

**THE NARRATIVES OF DESPAIR:
A POSTCOLONIAL STUDY OF K.V. RAGHUPATHI'S THE INVALID
AND DISAPPOINTED**

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Abstract

These novels i) *The Invalid* and ii) *Disappointed* deals with the Realistic Narratives as Realistic Narratives are nothing but they deal with the ordinary people and the situation that can happen in day to day life. Both the novels are penned down by the author by seeing such people in their personal life. In both the novels the element of despair is seen and experienced by the protagonist in different ways. The character Parvy in *Invalid* and J.N. Rao in *Disappointed* experience despair, all through their life they long for things to happen in the right way but it goes wrong always and still they hold on to hope. Parvy patiently waits for his promotion which is being delayed and he is neglected to be given the promised promotion and due to over load and chemical toxic he loses his health and job. J.N. Rao waits to get his promotion in the company where he works though he is capable to be promoted he is denied promotion to higher position due to over work pressure he loses his health and he is being ill-treated in his office by his colleagues. Both the characters in these novels are put into a situation, till the end their hopes aren't fulfilled instead they are pushed into a state in which all hopes is lost and absent.

The Invalid (2012) is one of the two novels authored by K.V. Raghupathi. In fact *The Invalid* was written when the author was a university student and got published when he was a university teacher almost after a gap of 30 years. In fact *The Invalid* was the outcome of a request made by Sudhakar to Mohan. Mohan on the request of Sudhakar narrated these incidents into a story for publishing in a literary magazine. So he started writing it and in the course of writing, it took the shape of fiction and became a fabulous and shocking novel. Mohan wrote a letter to Sudhakar that he was sending the novel "The Invalid" and he didn't state why he had called it *The Invalid* and it might be the reason that it dealt with such a worst human experience about which the author introduced through the dairy of Parvy which was filled with humility and humbleness. Parvy life was short. He was a useless orphan, he hadn't had any colorful youth or

bright career finally he had fallen prey to the brutal inhuman haphazard. Thus Mohan ends the letter which he wrote to Sudhakar, submitting the manuscript of the novel *The Invalid*.

K.V. Raghupathi's second novel *The Disappointed* (2014), the author narrates the story in first person singular. The name of the old man is Jagannatha Rao affectionately called as JR. He worked in a commercial bank situated near the campus. Every time the author found him on the S.V. Campus, Tirupathi. The author (KR) felt to know about him and wanted to talk to Mr. JR. Fortunately, one day, a professor by name PND asked the author to go and meet Mr. JR. Prof. PND and Mr. JR are close friends. Prof. PND told the author that Mr. JR has expressed his desire to meet the author and gave him the address of Mr. JR directing him how to reach his home and then JR narrated his whole life experience and that turned out to be the novel.

II

The invalid (Parvy) lay on the mattress on his back and his head up facing the darkness and nearer to his cot was a window and he got fresh air from it, but his room was a small and compact room in the hotel and the hotel is situated on outskirts of Thirupathi and his room had nothing except a cot, chair, table and his suitcase. He was in half sleep and suddenly he gets up and breathes heavily and sneezes and he moves his finger slowly from head to toe and feels that something has gone wrong “the body was not his own for the first time he realized so. Something had taken possession of his upper part leaving the lower part to himself.” “how can I be one in two? I cannot?”(9). Something strange has grown in his upper part of which he could not distinguish. But he could feel it. Of what shape? It was not known to him. Of what form? He was unaware of. He had never been felt it. Never had he experienced. Now he felt he was transformed. What could he be like? Was he a strange animal? (10). He felt he was conquered by his malformed physique he was restless he was like a prisoner, enclosed by four walls. it was his eleventh night he had been there in the hotel occupying room number seven for the past ten days. Ten days and ten nights had swiftly passed (15) he was a young brown and a fair looking man his name was Praveen but fondly nicknamed as pravy. He's thirty years old still a bachelor, determined not to marry while he was in the womb of his mother in the seventh month his father died in a road accident and at four in his tender age his mother passed away due to chronic peptic ulcer so orphaned he had been brought up, educated and well groomed by his only lovely sister lalitha.(16) .

During his six year of work in K.N.Pharmaceutical industry he had fallen in love with young charming women who happened to be his coworker and colleague her name was puspha she was twenty six year old they both got into relationship and it lasted for a year and their love was completely swept off by a sudden unexpected event when puspha was trying to cross a heavy traffic M.G.road to catch a running bus she met with a severe accident by a lorry hitting her and she was spot out (34) the police was informed and they attended the spot and seeing the card of the firm she worked the police called and informed the company about the death of puspha a pall of gloom had fallen on pravy he found her lying on the pool of blood he felt the vacuum created by her death was as much as what he had experienced when he had lost his only lovely sister the two unmatched, intense irreparable loses in his life were his sisters and his passionate love(37) for made worthless human creature they loved each other so deeply, so passionately, so intensely the first time as he was working in the firm, he felt he had been abandoned, isolated condemned and, that they had planned to get married secretly both of them had come from two different social economic backgrounds he is from a low family now a orphan abandoned creature and she from a upper middle class family with a rich culture and tradition she had her mom and dad alive and two brothers got married and one as a doctor and other

working in a private firm and her younger sister pursuing her post graduate studies in Bangalore in spite of their two different and unequivocal backgrounds both of them had loved each other so much and understood each other so much her demise made pravy horribly diffident cynic and gloomy and it reflected in his work too. Thus he was removed from his service. (38,39) His sister passed away due to illness it was a great loss to him. His lover passed away in a road accident and he didn't get the promotion which was promised to be given to him in his working place these incident affected him a lot.

In *Disappointed* (2014) the author tells about an old, short and stout man. He was fifty two years old as he had told him about it in his first meeting. He is stout man with bulged neck, rotund belly and he wore bifocal glasses in order to cover the defects of his eyes, myopia and heteropia. He always looks as though he is lost in some world of frustration. His name is Jagannatha Rao affectionately called as JR. he works in a commercial bank. His health problem gave rise to various illnesses and the work pressure in his bank and his delayed promotion made him frustrated towards life.

III

Mr. JR narrated all his life incidents how he struggled in his life in his early age and later, he got a job he was transferred to many places and finally he got placed in a bank as a junior cadre. Mr. JR completed his post graduate in Economics when he was 21 and he wanted to become a civil servant so he went to Delhi with his friends for coaching classes. Four years passed some of his friends got through the exams but he didn't pass in it then he returned home and his parents insisted him on marriage and he felt that first he has to secure him and then only he can secure his wife and children. He was searching for jobs but his parents kept on insisting him on marriage he was deaf to it. They had heated arguments and one day he left home and only after one week he returned to his house his parents felt so happy to see their son back and from then on they never talked about marriage and he started doing odd jobs. Few months passed by and his father passed away by cardiac arrest and it was a great shock to him. And his mother kept on insisting him on marriage so he married a girl whose mother also was widowed and they could never give him dowry and he never asked for it. One day his mother also collapsed and died. And for two years he did odd jobs and maintained his livelihood. In the 29th year he got a clerk position in commercial bank with the help of his friend from then on he was able to meet out his needs.

Due to his health problems he had to take leave and he never had a friendly ambiance in his office. Everyone in the office started treating him badly even in his home he kept himself locked in the room and only to eat he comes out of the room. Many times he was called for promotion in his office he attended the interview but he never got selected but his juniors were selected and it hurt him a lot. He never knew on what grounds he was denied promotion.

He was suffering from various illnesses so he applied leave often in his office and he was isolated from human world many questions arose in his mind. He started living alone. When he returned to office for his work people started treating him so badly he complained about it to the higher authority and he wrote many letter to higher authorities to transfer him to other firm but his letters was left unanswered. He was named as a mad person when he pleaded the management for promotion.

He tells the author how he was deceived by two people who took money from him and they never returned it back. The two incidents made him lose his trust over human. Then as it was time the author left to his home and after 15 years one day the author went to bank to deposit money and he found JR's daughter working in the bank and he asked her about her father. And

she gave him the address and in the evening he went to see him he was locked in a room at the backside of his house he was chained to the cot. His daughter told that he became mad. It was a pathetic situation for the author to see JR. he left his home and after few months he came to know that JR passed away. The author felt pathetic for him and how human have gone so mean in not respecting his fellow being.

In Invalid Pravy is an orphan and taken care by his sister. When he was pursuing post graduate degree in chemistry, his sister passed away. Due to his poverty and sudden loss of his sister, he started hunting for livelihood. As a result he got a post of chemist in pesticide division in K.N.Pharmaceutical industry situated in Bangalore. He was over loaded with work and exposed to toxic gases and due to that his health got afflicted with a mystifying disease.

In K.N.Pharmaceutical industry, Bangalore; Parvy fell in love with his co-worker Puspah and their relationship came to an end when Puspha died in an accident. After completing his work for six years, he thought that he would be taken as permanent employee but to his surprise he was removed from the firm without any reason. He neither questioned the management nor got annoyed himself. He reached Tirupathi and searched for a job. He got a job in Tirupathi after searching for two days he stayed in a hotel. But in the hotel, he developed physical and mental illness, various thoughts came to his mind and he remained sleepless. He lay on the bed and was thinking of his past. He found some strange changes in his body. He couldn't get up from his bed. He wanted to drink water but couldn't get up. He dropped the jug and later he too fell on the floor.

Due to heavy cough he spit the sputum on the floor and due to frequent cough he vomited blood and he lay on the floor helpless. He wanted water he has developed boils all over his body he has bolted the room door from inside he wanted to ask for help but seeing his condition he felt that people will run away so he kept quite imagining himself like various forms and shapes. He imagined himself like cutting his own body into pieces he was scared of death. Though he didn't come out of the room the people in the hotel became suspicious and they knocked his room's door he laid invalid on the floor and police and ambulance came and admitted him in the hospital.

The police wanted to know about him so they searched his bag and found a dairy and he had written from March 10th he wrote many things about man, universe, history and literature. The police read the dairy and Parvy wrote the last page of his dairy on 13th march the previous day. The police closed the dairy. These incidents were all a story it was written by Mohan to Sudhakar as Sudhakar has asked him to write a story to publish in a literary magazine. So he started writing it and it turned to become a novel and he wrote a letter to Sudhakar that he is sending the novel "The Invalid" and he doesn't know why he has written such a human experience but he is presenting to the world Parvy with humility and humbleness. Pravy life is short life he though himself as a useless orphan, he hadn't had any colorful youth or bright career finally he had fallen prey to the brutal inhuman haphazard. Thus Mohan ends the letter which he wrote to Sudhakar.

Both the character in these novels suffers the despair and they are left out in their life with disappointment and alienation. There is lot of difference between 'Human Being' and 'Being Human' only some people have the concern for others in life while the others stay selfish and they lead their life. Both the character in the novel suffer the pain and they await for the things to get well in life but in the process of waiting they lose hope and their life is only filled with despair.

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