

Food and Literature Across the Ages

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In literature many writers registered cruelty of hunger in their works. Food is one of the basic components for the functioning of everyone in this world. It is the duty of a ruler to provide basic essential to the people of a nation. Many children die due to lack of nutrition. Many countries in the world suffer with extreme forms of hunger, especially Somalia like countries are suffer much due to hunger and people are being exploited. Every nation has its own unique food culture, but hunger is common for all. Many Tamil writers discuss about hunger in their writings. Among them Ovaiyar Tamil poet is very vividly expressed it in the following manner in her Nalvali:

Honor, class, learning, strength, wisdom, sense of charity, austerity, aspirations, perseverance, desired of women of sweet talk all these ten will vanish once is confront with hunger. (Nalvali26)

Through her words one can know the nature of hunger well. In Hungry mood one cannot listen to anything, cannot do anything, in his life. Extreme hunger leads to many problems. In her text 'The Room of One's Own' text Virginia Woolf states the plight of hungry as: "One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well" (Woolf ..)

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation also observes the importance of food, he states that food is very important. It is like God for the needy, where he say: "There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread" (Ganthi 62).

The Poet Subramaniya Bharadhi asserted responsibilities of a nation in providing a proper shelter and food for its people. Thus, he vey boldly asserted people's right to throw away the failing rule in the following manner and showed himself as a radical fighter who voiced for the sake of his nation. "If there is no food for an individual let us destroy the entire universe" (Bharathiyar 45)

In Manimekalai, the sequel to Cilapathikara of Illangovadikal, Saththanar depicts the myth of Manimekalai, the daughter of Madhavi of Silapathikaram. She gives 'Amutha Surabhi'