

BOOK REVIEW

Jungle ki Kahaniyaan

Seema Shukla Ojha*

Title of the Book	: <i>Jungle ki Kahaniyaan</i>
Author	: Horacio Quiroga
Translators	: Aprajit Chattopadhyaya and Suresh Dhingra
Publication	: Prakashan Sansthan, New Delhi
Year of Publication:	2018
Total No. of Pages	: 86

The book originally written in Spanish as *Cuentos de la Selva* by acclaimed Latin American writer Horacio Quiroga, is popular among children in Latin America and countries with Spanish speaking populations. It was also included in the curriculum for schools in Latin America. The book's popularity was such that it was translated into many languages. In English, it was published under the title *Jungle Tales*. The Hindi translation *Jungle ki Kahaniyaan* marks the 100th

जंगल की कहानियाँ

ओरासियो किरोगा

अनुवाद

अपराजित चट्टोपाध्याय • सुरेश धींगड़ा



anniversary of its first publication in the language.

The book consists of eight short stories, carrying morals and values, making it apt for the young minds in elementary schools.

Friendship and alliance mostly run in the themes in the stories.

* Professor, Department of Education in Social Sciences, NCERT, New Delhi.

The first story narrates compassion and reciprocity between a man and a giant tortoise. The second is an amusing tale about why flamingos have red legs and why they like to spend most of their time in water. The third is a tale of an innocent parrot. The fourth story is about the consequences of people not respecting wisdom and experience. The fifth is about maternal love, healing and friendships. The sixth story narrates how a young cub gets into trouble by not following the advice of its mother and wandering out of the jungle into a farm. However, it ends with a beautiful relationship established between the cub and children of the farm owner. The seventh is a tale of compassion and reciprocity between a man and stingrays. The last tale is about a lazy bee and how it transforms itself into an active and cooperating being.

In all these stories, Quiroga has beautifully captured the magic and mystery of the jungles of South America. Through this collection, the author emphasises values of friendship, cooperation, justice, etc.

The language of the translated version is lucid and creates vivid images in the mind of the readers. It transports the readers to the mysterious land of the jungles rich in flora and fauna. The names of local customs and cuisines also find a mention in the stories. These names are used along with their Indian synonyms, lending the stories a local feel. Moreover, by doing so, the translators have tried to introduce the children of India to a new culture.

This collection may remind the readers of the famous *Panchatantra* tales written by Pandit Vishnu Sharma. Each story of the *Panchatantra* ends with a moral. Therefore, the *Panchatantra* plays an important role in imparting moral values to children at the elementary stage in the country.

Just like the *Panchatantra*, *Jungle ki Kahaniyaan* is a classic. The book enchants and motivates the readers with its interesting stories and moral values.