

**K.V. RAGHUPATHI'S NOVEL *DISAPPOINTED* AS A NARRATIVE OF DESPAIR:  
A STUDY**

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**Abstract:**

A story that is told in prose or in verse can be considered to be as a narrative. *Disappointed* is a novel which is written by a contemporary author K.V. Raghupathi. This novel deals with a realistic narrative. The realistic narrative is all about the ordinary people and situation that comes in our day to day life. The author has written this novel by seeing people in a real-life situation. The protagonist of the novel *Disappointed* is J.N. Rao. This novel is purely about the realistic experience that the author K.V. Raghupathi had felt. The author has seen the protagonist J.N. Rao in his real life. This novel *Disappointed* by K.V. Raghupathi contains the elements of despair. The character of K.V. Raghupathi J.N. Rao is always a person who experiences despair. Throughout his life, J.N. Rao longs for things to occur in a perfect manner but due to some problem, it always ends in a tragic way. Even though the longing for things to happen in the right way doesn't go properly the protagonist still hold on to his hope. The protagonist here is put into a situation. The hopes are not consummated and instead, he was pushed into a state of despair. This paper studies the novel of K.V. Raghupathi that is *Disappointed* as a narrative of despair.

Keywords: Narrative, Despair, Hope

A story that is told in prose or in verse can be considered to be as a narrative. *Disappointed* is a novel which is written by a contemporary author K.V. Raghupathi. This novel deals with a realistic narrative. The realistic narrative is all about the ordinary people and situation that comes in our day to day life. The author has written this novel by seeing people in a real-life situation. The protagonist of the novel *Disappointed* is J.N. Rao. This novel is purely about the realistic experience that the author K.V. Raghupathi had felt. The author has seen the protagonist J.N. Rao in his real life. This novel *Disappointed* by K.V. Raghupathi contains the elements of despair. The character of K.V. Raghupathi J.N. Rao is always a person who experiences despair. Throughout his life, J.N. Rao longs for things to occur in a perfect manner but due to some problem, it always ends in a tragic way. Even though the longing for things to happen in the right way doesn't go properly the protagonist still hold on to his hope. The protagonist here is put into a situation. The hopes are not consummated and instead, he was pushed into a state of despair. This paper studies K.V. Raghupathi's novel *Disappointed* as a narrative of despair.

Indian Writing in English is the voice of Indian authors. Indian English literature is now recognized internationally. One has to remember that: "Today English is not the heritage of only England but it is gaining ground all over the world."(Prasad: 2000). It is producing more literature which is internationally approved. The reach of English literature both globally and regionally proves the strength of it: "Indian writing in English has now also begun to receive scholarly and critical attention in the Indian and foreign universities in India" (Iyengar: 2013). The main contributions of India have through Indian Writing in English.

The contemporary Indian English Writing directly deals with the issues and is more reliant in reality. Now more positively new novelists have already arisen. Some good novelists of this twenty-first century are: "Shashi Tharoor's *Riot: A Love Story* (2001), Githa Hariharan's *In Time of Siege* (2003), Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Name Sake* (2003), Salman Rushdie's *Shalimar The Crown* (2005), Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006), Shiv K Kumar's *Two Mirrors at the Ashram* (2006), Shashi Deshpande's *In the Country of Deceit* (2008), Manju Kapur's *The Immigrant* (2008), Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger* (2008), Khuswant Singh's *The Sunset Club* (2009), Amit Chaudhuri's *The Immortals* (2009), Manu Joseph's *Serious Men* (2010), Upamanyu Chatterjee's *Way to Go* (2010), Amitav Ghosh's *River of Smoke* (2011), Tarun Tejpal's *The Valley of Masks* (2011), Cyrus Mistry's *Chronicle of a Corpse Bearer* (2012), Anees Salim's *Vanity Bagh* (2013), Sonora Jha's *Foreign* (2013)." (Singh: 2013). Then, Deepthi Kapur's *A Bad Character* (2014), K.V. Raghupathi's *Disappointed* (2014), and Anuradha Roy's *Sleeping on Jupiter* (2015).

K.V. Raghupathi, born in 1957 is from Andhra Pradesh who writes in English. He is a poet, Short story writer, Novelist, book reviewer, and critic. He is known for his poetry writing and won many awards like Michael Madhusudan Dutt Award in 2001, Rock Pebbles National Award for creativity in 2014. He has worked for more than 12 years in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati and Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa. Currently, he is working as an

Associate Professor in Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur. His debut novel was *The Invalid* (2012), and his second novel is *The Disappointed* (2014). In 2016 his Short story collection *The Untouchable Piglet* was published. He has also written books on Yoga. His poetry work includes *Voice of Valley*, *The Wisdom of Peepal Tree*, *Samarpana*, *Dispersed Symphonies* and *Between me and the Babe*. Some of his critical works include *Emerson's Orientalism*, *A Portable P.Raja*, and *Critical Perspectives on Contemporary Women Poets in Indian English Poetry*.

This novel *The Disappointed* by K.V. Raghupathi follows in his same belief that a novel does not have any pattern. He is a writer who never cares about the rules or patterns for writing a novel. His debut novel *Invalid* (2012), was also a novel that never followed any patterns of writing. This paper is all about a study of K.V. Raghupathi's second novel *The Disappointed* (2014). K.V. Raghupathi is an author who always believes that for expressing human experiences or emotions one should not stick to any form and pattern. The story is narrated in the first person singular by the author. What the author himself tells the reader is that: "The novel is before the readers, in their hands, whether they like it or not, it is for them. Read, burn and forget says the author of the

novel." (K.V: 2014). The life experiences of the protagonist are full of anger, deceit, and misery. The author has personally met the protagonist J.R and have talked with him. The name of the old man is Jagannatha Rao. He is affectionately called as J.R by everyone. J.R worked in a commercial bank near the SV University campus. The author was always thought to have a talk with J.R. Finally one day he got a chance to talk with J.R. It was Prof. PND who requested the author to meet J.R. J.R has shown an interest to meet the author. In this novel when both the author and J.R meet together and started chatting. J.R is narrating the whole life experiences with the author and this is the plot of the novel.

This paper discusses the experiences that are shared by J.R with the author. This novel is like a portrayal of a real-life person into the novel. The experiences that are shared by the real-life person to the author has become a novel. The human experiences, especially about the alienation and the despair is narrated throughout this novel. When the author went to his home the old man was looking him very strangely from his head to toe. The author introduced himself as K.R to J.R. Now both of them went inside the home and Jagannatha Rao started speaking to the author. J.R was not feeling any distinction between the age of him that is 53 and the age of the author who is 31. J.R started saying that generally old people always hesitate to speak with the youth because they think that young are immature. J.R was claiming that like other old people he was not a fool. He was a man who treats people equally. J.R now enquires about the marriage to the author. The author replies back that he is a bachelor. J.R now tells that no one can escape from marriage and it is a must. This talk was all about the experience and the youth.

Next Mr. J.R was talking about the food as a means of survival. food. Food is very essential for human activity." (K.V: 2014). Mr. J.R tells that as a Man he is not happy about his life,

food, shelter and so on. He always felt a gap in his life which he was unable to find out. He is a person who is lost at the middle of all inventions and developments. Now the protagonist tells that he needs peace and the man himself do not have any peace.

After this now J.R changed his topic and he started speaking on the experiences about writing. J.R enquires about the verse that is written by the author and he says: "They will spit on your face. They will sling mud on your face. They will call you mad. They will ostracise you." (K.R: 2014). The author now responds that let them tell and he says that a writer is one who writes words but not flesh and blood but with emotions and feelings. J.R reveals to the author that no one likes him in his office and everyone tries to avoid him. J.R tells about his poems and says that he has not published them. For him, poems are part of his self and it should with him. His deeply felt frustrated feelings were converted into poems. We can see a kind of despair in the narration of the novel.

J.R now starts to tell about when he came to the city in 1970. After that, he was telling about his wife Viji. Now he tells that her wife is always afraid about the word death. She can't withstand the word death because she loved him a lot. This is a philosophy that is hidden in the words of J.R. The people are afraid to die. They wanted a long life as much as they can and it resembles from each and every person in society. J.R now tells the author that he himself had met with the death many times when he was fallen ill. Mr. J.R always wanted a job but his parents dragged him to marry a girl. In the age of 29, J.R was able to find a job as a clerk in a commercial bank. He was a very font of IAS job but his parents insisted him for marrying. So here the protagonist is feeling very sad about this. In one way or the other, he is conveying that marriage is not good. The author is fed up with his job and he wanted ultimate freedom. When he got a post of junior management carder his mother and wife became happy. But the J.R was not at all happy with his day to day life. He hated the human-made systems. He felt other people are like an alien to him. He felt loneliness in the society where he lived. The author conveys that: "I used to look at them so strangely, so oddly, so quizzically that I felt like spitting on their faces with a lot of shame, disgust, and repulsion." (K.V: 2014). He always looks into a mirror to see that is he alive or not? and he was really suffering from loneliness and alienation. Now a strange metamorphosis came to him and he is now feeling that at any time he can die. Jagannatha Rao now in an afraid tone tells that "I never entertained the idea of dying myself in a real sense, in the sense that I never thought that I must kill myself instantly, that I must put an end to my life abruptly." (K.V: 2014). J.R is telling that the concept of death is heinous and he is not able to take his own life. Life is moving and it was aloof. He wants to stop it but he cannot. A really heartfelt emotion of a person is very nicely narrated with a sad tone in this novel by K.V Raghupathi.

The employees in his office considered him as the other, like an untouchable. They isolated him and segregated him. He is connecting human life with the birds. He coveys that by seeing the life of a bird one can easily understand what is the real meaning of freedom. He is not happy with the current life that he was going through. In the novel *The Disappointed*,

Mr. J.R says that: "For them, there is no 'self'; there is no conscience. They are most blessed creatures on earth." (K.V: 2014). No one in the office supported him and even though he was a senior employee he was denied promotion. When he was admitted to the hospital and when his health was bad his colleagues were very happy. In the office itself, he was given a separate room and nobody wanted to talk to him. He was totally alienated in his own world. The office boy disobeyed him and his complaints were of no concern at all. What was happening in the office was that they all knew that he was suffering from the illness. But they purposefully wanted him to be out of the service. The mistakes and the errors that he made were not considered and the officials seek an explanation.. The selection for promotion again came and it was the same story his name was not at all included. What the officials replied was that he was mad. He has now lost his hope. So here we can see how J.R lost his hope and how he was alienated by the workers in his office. He keeps telling the author that how a man who is innocent can be considered to be as insane.

The protagonist is now narrating an incident about a friend who cheated him. The friend took around twenty thousand rupees from him and he was not given the money back. His friend was asking him evidence which will prove that he took money from him. Even the policemen replied the same to J.R that the court to asks evidence. J.R explains that that was the time when he started hating others. Mr. J.R says: "Afterwards, I hated mankind. I only thought how man has degenerated himself to the meanest level of cheating and living as a parasite in all virtual sense". (K.V: 2014). Mr. J.R narrates a second incident in which a person who took fifteen thousand from him for the operation of his wife. But when he enquired about that person J.R came to knew that he was a fake. So he hates mankind in all way.

J.R now tells that his daughter and wife started observing him: "So, my wife and my daughter began treating me like a mentally ill-gotten patient in a psychiatric hospital. Even today they have not changed their way of viewing and treating me." (K.V: 2014). He concluded those words with sadness, and tears in his eyes. He had become too emotional by telling all these to the author. He asks the author about his madness and K.R replies that he is not. He uttered a few words in a choking voice that the world has made him mad. Only death can give internal freedom to man. That was his philosophy about freedom. Here K.V. Raghupathi conveys that mankind has lost its humanity. After the talk, the author went to his home. This was the first encounter.

The second encounter was after a decade. The author met the J.R's daughter in the bank and told her that he had met her father fifteen years back in his home and wants to meet him. When he met the old man again he was tied with chains and kept in a room only because he was insane to the world and to his own family. He is looking like an animal in a circus who is caged. He smiled so badly that he did not bathe for months. The author went back to his home and after two months he visited that home but this time he came to know that J.R was passed away and his family left that place. That was the end of a man who was sane to himself but insane to others.

The author started writing on him. The author is telling to the reader that the experiences about the old man Jagannatha Rao will never die from his consciousness and he just wants to share it with the world and that's all. K.V Raghupathi is retelling a story of a man who he will never forget personally. The emotions, sadness, loss of humanity in man, alienation, existence, freedom, and food, all were discussed in the novel which from the consciousness of the author K.V. Raghupathi. The whole narration of the story is first person singular and the author has written this novel as a narration of despair. The author has felt very deeply about the fellow beings who have no humanity in them. The character of Jagannatha Rao has suffered a lot of despair in this novel. In this world, only some people have the mentality to help the other. In the case of a comparison between humans there is a huge difference between the "Human Being" and "Being Human". The disappointment and alienation have clearly depicted in the novel by K.V. Raghupathi. Throughout the novel, J.R suffered but his hopes never went down he waited for things to get well. But in the process of waiting for the protagonist lost hope and now his life is only filled with despair.

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