

ISSN: 0976-8165

The Criterion

An International Journal in English

Vol. 7, Issue- 4 [August 2016]

The Criterion 

7th Year of Open Access

Editor-In-Chief: Dr. Vishwanath Bite

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Mother in the Hostel!

(Translation of *Haastallo Amma* poem of Dr. Darla Venkateswara Rao)

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Dr. Darla Venkateswara Rao is a dalit scholar, poet, critic and Associate Professor in Department of Telugu, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. He is known for his writings about the marginalised. His major works include *Nemalikannulu* (Eyes of Peacock), *Madiga chaitanyam* (Anthology of Poems), *Sahitimurtula prasasthi*, *Dalita Tatwikudu*, *Dalitha Sahityam: Madiga Drukpatham* etc.

The image of my mother beautifully appears
In the dejected face of the *mother* who comes in the dawn
To take away the leftover food
In my university hostel.

A sympathetic sigh
Kindly wets the desert of my eyes with pity
When my upbringing is reflected in that *mother*

At times, I gaze in my hostel
The heart of my mother grieved with the harsh cries of the cruels
Who throw the leftover in the dustbins and bellow
When I lay in the hands of my mother with hunger
In the marriage halls of my village.

I sweep away myself in the waves of tears
Alone in the dark room
Helplessly

The beautiful heart of the mother

Lulling from somewhere

Makes me to listen an evoking song to win over

The worlds of hunger and insult!