

# JAMAL MOHAMED COLLEGE (Autonomous)



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH SF-MEN**

# THE OLD MAN AND HIS GOD

by Sudha Murthy



- One rainy evening the author was travelling in Tanjavur district of Tamil Nadu
- Her driver is not able to drive in the rain and darkness
- She left her car to shelter near by
- The author saw an old building far into the meadow
- She went through the rain drenched and reached an old temple like place
- The place was pitch dark and she could only see a old couple into the dark

## THE KIND HEARTED COUPLE

- The old women called the author with care and she gave a worn but clean towel to wipe
- The author could feel the love in her voice
- Occasionally on the lightening, the author was able to see another old man standing beside the old women
- The author could see that the man was blind and they had nothing than few clothes and some rugs
- The place seem to be an old deserted Shiva temple
- The minimum ostentation and decoration declared that the couple were paupers

# The Mangalarthi



- The author asked the old man to perform Mangalarthi to Lord Shiva
- After the ritual she gave the old man a hundred rupee note
- The old man touched the note and asked the author that he performs rituals for the devotee and not for money
- He insisted the author to take back the money
- Though they are poor they did not greed for it

# The Couple's Honesty



- The author saw the old woman, supposed to be the wife of the old man was standing still
- It seemed that she also acknowledge her husband about the money
- The author belonged to an NGO company, she want to help them as a reward for their honesty
- The author claimed their loneliness without children and money and their essential need for food and medicines

# The Big Heart of Poor Relations



- The author promised to send them money for their needs.
- But the couple declined her fund and felt sorry for her foolishness that there is no use of money in their old age.
- They said that Lord Shiva is also called Vaidyanathan ,Mshsvsithysn and he will take care of their health so the old-age pension scheme is of no use.
- They also feared that someone may try to harass them if they hold money in the bank.

# The Real God in the Forest



- The old couple said that they were content with what they have and they don't want money from any strangers.
- Money is a source of all problems and so they don't want to invite any problem.
- Light came, the author could see the real happiness in their face.
- She realised that contentment is the real peace of life.
- Electricity lighted not only the temple but also the author's mind.