***Book review of “The Guide”***

I read the book “The Guide” by Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami,better known as R.K. Narayan, some days ago. I got to know about this attractive novel from our English faculty Thilaka Rani. I am very grateful to her for suggesting me, such a piece of flawless writing. This is the first time I’m doing a book review and I’m very excited as well as anxious about it .

Mr. R.K. Narayan is one of those handful of people who started practicing English literature in India and still able to win the hearts of readers. He is well known for his writings about the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi. He not only wrote English short stories but also wrote novels like “The Guide”, ‘Swami and Friends’ , ‘The Dark Room’ and so on.

According to me “The Guide” is a well measured mix of philosophy with fiction and if I were a librarian then, I would be in real trouble deciding which shelf should I keep the book. “The Guide” gave me a sense of inner peace and made me stand in front of a mirror. I can bet that though the novel is written in the late sixties yet you will relate to it.

The main character of this book is the narrator, railway Raju. one will get to see all the events from his perspective and one might cast this book as his biography. The story starts beside Saryu river where Raju is mistaken for a holy man by a villager who lives in nearby village. In real Raju had just come out of prison and he has no idea about what to do next. Before he was convicted, he was a shop keeper and a part-time tour guide. During one of his tours, he met a married dancer who was married to a lonely writer who does not allow her to dance. Raju felt for her immediately and started to appreciate the art of dancing. By the time passes Rosie also stared to feel for Raju. In spite of Raju's mother's argument of the dancer being a snake woman Raju couldn't stop feeling for her. After a hard time, Raju managed to be a successful lover of Rosie for some time.

But time changed again, and Raju found himself in prison. Then through a series of a hilarious and humorous event, he becomes one of the greatest holy man of the country, to know more you have to go through this flawless philosophical friction.

Though the timeline of the story is very different from now, I really got connected with the storyline and was able to relate to it. To be particular I was able to connect with many events of Raju's life. for instance, when he had fallen in love with Rosie, the world around him suddenly changed and he was only thinking of her and wasn’t paying enough attention to his work. Then there ware ups and downs in his life which lead to a greater good and also to the end of the novel. For me this book reading was a journey to look at things from the writer’s perspective . In general, books are always a great way to escape reality for some time and it lets you put your leg into another's shoes.

As I mentioned earlier R.K. Narayan was one of the first persons who started writing in English when very few people actually knew English in India. Instead of all the challenges, he was able to inspire a lot of people to practice literature in English. So I think there is no need of stating, how good a book “The Guide” is .

If I really have to pick the best thing about the book I will go for the descriptions of the characters, natural scenery of Mampi heels, Saryu river, so on and so forth.

I must say that its a must read for every book lover especially who loves to read about philosophy with a measured touch of frictional story. This book can be very easily bought from Flipkart or Amazon , those offering huge discounts on “the guide” and I can assure you that you will surely enjoy the guidance of “The Guide”.

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