



Prof D.Thankappan Nair was born in Thiruvananthapuram District in Kerala State in the year 1932. Father Sri.Kunjan Pillai and mother Smt.Devaki Amma. High School education at Chalai English High School, Thiruvananthapuram. Passed E.S.L.C. in the year 1951. He obtained degree from the University of Kerala (Economics main) in the year 1955. Post Graduate in Hindi from Agra University in the year 1961. He served Northern Railway Delhi and worked in U.K. High Commission, New Delhi. He also served Bishop Moore College, Mavelikkara at Alappuzha District in Kerala. He retired from Bishop Moore College as Head of the Department of Hindi. He served as Principal of the Post Graduate Centre, Kerala Hindi Prachar Sabha from 1988 to 2011. At present he is the Chief Editor of Keral Jyothi, a Hindi Magazine published by Kerala Hindi Prachar Sabha.

While he was working in the Bishop Moore College, Mavelikkara he married G.Jayakumari. His elder son Ranjith is the Director of the Centre of English and Communication Studies, Kowdiar. His younger son T Sajith is presently working as Deputy Manager, HLL Life Care, Akkulam factory, TVPM

Right from his early days, he was very much interested in literature and had a taste for writing. He concentrated on translating world classics into Malayalam language. He also translated many Malayalam works into Hindi and vice versa. He says that when the name of a great writer is written in a book, the translator's name will also appear near the author's name. In the field of translation he was very much influenced, though indirectly, by the renowned "Kathikan" (story letter) V.Sambasivan. The art of story telling was very popular then, even illiterate people enjoyed it and, through the art, were introduced to world classics. **Prof**

D.Thankappan Nair feels that the contribution made by Sambasivan in popularising world classics in a mass language was very great.

When Mr.D.C. Kizhakemury was planning to retell the world classics in Malayalam language, Prof.Vattapparambil Gopinatha Pillai who was **Prof.D.Thankappan Nair's** friend and colleague introduced him to D.C. Dr.Ayyappa Panickar was the General Editor of the series, Viswa Sahitya Mala. The first book of the series Hunchback of Notre-dame was translated by **Prof.D.Thankappan Nair**. He remembers with gratitude the encouragement given by Prof.Arumanoor Nirmalanandan, Himamshu Joshi (Delhi), M.K.Velaudhan Nair, Kishen Sharma (Mumbai), D C.Kizhakkemuri, Prof.S.Gupthan Nair, Dr.M.G.Sasibhushan, Dr.M.Rajeev Kumar, K.G.Balakrishna Pilla, R.Ayyappan (Deccan Chronicle), Kavalam Govindankutty Nair and D r . M . R a j e e v K u m a r .

When **Prof.D.Thankappan Nair** was working with British Embassy and Indian Railways in New Delhi, he got acquainted with renowned literateurs like Himamshu Joshi, Jainendra Kumar et - al. His second tryst with translation began with the translation of Himamshu Joshi's novel Aranya (Aranyakam). Later **Prof D.Thankappan Nair** translated the renowned sculptor and poet Kanayi Kunjiraman's Malayalam poems in to Hindi titled Kanayi Kunjiraman Ki Kavithayem It was followed by the translation of Malayalam story writer K.L.Paul's stories into Hindi titled K.L.Paul ki kahaniyam and K.L.Paul ki pradhinidhi kahaniyam. He also translated P.Ravikumar's Malayalam poem Nachiketa and M.D.Ramanathan into Hindi titled Nachiketa and Ramanatha Smirithi. He also translated the spiritual leader and yogi Sri."M"'s three English Books titled. Apprenticed to a Himalayan Master, A yogi's Autobiography, Jewel in the Lotus, Deeper Aspects Of Hinduism and Wisdom of the Rishis into Malayalam. He had translated the legendary singer Sri.Yesudas's first poem into Hindi titled Thalasa. He also translated some of Yesudas's autobiographical articles(in the name of "Meri Anthar Yathra")in Hindi.

Prof D Thankappan Nair, by being a great translator, has functioned as one of the finest links between cultures. He was not a mere translator, dabbling just in great fiction, his interests spilled over into poetry and philosophy. When he introduced the unseen dimensions of the great Yesudas to the Hindi-speaking world, **Prof D Thankappan Nair** was not just showing the already resplendent Yesudas in a new light but was also taking the South closer to the North. Kanaayi Kunhiraman belongs no more to Kerala, he is India's pride. **Prof D Thankappan Nair** made the country understand itself and the world better.