

Classic Poetry Series

Mangesh Narayanrao Kale

- poems -

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Mangesh Narayanrao Kale(1966 -)

Mangesh Narayanrao Kale is a reputed Marathi poet, critic, translator and editor.

Biography

Mangesh Narayanrao Kale was born in Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, in 1966. He is a post graduate in journalism and Hindi. As a journalist, he started his career with the Marathi daily 'Marathwada'. Later he started own daily, 'Khandesh'. He now works in publishing and printing industry. He is the editor of 'Khel', a Marathi literary magazine that has been involved with the Marathi literary movement for over a decade.

His published work includes Mangesh Narayanrao Kalechi Kavita (2001), Lokwangmay Griha, Mumbai; Shaktipatache Sutra (2004), Lokwangmay Griha, Mumbai; Naal Tutalya Pratham Purushache Drishtaant (2007), Abhidhanantar, Mumbai; Thus, It's Just Shape Of Poem (2007, translated from the original Marathi), Time and Space Communication, Pune.

He is a recipient of the most important award in Marathi Literature, the Yashwantrao Chavan Kharad Puraskar (2006) for Shaktipatache Sutra.

He won the Maharashtra Foundation Award for his poetry collection 'Trutiya Purushache Aagman' (2011).

In These Thirty Eight Years

1

Innumerable serpents are springing up from my head
Just how many
Will your comb draw out, woman?
Their iciness
Is freezing my brains
This crawling
Doesn't let me play
The game I have devised.
It is not merely the question of snakes
Nor do I complain
About my body turned black and blue
With their stings
But it terrifies me
That even when they are fast asleep
Their poison keeps dripping
Through my eyes

2

How long will I beat this earth
Bewailing these snakes
How many wells have I sought
How many of them have I turned upside down
Even after so many years
I simply can't unearth the snake hole
In this antiquated step well of yours

3

Have I grown scales on my whole body
Or I am about to shed my skin?
It was fine
When the snakes were raising a racket
In my brains
Now they are crawling all over my body
Even the soles of my feet shudder
Will I have to go to my house crawling?

In which glass flask
Should I place this plastic moulded serpent?
This crimson cotton textured snake
Or this one with cold polythene body
Just jumping up and down on the surface
How many serpents have gathered
In this glass flask
In these thirty-eight years?

Mangesh Narayanrao Kale