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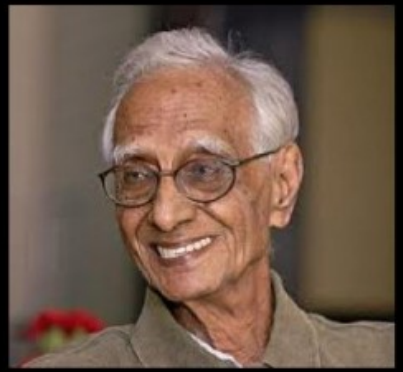
Class-XII

English

Flamingo

Chapter-6



Ashokamitran

Poets and Pancakes

Part - 2

Neha Rajvanshi

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In those days I worked in a cubicle, two whole sides of which were French windows. (I didn't know at that time they were called French windows.) Seeing me sitting at my desk tearing up newspapers day in and day out, most people thought I was doing next to nothing. It is likely that the Boss thought likewise too.

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occupation : काम
barge into: अचानक आ जाना
extended : बहुत बड़ा
enlightened : प्रकाश डालना
barbers: नाई
perverts: अस्वाभाविक आचरण वाला

So anyone who felt I should be given some occupation would barge into my cubicle and deliver an extended lecture. The 'boy' in the make-up department had decided I should be enlightened on how great literary talent was being allowed to go waste in a department fit only for barbers and perverts.

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epics: महान बड़ी कथा
instances : उदाहरण
frustration: गुस्सा
woes: परेशानी
ignominy : तिरस्कार

Soon I was praying for crowd-shooting all the time. Nothing short of it could save me from his epics.

In all instances of frustration, you will always find the anger directed towards a single person openly or covertly and this man of the make-up department was convinced that all his woes, ignominy and neglect were due to Kothamangalam Subbu.

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Subbu was the No. 2 at Gemini Studios. He couldn't have had a more encouraging opening in films than our grown-up make-up boy had. On the contrary he must have had to face more uncertain and difficult times, for when he began his career, there were no firmly established film producing companies or studios.

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appreciable : प्रशंसनीय
virtue: गुण
affluent : धनवान

Even in the matter of education, specially formal education, Subbu couldn't have had an appreciable lead over our boy.

But by virtue of being born a Brahmin — a virtue, indeed! — he must have had exposure to more affluent situations and people. He had the ability to look cheerful at all times even after having had a hand in a flop film.

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tailor-made: दोषरहित /परिपूर्ण

He always had work for somebody — he could never do things on his own — but his sense of loyalty made him identify himself with his principal completely and turn his entire creativity to his principal's advantage. He was tailor-made for films.

Here was a man who could be inspired when commanded.

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tends : देखभाल करना
victim: शिकार
offspring: बच्चें

"The rat fights the tigress underwater and kills her but takes pity on the cubs and tends them lovingly — I don't know how to do the scene," the producer would say and Subbu would come out with four ways of the rat pouring affection on its victim's offspring.

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alternatives: विकल्प

"Good, but I am not sure it is effective enough," the producer would say and in a minute Subbu would come out with fourteen more alternatives. Film-making must have been and was so easy with a man like Subbu around and if ever there was a man who gave direction and definition to Gemini Studios during its golden years, it was Subbu.

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deliberately : जानबूझ कर
masses: जनता
dwarfed : बौना / छोटा कर देना
critics : आलोचक

Subbu had a separate identity as a poet and though he was certainly capable of more complex and higher forms, he deliberately chose to address his poetry to the masses. His success in films overshadowed and dwarfed his literary achievements — or so his critics felt.