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Class-XII

English

Flamingo

Chapter-6



Ashokamitran

Poets and Pancakes

Part - 3

Neha Rajvanshi

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diction : शब्दों का प्रयोग
sprawling : विस्तृत
deftly : दक्षता पूर्वक
etched : नक्काशी
recreated : पुन: जीवित करना

He composed several truly original 'story poems' in folk refrain and diction and also wrote a sprawling novel Thillana Mohanambal with dozens of very deftly etched characters. He quite successfully recreated the mood and manner of the Devadasis of the early 20th century.

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subsidiary : कम महत्व का

He was an amazing actor — he never aspired to the lead roles — but whatever subsidiary role he played in any of the films, he performed better than the supposed main players.

He had a genuine love for anyone he came across and his house was a permanent residence for dozens of near and far relations and acquaintances.

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improvident : लापरवाह / अदूरदर्शी
demeanour : व्यवहार / आचरण
sycophant: चापलूस

It seemed against Subbu's nature to be even conscious that he was feeding and supporting so many of them. Such a charitable and improvident man, and yet he had enemies! Was it because he seemed so close and intimate with The Boss? Or was it his general demeanour that resembled a sycophant's? Or his readiness to say nice things about everything?

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direst : गंभीर / भयानक

In any case, there was this man in the make-up department who would wish the direst things for Subbu.

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comprising : सम्मिलित

You saw Subbu always with The Boss but in the attendance rolls, he was grouped under a department called the Story Department comprising a lawyer and an assembly of writers and poets. The lawyer was also officially known as the legal adviser, but everybody referred to him as the opposite.

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temperamental: अचानक गुस्सा करने वाले
blew over: गुस्सा करना
stunned: हैरान
equipment: उपकरण

An extremely talented actress, who was also extremely temperamental, once blew over on the sets. While everyone stood stunned, the lawyer quietly switched on the recording equipment. When the actress paused for breath, the lawyer said to her, "One minute, please," and played back the recording.

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incriminating : दोषी ठहराना
foul : गलती
tirade : गुस्से में बोलना
countryside: छोटा इलाका/ गांव
sophistication: विवेक
catapulted into: अचानक अनुभव करना

There was nothing incriminating or unmentionably foul about the actress's tirade against the producer. But when she heard her voice again through the sound equipment, she was struck dumb. A girl from the countryside, she hadn't gone through all the stages of worldly experience that generally precede a position of importance and sophistication that she had found herself catapulted into.

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unwittingly : अनजाने में

She never quite recovered from the terror she felt that day. That was the end of a brief and brilliant acting career — the legal adviser, who was also a member of the Story Department, had unwittingly brought about that sad end.

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clumsily : गंदे तरीके से
neutral : निष्पक्ष





While every other member of the Department wore a kind of uniform — khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt — the legal adviser wore pants and a tie and sometimes a coat that looked like a coat of mail. Often he looked alone and helpless — a man of cold logic in a crowd of dreamers — a neutral man in an assembly of Gandhiites and khadiites.

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Like so many of those who were close to The Boss, he was allowed to produce a film and though a lot of raw stock and pancake were used on it, not much came of the film. Then one day The Boss closed down the Story Department and this was perhaps the only instance in all human history where a lawyer lost his job because the poets were asked to go home.