

# Vaikom Muhammad Basheer Stories

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## WILSON BENJAMIN

**The Love-letter and Other Stories** Sahitya Akademi  
 The Masterpieces of World Fiction series brings together the best-loved short stories by the great masters of the genre - from Chekov and Maupassant, Kipling and Wilde, to O. Henry and Saki and Tolstoy and Conrad. Thoughtfully compiled by the bestselling author Terry O' Brien, this series is a great way for readers to revisit old favourites and for introducing literary masterpieces to newer, younger readers  
 "Me Grandad 'ad an Elephant!" Sahitya Akademi  
 The Train That Had Wings presents modern life in Kerala in terms of a shared but tragically compromised humanity. Mukundan dares to look beneath the routines and facades of everyday life in order to probe depth of sin, greed, and hypocrisy but also to rediscover what brings joy and hope. Sixteen short story translations and a critical introduction, offering examples of Mukundan's realistic, existentialist, psychedelic, and parabolic stories, show his range and talent for the very short story. If

Hawthorne wrote "twice told tales," Mukundan writes half-told tales, stories that jump in the middle, stomp around for just a minute, and leap away almost before the reader can settle in. Half-told, but a powerful and infectious half.

**Goat Days** Sahitya Akademi

Long Ago Dharam Singh's Father Had Brought Thola To This Village. He Treated Him As His Own Brother And Had Even Gifted Four Bighas Of Land To Him. After Thola's Death, Dharam Singh Took Sole Responsibility Of His Son Jagsir And His Mother Nandi. Over The Year, However, Things Changed. The Position Of Dharam Singh Weakened In His Family. Bhanta, His Son Who Had Always Opposed Dharam Singh's Affectionate Regard For Jagsir Took No Time To Grab Back The Land Gifted By His Grand Father To Thola And Also Raced To The Ground, The Monument Erected By Jagsir In Memory Of His Father. The Aging Nandi Dies Of Shock. The Tragedy Of Jagsir Is Not Confined To This. It Is Also A Tragedy Of Unfulfilled Love For Bhani, Nikka's Wife. Though His Long Years Of Loneliness, It Is Opium Which Somewhat Alleviates The Storm Raging Inside Him.

**Modern Indian Literature, an Anthology: Surveys and poems** Oxford University Press, USA

The only novel of one of Kerala's leading women writers, Lalithambika Antharjanam's *Agnisakshi* is a telling account of a woman's life glowing as though purified in the "fire of sacrifice". Set against the history of Kerala, and life, customs, habits, and culture of the Namboodiri community, along with the fervent cries of the Indian National Freedom struggle, the characters act out their unforgettable roles: Tethi, the dazzling but disappointed bride who renounces worldly life; Unni Namboodiri, whose adherence to the Vedic way of life destroys his personal happiness; and Thankam, Unni's Nair cousin and the mighty Aphan Namboodiri's daughter, seeking her own liberation from the past. True to the lyrical and emotional tone of the original, Vasanthi Sankaranarayanan's translation offers a moving portrait of upper-class, upper-caste Kerala society just before and after Independence.

Wind Flowers Penguin UK

In this award-winning novel, Tharoor has masterfully recast the two-thousand-year-old epic, *The Mahabharata*, with fictional but highly recognizable events and characters from twentieth-century Indian politics. Nothing is sacred in this deliciously irreverent, witty, and deeply intelligent retelling of modern Indian history and the ancient Indian epic *The Mahabharata*. Alternately outrageous and instructive, hilarious and moving, it is a dazzling tapestry of prose and verse that satirically, but also poignantly, chronicles the struggle for Indian freedom and independence.

Western Influence on Malayalam Language and Literature D C Books

A restlessness born of guilt and despair leads Ravi to embark on a journey that ends in the remote village of Khasak in the picturesque Palghat countryside in Kerala. A land from the past, potent with dreams and legends, enfolds the traveller in a powerful and unsettling embrace. Ravi is bewitched and entranced as everything around him—the villagers; their children whom he teaches in a makeshift school; the elders who see him as a threat; the toddy-tappers; the shamans—takes on the quality of myth. And then reality, painful and threatening, begins to intrude on the sojourner's resting place and Ravi begins to understand that there is no escape from the relentless dictates of karma... Often poetic and dark, always complex and rich, *The Legends of Khasak*, O.V. Vijayan's much-acclaimed first novel, translated into English by the author, is an extraordinary achievement.

Selected Malayalam Short Stories Diamond Pocket Books (P) Ltd. Perhaps the only novel to have been reprinted nearly every year for over a hundred years, *Indulekha* (1889) is widely held to be the first Malayalam novel. Often called an 'accidental' and 'flawed' work, at its core lies a love story. The setting of the novel is the Nair community of Kerala, which had for centuries practised polyandrous matriliney, a most unusual form of inheritance through the woman whom both property and authority flavoured. It gives us glimpses of prevalent social practices much debated amongst a people already under colonial pressure to change their ways of life. Written by a Nair, *Indulekha* is not a grandiose outpouring but the author's effort to achieve certain social goals: firstly, to create a novel much like those of the English authors he had read, and secondly, to illustrate Nair society at that time, both of which met with success. The novel influenced the deliberations of the Malabar Marriage Commission which it predated, and of which Chandum enon was a member. This novel will appeal to general readers interested in Indian writings in translation. Students of literature, history and culture, political and legal theory, and gender studies, will also find it useful.

**Manjaveyil Maranangal** Rupa Publications

As Post-Colonial Mayyazhi (Mahe) Where History And Time

Flowed With The Water Under The Rusted Iron Bridge Tries To Come To Terms With Its New-Found Independence, Young Men Leave To Seek Their Fortunes Abroad. And Many Of The Older Generation, Orphaned By The Departure Of The French, Struggle To Eke Out A Living Even As They Remember Their Days Of Plenty Under Their Foreign Masters... Caught Up In Their Suffering, Kumaran Vaidyar Does Everything He Can To Keep The People Of His Beloved Mayyazhi From Starving, But Entrusts His Own Children To The Care Of His Beloved Wife, Who Is No More. Meanwhile, Father Alphonse Waves His Magic Wand And Changes Pebbles Into Candy And Waits For His Good-For-Nothing Son To Return. Through All This, Untroubled By The Woes Of The Elders, Shivan, Shashi And Elsie Spend An Idyllic Childhood In Sunny, Sleepy Mayyazhi. Until The Day Of Reckoning Catches Up With Them And They Pay The Price Of Growing Up. Mukundan S Two Seminal Mayyazhi Novels, *On The Banks Of The Mayyazhi* And *God S Mischief*, Are, At One Level, The Saga Of Mahe (Mayyazhi) With Its Legacy Of French Colonialism. At Another, They Are, Despite An Exuberant Parade Of Myths And Legends, A Chronology Of The Futile Search Of The Exiled Through The Crowded Alleys Of History. Mukundan Has...Made Mahe Into The Malgudi Of Malayalam Literature. S. Prasannarajan, *Times Of India* Mukundan S Novels Provide A Reading Of The History Of Colonialism Unavailable In A Historian S Ruvre. Prof. K.N. Panikkar, *Interrogating Colonialism: Novel As Imagined History*. Othappu OUP India

In The Novel There Is A Historical Romance, But Its Subtext Is A Political One Of Contemporary Significance. In The Novel There Is A Subplot With Subhadra At The Centre. Through What She Does Or What Happens To Her, C.V. Is Projecting A Futuristic Vision Of The New Woman In The Indian Context. The Conventional Image Of The Woman Is Replaced By An Imagined Figure That Was To Emerge On The Indian Scene. Another Unique Feature Of This Novel Is The Introduction, For The First Time, Of Untouchables, The Channans Of South Travancore. Hence Is Fiction Asserting Humanistic Values Over And Above The Taboos And Superstitions Of Yester-Years.

**The Legends of Khasak** Sahitya Akademi

National And State Literature Akademi Awardee M.T. Vasudevan Nair S Novel Is Set Against The Backdrop Of The Crumbling Matrilineal Order Of Kerala In A Newly Independent India. As Freedom And Democracy Promise Prosperity, A Young Upper Caste Boy Full Of Idealism Learns To Deal With A World That Is Less Than Ideal.

**Birbal The Clever** Vantage Press

This carefully selected collection of Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's short stories are characterised by a variety in theme and tone. He has enshrined in them every kind of experience from the pangs of hunger and sex to the rapture of mystic vision. Its range includes stark realistic pictures of the material world as well as the realm of fantasy haunted by ghosts and spirits. Basheer has written on love and hate, on politicians and pickpockets, on the fancies of childhood and on the disillusionments of adult life with an intense sense of the tragedy of life and at the same time an irrepressible sense of humour.

Glimpses of World History New Age International

Birbal had proved himself to be the most reliable minister at court, time and again. He dispensed justice, dealt diplomatically with other rulers, led military expeditions and composed poetry. In addition, he also rescued Akbar from the dangers of arrogance and unfettered power. Most importantly, he made the Great Mughal laugh.

Vaikom Muhammad Basheer: Ezhuthum Jeevithavum (3rd edition) D C Books

A classic collection of stories showcasing some of India's best-

known writers After a hesitant start towards the end of the nineteenth century, short fiction in Malayalam came into its own in the 1930s. Since then, writer has experimented with content, style and language to give the genre a unique standing in contemporary Indian literature as perhaps the most translated, not just into English and other Indian languages but also into other media such as film and television. From Vaikom Muhammed Basheer and O. Vijayan to Kamamla Das and Sarah Joseph, this volume brings together an extraordinary range of writers and themes. There are among others, M.T. Vasudevan Mair's 'Oppol', a story about childhood innocence and loss, which was made into award-winning film, Paul Zacharia's 'Bhaskara Pattelar and my Life' a brilliant psychological examination of the master-slave dialectic; Lalithambika Antherjanam's path-breaking 'Goddess of Revenge' in which a young Namboodiri woman becomes a prostitute to expose the hypocrisy of her husband and their rigidly orthodox community; and N.S. Madhavan's classic story of an upper-caste widow who finds redemption in the forbidden touch of a Pulaya. Translated with flair and integrity, these stories capture the vibrancy of a literary culture at its creative best.

#### Short Stories D C Books

The third in a trilogy of novels-the other two being *Aalahayude Pennakkal* (1999) which won a Central Sahitya Akademi Award, and *Maatathi* (2001)-*Othappu* is set in the Kerala Christian community, which splits broadly into Roman Catholics, Syrian Christians, and Charismatics who emphasize free worship and faith-healing. *Othappu* (2003), the winner of two State-level awards, raises important issues revolving around a self-consciously religious society: the role of piety, spirituality, family, sexuality, and the freedom of the individual or the lack of it. Peppered and layered with Biblical quotations and allusions, and carrying echoes and subtexts that parallel events in the New Testament, the novel gives us rare glimpses of Malayali Christian society. Literally meaning outrage or scandal directly linked with breaking sexual codes of behavior, *Othappu* is a crucial text chiefly because the socio-psychological implications of convent-life, and its contradictions and conflicts, have rarely been discussed in Indian fiction; nor has female subjectivity in the Malayali Christian culturescape been made available in English before. As Sara Joseph tunnels into the lives of her characters, the conclusion shows people up for who they really are, and what they are prepared to bear, in support of their actions. *Othappu* (2003), the winner of two State-level awards, raises important issues revolving around a self-consciously religious society: the role of piety, spirituality, family, sexuality, and the freedom of the individual or the lack of it. Peppered and layered with Biblical quotations and allusions, and carrying echoes and subtexts that parallel events in the New Testament, the novel gives us rare glimpses of Malayali Christian society. Literally meaning outrage or scandal directly linked with breaking sexual codes of behavior, *Othappu* is a crucial text chiefly because the socio-psychological implications of convent-life, and its contradictions and conflicts, have rarely been discussed in Indian fiction; nor has female subjectivity in the Malayali Christian culturescape been made available in English before. As Sara Joseph tunnels into the lives of her characters, the conclusion shows people up for who they really are, and what they are prepared to bear, in support of their actions. The current edition includes an insightful introduction by Jancy James, a discussion of the many meanings of *Othappu* by Paul Zacharia and an interview with the author. The novel will appeal to students and scholars of Indian literature in general and Malayalam literature in particular, comparative literature, gender studies, cultural studies, as well as general readers.

*Indulekha* Vantage Press

*Naalukettu*: The House Around the Courtyard is the story of a

young boy, Appunni, set in a matrilineal Nair joint family (a taravad) in the author's native village, Kudallur. Fascinated with accounts of the prestigious Naalukettu taravad from which his mother was expelled, Appunni visits the house only to be despised and rejected by all. Appunni grows up to earn enough money and returns to buy his ancestral home, but his victory soon turns into ashes when his father's murderer turns out to be the same man who was the only sympathetic adult in Appunni's lonely teenage years.

*Naalukettu* Penguin UK

*Pandavapuram* The paramours of Pandavapuram- they are the real nuisance/nightmare of all new brides who come there for their dream life. The Goddess who sits in the sanctum like a real brightening Indian bride always safeguards the innocent brides of Pandavapuram. Will she continue her protection? Mr. Sethu who is author of several best sellers like *Adyaksharangal*, *Adayalangal*, *Marupiravi*, *Aramathe Penkutti* etc doubts, Are these brides longing for a right to have more than one husband? In this new era of life; Do all our brides want to imitate Draupadi who had a legal consent for polygamy? Can't they be satisfied with one husband? The curious readers can go through a real mysterious fiction and they will surely enjoy the book with a different feeling

#### **Texts and Their Worlds** i Katha

He Had Eventful Experiences In A Prison And An Asylum. He Travelled With Sufis And Sanyasis And Did Odd Jobs. At The End Of It, Basheer Has A Bagful Of Stories. Coming From The Man Who Alerted The Map Of Malayalam Fiction Five Decades Ago, This Volume Of Short Stories Is Bound To Be An Unforgettable Experience.

*The Last Flicker* Orient Blackswan

A Companion to Foucault comprises a collection of essays from established and emerging scholars that represent the most extensive treatment of French philosopher Michel Foucault's works currently available. Comprises a comprehensive collection of authors and topics, with both established and emerging scholars represented. Includes chapters that survey Foucault's major works and others that approach his work from a range of thematic angles. Engages extensively with Foucault's recently published lecture courses from the Collège de France. Contains the first translation of the extensive 'Chronology' of Foucault's life and works written by Foucault's life-partner Daniel Defert. Includes a bibliography of Foucault's shorter works in English, cross-referenced to the standard French edition *Dits et Ecrits*. *A Clutch of Indian Masterpieces* Heinemann Educational Publishers

The powerful memory of a former love rules Radhika's inner world as she builds a small-time practice in law, and attempts normalcy in a marriage she neither wanted nor resisted. Raped at age ten, raped again as a young collegiate, she is abandoned twice: first by her father and later by Christy, who loved her, but takes her through a wedding ceremony only to leave her later the same day. When Christy returns sixteen years later, shattered and unstable, the burnt and withered roots of love bloom again. Trauma, betrayal, and loneliness are the colors that paint this picture of physical and emotional violence that Radhika endures.

*Scavenger's Son* University of Michigan Press

Najeeb's dearest wish is to work in the Gulf and earn enough money to send back home. He achieves his dream only to be propelled by a series of incidents, grim and absurd, into a slave-like existence herding goats in the middle of the Saudi desert. Memories of the lush, verdant landscape of his village and of his loving family haunt Najeeb whose only solace is the companionship of goats. In the end, the lonely young man contrives a hazardous scheme to escape his desert prison. *Goat Days* was published to acclaim in Malayalam and became a

bestseller. One of the brilliant new talents of Malayalam literature, Benyamin's wry and tender telling transforms this

strange and bitter comedy of Najeeb's life in the desert into a universal tale of loneliness and alienation.