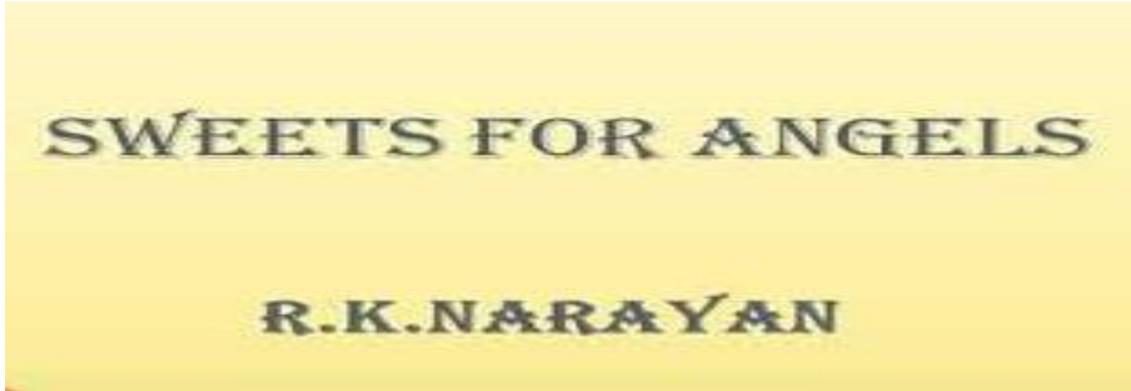
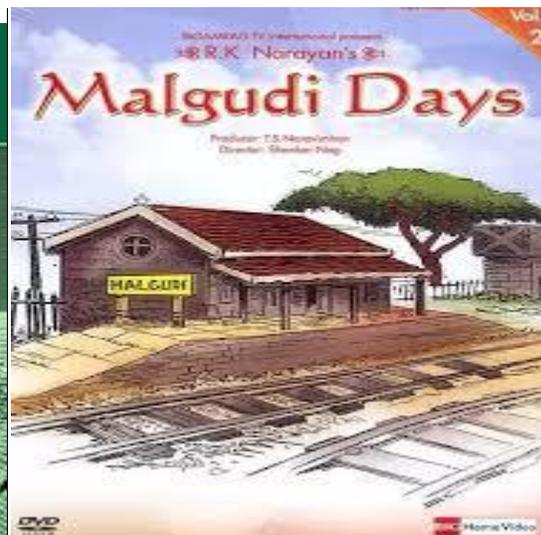
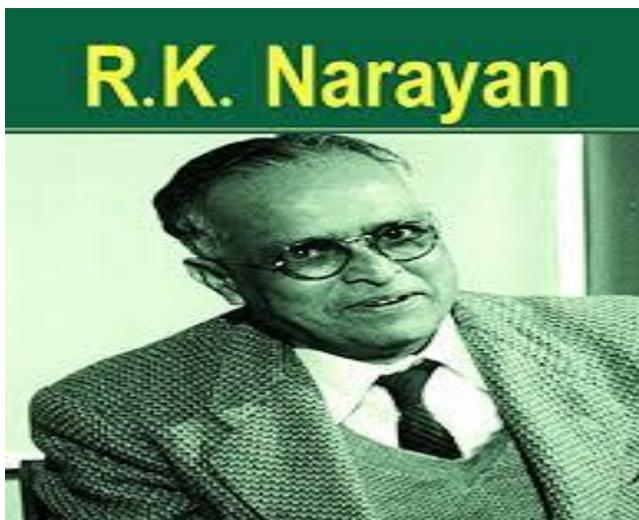


Sweets for Angels - R.K. Narayan



R. K. Narayan is the most popular and successful living Indian writer in English. Born in Madras (1906) and educated in Mysore, Narayan has written a number of novels and hundreds of short stories. Some of the well known novels are *The Man-Eater of Malgudi*, *The English Teacher* and *The Guide*. Short stories like “The Astrologer’s Day” and The Swami Stories are also equally famous.

Malgudi Days : It is set of short stories based on fictional town of Malgudi in pre -independence south India, written by R K Narayan. Later, TV series was aired by same name on Doordarshan based on novel.



Characters of the Story:

1. Kali - a coolie (carrying rice bags from Lorry to market)
2. Kuppan - a rickshaw puller
3. Pachai – Pretends to be a blind beggar
4. The school children
5. People of Royapuram

In the short story "Sweets for Angels" Kali is the main character.



Kali and his friends – an Introduction : Kali is the main character of the story. He is always accompanied by his friends. There are two friends Kuppan and Pachai who live with him in the same brick Pyol in Royapuram (a place in Karnataka). One of his friends, Kuppan is a rickshaw - puller. His wife has run away with her lover a year ago. Pachai always begs at the bus stand, and pretends to be a blind man. None of them is supported by the family.

Kali's appearance: Kali appears to be tall man of six feet with such brawny arms. Since he is a coolie, he has enough strength to carry the rich sacks in the market. He doesn't look like a poor man with skeleton body. So, people believe him as a rowdy. In addition to that, his beard has strengthened the image that he is a scoundrel.

Kali's Nature: He works everyday and earn money by hauling bags of rice from a lorry to grain store at market. He is a simple man at heart. He never attended school in his childhood days. He can do only physical work as a coolie. He earns money only for his daily food. He doesn't like to save money.

Kali's love towards children: When Kali completes his work in the market, he has time to look at the school which is closer to market. He enjoys watching little children go to a school. It fills him with delight. He looks admiringly at the children, their pencil, books and slates and often thought, " I wish they had taught me how to use these". Sometimes he softly walks behind the children and stands at the school gate. He finds happiness in watching children doing their work in school. The hums coming from the yellow building was music to his ears. It always filled his heart with joy. It was an emotion that could not be satisfactorily explained.

Kali's hard-working ay: One day he has hauled several sacks of grains on the previous evening. He has earned extra money than his daily wages. Hence, he eats good food in a hotel. Then, he feels tired and goes to sleep. When he wakes up at 4'o clock in the evening, he visits the coffee shop near the school, and drinks two cups of coffee. He feels much refreshed. At the same time, he happens to hear the ringing of the school bell.

Children's desire in sweets: Many times before, Kali has seen the children give a craving look at the sweets sold in the shops near the school. Kali is suddenly reminded of this. Since he has extra money in his pocket, he feels like getting the sweet to the children for a rupee. He sees

school children already coming down the road. They do not notice him. He feels disappointed and he moves towards them and gives Sweets. But, they told that their father would angry if they eat anything from outside. Kali convinces that their father will not scold them. Hence, the children accept the sweet from Kali, eat it happily and praise that sweet is delicious.

People's doubt about Kali: A man notices that a little child eating the sweet. He doubtfully enquires about the person who gave sweet to the child. The child points out its finger to the beard man Kali. The man doubts him to be a kidnapper of children. So he calls everyone around. A crowd is formed to thrash Kali, as he appears to be a scoundrel.

Kali is shocked: Kali does not know the reason for their attack. He runs fast to save his life. But, he is brutally wounded by the public. So, he is admitted in a hospital. Two weeks later when Kali opens his eyes, Kuppan and Pachai are beside Kali's bed in a hospital. Kuppan consoles Kali to come back to their pyol, because nobody would identity Kali as his beard is removed in the hospital. Pachai advises him not to approach children anymore. Kali too agrees with him. Now Kali's mind is so scared to think about children. He says, "Here after I'll turn and run as if a tiger chased me, if I see the tiniest tot ahead of Main Street." But, at the same time, a kid approaches him and offers him sweets saying, "Uncle! Please accept my sweets, It's my birthday." The story ends.

Summation: In this short story, R.K. Narayan portrays the lives of ordinary people. It depicts how these characters live their day-today life. The important theme of the story is that appearance is deceptive. People consider Kali to be a rowdy, because of his appearance and his beard. When the reader sees this kind of person in their life suddenly they feel that he is a rowdy. But, Kali is a child-like man. He is innocent and kind-hearted. So it is not possible to judge anyone by their appearance.

The irony: The irony of fate is beautifully brought out in the simple story 'Sweets For Angles'. Kali the coolie loves young children whom he considers to be as innocent as angels. He express his affection for them by giving them sweets which he has bought with his hard earned money. But as fate would have it the children become the cause of unforgettable suffering in his life.

