E.M.S. on the wall, to stop his crying. This is a strategy similar to showing the moon to stop crying. In the novel, the author writes that whenever the son cries, he keeps a picture of E.M.S. in front of the cradle, and when he sees E.M.S., he is not hungry or thirsty. Toys and routines of kids in childhood can be seen to be abandoned as they grow up. But Appukuttan's childish obstinacy does not change even though he became older. He grows up differently when he goes to school and intermingles with friends. The novelist Kesavan portrays Appukuttan as an incredible character who transforms to be a serious personality instead of his childishness. Aman, a communist, transmits his unfulfilled dreams to Appukuttan. Aman is dreaming of a great communist leader in Appukuttan, denying Anathakrishnan's restraints. Appukuttan combs his hair like E.M.S. He writes the exam by meditating E.M.S. He wears spectacles with thick frames similar to E.M.S. He wants to be a martyr. The knowledge gained from Aman is fully discerned by

Appukuttan through books. Appukuttan spends all the money he gets to buy books of Chintha Publications. Novelist Kesavan, in the novel, says that the history of the struggles and the life stories of the leaders are scattered among Appukuttan's textbooks. Appukuttan wants to be a leader like E.M.S. by affixing Comrade to his name.

Appukuttan became popular all over the region when he strangled Saravanan to death, who urinated in the photo of E.M.S., after delivering a foul speech about communism and power as he was drunken. Newspapers and channels are promoting Saravanan's murder. In the novel, it is said that Appukuttan was imprisoned and stared at the sky like the protagonist of a third rate movie. The novel partially ends where Appukuttan got a vision of E.M.S. in prison. After the thirtieth chapter, Kesavan blends Ravunni's study 'the purity of sight', with his novel 'Appukuttan's Lamentations'. Later a novelist named Mukundan ends up the novel by describing the evolution of Kesavan as a novelist.

Kesavan's Lamentations became prominent as a novel regarding E.M.S. The question of how the novel portrays the historical figure EMS is relevant. Icon of

E.M.S. got imprinted in Appukuttan's mind even before Naxalite Ananthakrishnan's son attempts to change him. Appukuttan's E.M.S. devotion becomes irrational and it transforms Appukuttan into one who eliminates his opponent without facing even the slightest criticism. Although the history of the Communist Party and the EMS has given impetus to Appukuttan's E.M.S. devotion, it is ultimately inversionary. Here Mukundan turns his novel into a travesty.

The left-wing political condition that appears in this novel needs to be discussed. There are various dimensions of political movements here. Ananthakrishnan, Appukuttan, Master Aman, and Chathumesthiri's son Rajan, are all several models of politics. Ananthakrishnan had a past as an extremist communist and a Naxal and now he seeks refuge in spirituality. Ananthan, who left the organization drops his past like a broken shoe in the roadway. He is about to go to Palanimala to heal his son's illness. Aman Master, on the other hand, is a representative of the party's intelligentsia. Aman is making an ideological intervention in Appukuttan. Ananthakrishnan is trying to divert his son's career away

from the communists and politics. But at one point, Ananthakrishnan had to admit in front of Aman that everything he had learned was wrong and that Aman sir should teach Appukuttan. Aman is making a perfect intelligent interference. In Kesavan's novel, Saravanan is the critic of the Left-wing. Saravanan, who always drinks alcohol and makes street talk is a political indicator. It is said that his tongue is a knife kept in his mouth. Saravanan gives a speech on the street about the current political situation and the new world free from exploitation. Saravanan, who preaches in front of two drunkards, is a victim of the expelled party system. Saravanan and Appukuttan are grown up with distinct viewpoints in two ways. That is why Appukuttan has to kill Saravanan. Although all of them are communists, the party system and power are far from them. Power politics and ideological perspectives are different here. With the murder of Kesavan by an axe, the reader is convinced that power politics influences Appukuttan's character. Kesavan drinks heavily after writing. Saravanan also drinks to reveal unpleasant truths. Kesavandrunk after narrating it. Both of these characters are murdered. One is inside the novel and

the other is outside the novel. There are many lamentations in this novel including Kesavan's lament. They all become a parody of the present scenario. Politics comes to be apolitical. Appukuttan's devotion for E.M.S. becomes derision. Kesavan is killed for writing a novel about E.M.S. Thus, this novel, which is full of paradoxes, becomes a political satire. It depicts the turbulent actualities of the post-modern era.

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