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No Labels

NARENDRA JADHAV, AUTHOR OF *OUTCASTE*, A MEMOIR, SHARES WITH US HIS EXPERIENCES THAT LED TO THE WRITING OF HIS BOOK

Tell us about the origin of *Outcaste*...

After retirement my father, who was virtually an illiterate person and who had worked hard all his life, didn't know how to keep himself occupied and went around fixing things around the house... Considering that I was the youngest of his six children, I had a special chemistry with him, persuaded him to write his own story and soon he began scribbling the story of his life in his own inimitable style.



Jayant Shinde

When did you read his story?

After my father's death, his notes assumed a special relevance and I remember I cried like a baby when I read them... Mulk Raj Anand, affirmed my belief that my father's story was indeed a social document.

Your father's text was in Marathi?

Crude Marathi, in fact. And because he never went to school, he had written without any form - there were no paragraphs, no margins, no chapters and considering that he wrote the book in a span of twelve years, there were lots of repetitions too. I had the onerous task of editing the text and giving it a form and structure...

Is *Outcaste* a translation from the original Marathi book - *Aamcha Baap aani Aaee*?

Firstly, Marathi can't be translated and secondly, the social context of the book was very relevant to the Marathi audience. When I was writing the English book, I had to make it 'whole' to suit the global reader. In fact, a French

Do you think you have slotted yourself in the category of Dalit literature?

No. Personally I think there is good literature and bad literature and I wouldn't want to label my writing under any category...

What does the book communicate?

The book works on two levels. On one level, it is the story of a family and at another level it is the story of the social metamorphosis that has taken place in the last hundred years in Maharashtra and in India at large.

