



The Adivasi Will Not Dance: An Appalling Dissent Against Dalit Exploitation

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Abstract

The Adivasi Will Not Dance (2015), the much-appraised *Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar* winning creation by Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, is a phenomenal protest against the awful repulsion and unscrupulous measures taken by the so-called upper-class sophisticated people in the mainstream Indian society against the peripheral Santals. Through the deft delineation of ten stories, not only the hollow, shabby susceptibility of the Santal community has been reciprocated through a mode of pluralistic narrative, but also the stories portray the insecure humdrum lives of the outcast people weaved through diverse culture and class of the dominant majority. Through the moving counter narratives of Mangal Murmu, Baso-jhi, Sulochona, Sona, Talamai Kisku or Vikram-kumang, the restrictions and the repression of the usurped Santals, their economic deprivation and sexual debasement explore the acute struggle of those peripheral victims where they also penchant for an esteem of their own, disrupting the stereotyped negativity attached to their lot. Born and belonging to the same marginalised Santal community in Jharkhand, Hansda instills fine sensibility into his stories, which is actually a disguised memoir in fictional narratives, and overnight created a sensation through social and mass media leading him to several legal defilements. But they are true gems, the unearthed history that he has dared to explore. About this book, Himal Southasian has rightly said that, “Shekhar’s work in this volume is a tribute to lives of struggle and marginalisation, carefully avoiding the exotic or self-pitying tone. His craft is suffused by love for his people that reminds readers of Baba Nagarjuna’s poetry– familiar and distant, angry and lyrical.” [Cited on the cover page]

Keywords: Mutilated, perversion, struggle, stereotype, trauma etc.

