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**ISSN 2278-9529**  
**Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal**  
[www.galaxyimrj.com](http://www.galaxyimrj.com)

## The Rights

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Every Sunday, we, a group of friends with our family members assemble together in a park, or on the sea shore or on the river bank or at the hilltop or some times in the house of one of our friends to have lively talk on various matters, issues and problems with open mind, smiles, laughs and jokes and refresh our minds while the facts and truths of our social living are brought to light.

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"Today, we wanted to have a special dish with onion fry, but could not! The price is Rs200/ per kilogram. There is a long queue and I stood in the queue for one hour. No stock board was kept and the doors are closed. I returned home disappointed. I do not know what is happening in the markets!"

"You want to say that you are deprived of your right to eat the food of your choice!"

"Do you know who deprived of your right?"

"It is very clear! The market!"

"Shortage is created to grab the consumers!"

"Who created the shortage and how?"

"We do not know!"

"Who is responsible for all this?"

"We do not know!"

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"You know that I eat a piece of ginger every day in the early morning. Now its price is RS 250/ per kilogram! For ten rupees, I could not get even a piece equal to five rupee coin in size and weight that too, completely dried up! We could not afford to buy it and I stopped eating it. You know, you know, what has happened! My head began to turn round and round! I am afraid that if I walk, I may be thrown aside on the ground!"

"You mean to say that you are deprived of your right to healthy life."

"Who is responsible for it?"

The market which is responsible for onion famine is responsible for ginger famine also."

"Market means who and what?"

"We do not know!"

"When the rights are not within the reach and enjoyment of people, what is their use?"

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"You know, you know, what has happened yesterday. We wanted to go to our son's house. It is just at a distance of ten kilometers. We tried for organized transport services such as Uber, Ola and others. They indicated a charge of RS/460, that is RS/ 46/ per kilometer. In the beginning days of the services, the charges were much cheaper than the local auto charges. We were surprised and rejoiced. Now, we are fooled! "

"Slowly and slowly, we are made addicts to those services! Now, they began to hike the charges encashing our addiction! "

"What worries more is, now the local auto and taxi drivers charge the same hiked charges! How can we afford?!"

"I suggest a solution to this problem. Do not worry at all! You arrest yourself in your house! Do not go anywhere!"

"It means we have lost our Right to go anywhere!"

"We do not understand as to who is responsible for all this!"

"What is the use of the rights when they are not within the reach and enjoyment of the people?"

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"I have identified as to who are responsible for the deprivation of our Rights!"

"Do you mean the Markets?"

"No! No! Not at all!"

"Then, who are they?"

"I have identified two terrible exploiters! They are called Supply and Demand! "

"When there is no healthy competition, they exploit terribly."

"Healthy competition is a dream. It never existed and will never exist."

"When we cannot enjoy the Right to healthy life, how do we expect healthy competition in the markets of free trade?"

"The supply and demand is in the fists of the giant industrialists and business men. They gamble with supply and demand and gamble with our lives!"

"Should we live suffering deprived of our Rights?"

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"We have great democracy, great Constitution, great law and acts, great Parliament and assemblies, great people's elected representatives in hundreds in the Parliament and in thousands in the assemblies, great highly qualified executive official machinery and so many the greats! Then, why cannot they take action on the terrible exploiters to protect people's rights and the people from the terrible exploitation?"

"How much public money is spent on them all? Our money purses and pockets are grabbed in the name of several taxes. They all eat public money. Can they not arrest two terrible exploiters? Do they not know how people are suffering?"

"They always say consume, consume and Consume for economic growth and development. How to consume, what to consume when the prices are touching the sky?"

"Should we consume green and dry grass making the domestic animals starving?"

"We do not understand for whose economic growth and development consumption is meant?"

"What is the use of the rights when they are not within the reach and enjoyment of the people?"

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"We have many Constitutional Rights, human Rights, citizenship Rights, traditional and customary Rights and judiciary courts and Laws, human rights commissions, freedom and Liberties organizations and associations to protect our Rights. What do we want? We should be proud of them!"

"Are we enjoying them? Tell me who are enjoying them?"

"I suggest you a solution! Do not worry!"

"We have the right to vote. If we exercise the right to vote and elect representatives who are dedicated to work for the people, it would be a sound solution."

"We all know that you are dedicated to work for the people. We all will work for you. Why do not you contest for M.L.A. or M.P.?"

"Politics are made commercial business. On an average, the contestant has to spend minimum rupees two thousand to five thousand per vote and Rs 50/ crores to 100/crores in the election! Those who can invest that much only could contest! Since politics are made commercial business, the supply, demand and consumption forces also come into the play!"

"Then, what has happened to your sound solution?"

"What is the use of the rights when they are not within the reach and enjoyment of the people?"

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"Everyone knows that Politics are made commercial business managed by the market forces of demand, supply and consumption. Do you have any doubt about it?"

"We unanimously agree with it"

"The political parties have their own political doctrines, Ideologies, policies and manifestos. Could you analyze them?"

"They are in writing and papers as people's rights!"

"We see now with our own eyes that in practice that all political parties have only one and same political doctrines, ideologies, policies and manifesto and there is in practice no difference at all! What is that?"

"Opportunism!"

Then, what for all those political doctrines, ideologies, policies and manifestos, are declared by the political parties?"

"To encash the unawareness, ignorance and helplessness of the people to grab votes and political power and easy money also to perpetuate their political power!"

"What is the use of those Rights when they are not within the reach and enjoyment of the people?"

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"You know, you know, many intellectuals of high rank and level such as judges, professors, I.A.S. and I.P.S. and such civil services senior officers and doctors joined politics and some of them started new political parties also. They have commitment to true democracy and people's development. You know, you know, what has happened to them!"

"I know, I know, they have burnt their fingers."

"Why? Why? Why?"

"The family political power does not allow them to come up!"

"In fact, we have kings and princes dynasty rule in the name and disguise of democracy!"

"The mass voters are made addicts to money, wine and other tempting addictions. It is very difficult to free them from the addictions."

"Further, people are made addicted not only to money, but also to caste, religion and region politics by the politicians in their vested interest."

"Since the politics are made commercial business, the gains and profits only matter. All these addictions are strategies for political power."

"What is the use of the rights when they are not within the reach and enjoyment of the people"

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"What form of democracy we have now?"

"We have commercial form of democracy operated by demand, supply and consumption market forces! Not only votes are bought, but also the people's elected representatives are bought for majority to form Government."

"We have political parties' democracy only, but not people's true democracy."

"In our political parties' democracy, it is learnt that there are about sixty percent elected representatives who face allegations of various criminal offences."

"The political parties nominate such persons only who could win, nothing else matters!."

"The rich industrial and business managements finance the political parties. It is a business investment for them. The political parties have to repay them in one way or another. Then how they could take action on the supply, demand and consumption forces?"

"Then, what is the use of the rights when they are not within the reach and enjoyment of the people?"

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### **About the Author:**

Jayanthi Papa Rao (Born in 1938 in Andhra Pradesh, India) has published over hundred short stories, a novel and six research books in Telugu and in English. He has also edited and published four collections of short stories and essays based on the literature of well-known writers. His novel and stories were translated to Hindi, English and Malayalam. His writings were researched for M.Phil, PhD, and D. Litt degrees. He has made his writings available to readers through his blog <https://jayanthipaparao.blogspot.in>

After retirement from central government, he is looking after his own agriculture.