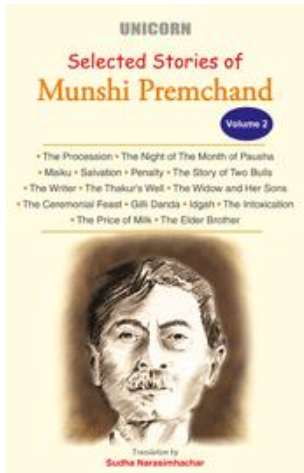




Unicorn Books

Selected Stories Of Munshi Premchand (volume 2)



Author: Sudha Narasimhachar

Format: Paperback

ISBN: 8178064079

Code: U4079

Pages: 170

Price: Rs. 196.00 US\$ 8.00

Publisher: Unicorn Books

Usually ships within 5 days

"Born in a village near Varanasi, Premchand (1880-1936) wrote about things those were very much contemporary. His writing style, his portrayal of characters were so realistic that people can relate to them even now. Losing his mother at a tender age and being abandoned by his post-office-clerk father Premchand had probably seen all forms of exploitation and submission. greed and corruption, straightjacket of poverty and an unyielding caste system.

He was named Dhanpat Rai (literal meaning 'master of wealth'), but ironically, he waged a lifelong battle against relentless poverty. Acute social awareness and an unerring eye for details made his works literary masterpiece.

Premchand's first collection of short stories, Soz-e Watan (1908) was found to be so provocative that not only did the Government ban it, but also all copies of the book were burnt. But, the undaunted writer kept telling stories of pain and suffering of the toiling masses. Stories like Do Bailon ki Katha and Idgah, are still prescribed in school textbooks. He used 'bad' characters to counter the 'good'. Orphan Hamid had to fight psychologically with his friends for buying a pair of tongs instead of sweets and toys, Jhuri had to fight with his wife for loving his bulls like his own children, Susheela had to fight with her emotions and the community before leaving her house. Stock characters like Dukhi, the tanner; Halkoo, the peasant; Gangi, the untouchable are also very close to the readers.

This anthology highlights the essence of Premchand's stories in its true spirit.

Contents:

The Procession

The Night of The Month of Pausa

Maiku

Salvation

Penalty

The Story of Two Bulls

The Writer

The Thakur's Well

The Widow and Her Sons

The Ceremonial Feast

Gilli Danda

Idgah

The Intoxication

The Price of Milk

The Elder Brother

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Unicorn Books

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