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Editor-In-Chief

Dr. Vishwanath Bite

Managing Editor

Madhuri Bite

www.the-criterion.com

criterionejournal@gmail.com

An Interview with R.Subramony by Dr. Vishwanath Bite

Dr. Vishwanath Bite

Assistant Prof. in English

Govt. of Maharashtra

Ismail Yusuf College of Arts, Commerce and Science,

Jogeshwari (E), Mumbai

Editor-In-Chief

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VB: Tell us a bit about yourself and your family.

RS: My father is a retired college professor. Books were always available at home. He was also generous in buying books for me.

VB: What are you most proud of accomplishing so far in your life?

RS: I am proud of both the books I have written so far. 'Paramahansa', I feel, deals with an area not touched by contemporary Indian writers in English.

VB: How has your upbringing influenced your writing?

RS: My mother was a profound influence. She loved creating writing in Tamil.

VB: Do you recall how your interest in writing originated?

RS: It started during my undergraduate years.

VB: How long have you been writing?

RS: For 5 years.

VB: What inspires you to write and why?

RS: Just stepping outside the house provides a lot of inspiration. The streets of India are gold mines for writers.

VB: What genre are you most comfortable writing?

RS: Novels and Short stories.

VB: What inspired you to write your first book?

RS: Life in Madurai and Dr Venkatraman,retired Prof of History in Madurai

VB: Who or what influenced your writing once you began?

RS: R.K Narayan,Raja Rao,Graham Greene and Balzac have been major influences.

VB: What do you consider the most challenging about writing a novel, or about writing in general?

RS: Being truthful

VB: Did writing this book teach you anything and what was it?

RS: To understand the soul of India.

VB: Have you developed a specific writing style?

RS: I try to use a simple style.

VB: What is your greatest strength as a writer?

RS: I link fiction with metaphysics(mostly Indian).

VB: Have you ever had writer's block? If so, what do you do about it?

RS: No

VB: Can you share a little of your current work with us?

RS: I am working on two novels.

VB: How did you come up with the title?

RS: While listening to the song of Sadasiva Brahmendra.

VB: How did you develop your plot and characters?

RS: By taking long walks and watching the life outside.

VB: Is there a message in your books that you want readers to grasp?

RS: It is up to them to dig out messages.

VB: How much of the books are realistic?

RS: As much as possible.

VB: Have you included a lot of your life experiences, even friends, in the plot?

RS: Yes.

VB: How important do you think villains are in a story?

RS: It depends on the story.

VB: What are your goals as a writer?

RS: To portray the India in all her dimensions.

VB: Do you have to travel much concerning your book(s)?

RS: Yes,I travelled a bit for 'Paramahamsa'.

VB: What books have most influenced your life?

RS: The Upanishads, books on Buddha,'Power and Glory' by Graham Greene.

VB: Have you ever considered anyone as a mentor?

RS: My professor Leele Subramoni

VB: Who is your favorite author and why?

RS: Raja Rao because his writings are depictions of Eternal India.

VB: Can we expect any more books from you in the future?

RS: Yes

VB: Have you started another book yet?

RS: Two books.

VB: Where do you see yourself in five years?

RS: As a writer who has published a few novels.

VB: What are your current writing projects now?

RS: Working on two novels.

VB: Are you reading any interesting books at the moment?

RS: Biography of Swami Rama

VB: Do you have any advice for writers?

RS: Be truthful and ignore the market.

VB: Do you have any specific last thoughts that you want to say to your readers?

RS: Love literature.

VB: What do you do to unwind and relax?

RS: Listen to music.

VB: What dreams have been realized as a result of your writing?

RS: I have understood mankind better.

VB: If you could leave your readers with one bit of wisdom, what would you want it to be?

RS: Know Thyself.

VB: Tell our readers something about your book.

RS: My book 'Paramahansa' is in the sanskritic tradition and deals with the problem of dukha or suffering. It is about the relevance of the non-dual philosophy as propounded by Sankara and Ramana Maharishi. Kashmiri Saivism is also dealt with in the book.