

# KANTHAPURA

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# **Kanthapura**

*A New Directions Paperbook*

**by Raja Rao**

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## About Novel “KANTHAPURA”

- This is the story of a village in South India named `Kanthapura` written by Raja Rao. He was an excellent writer and the simple story of a village life is depicted in an extra-ordinary way in this creation of his. The title of the story is kept by the name of the village only. So the title truly signifies the story.
- The story is narrated in flashback by Achakka, a wise woman in the village. She, like her female audience (whom she addresses as “sisters”), has survived the turbulence of social and political change which was induced by Mohandas K. Gandhi’s passive resistance against the British government. Achakka provides a detailed picture of the rural setting, establishing both an ambiance and a rhythm for the novel.

# The Protagonist Of Novel “Kanthapura”

**Moorthy** is the protagonist of Raja Rao's novel **Kanthapura**, which records the influence of Mahatma Gandhi's ideals on **Kanthapura**, a remote fictional village in South India, during the years of the Indian independence movement. It has been suggested that **Moorthy** is a stand-in for Rao himself.

# Major Women Character

■ ACHAKKA:-Narrator,open minded Brahmin women.

#RANGAMMA:-Mid ane educated widow, daughter of Sattamma.

#RATNA:-Friend of moorthy,and Kamalama daughter.

#VENKAMMA:-She is petty and jealous women she is jealous of rangamma,moorthy,ratna and gandhi movement

# Theme

- The main theme of Kanthapura is the STRUGGLE for FREEDOM in India.

# Kanthapura as a Gandhian Epic

- *What Is Epic?*
- An Epic is the greatest and most sublime form of poetry divided into several books, celebrating the life, heroic deeds and achievements of a national hero, whether historical or legendary.



# Social Background

- Mythology
- Poverty and illiterate people
- Women and dalits situation
- Male dominant society
- Believe in gandhism
- Caste system
- Past mingling with present
- Tragedy of people

- Highly believed in God and Goddess.

Ex:-kenchamma is our goddess,she came from heavens.she fought so many night that the blood soaked in to the earth, that is kenchamma's hill is red.

# Religion was centered

#Celebration of different festivals

# Religious Background

- The Indian sensibility finds further expression in the use of myth and rituals. The central myth of Kanthapura is Rama-Sita-Ravan which is used to illustrate the fight between Mahatma Gandhi and the British.
- **“Culture was broadly define within the paradigmatic framework of religious systems and beliefs.”**

- There are two kinds appropriations:
  - 1) Religious-issue of swaraj and Nation the tradition of the country such as 'Harikatha'.
  - 2) History such as Indian National Movement and brings it to the fold of the religious tradition of India.
- **“Nothing is beyond the nation and Religion.”**

# Political Background

- Raja Rao's *Kanthapura* gives a glimpse of the Indian struggle for independence in a rural part of India. The novel portrayed against 'British domination'. In novel ,

**“Nation is visualised in term of a temple; Kenchamma.”**

Gandhi becomes a Puranic personal Rao turns even Gandhi into myth ,a major deviation is introduced within the structure of the novel.

**“When Gandhiji is released from the prison, he likens the ever to Rama's return from exile.”**

In above example, we find the political reality into cultural consciousness of tradition , race and people . Gandhi becomes 'saviour' not political leader.

Politics get spiritualized – India's most important political leaders and social reformers have all been great religious figure and social and political ends have been attained in the guise of religion.

All activities of political things relevant to the Gandhian thought are introduced in this excellent hallowed the venue – Kenchemma Temple.

# Style

- Dramatic style Raja rao uses English like master , as one would use ones own mother-tongue .his words ,of course ,are English but their orgnization is Indian and entirely his own innovention.

In kanthapura we find an expression of a wide range of feelings and attitude from the behaviour of an Indian crowd. First under police

atrocities:

“while the police men beat crowd thi side and that side  
And groans and moans and carries and coughs  
And oaths and bangs and kicks are heard ,while there is  
Herad, 'mahatma Gandhi ki jai ,m.....ki.....jai.' “

# Conclusion

- Raja Rao describes very well totally Indian background with all aspects in the novel Kanthapura. With oral structure of narration, Rao describes political, social, and religious as the traditional culture of India. Through using all these Rao makes one identity of India.

**“One nation, one identity.”**

So, we may conclude that Rao portrays whole things as culture in one novel – Kanthapura. India is a country where to avoid thinking is impossible.

**Thanks**