





- **Quick Facts**

- **Name:** Raja Rao

- **Also Known As:** Writer and a Professor

- **Birth Date:** 8 November 1908

- **Died On:** 8 July 2006

- **Nationality:** Indian

- **Birth Place:** Hassan, Mysore



- **Awards:**

- **Sahitya Akademi Award (1964),**

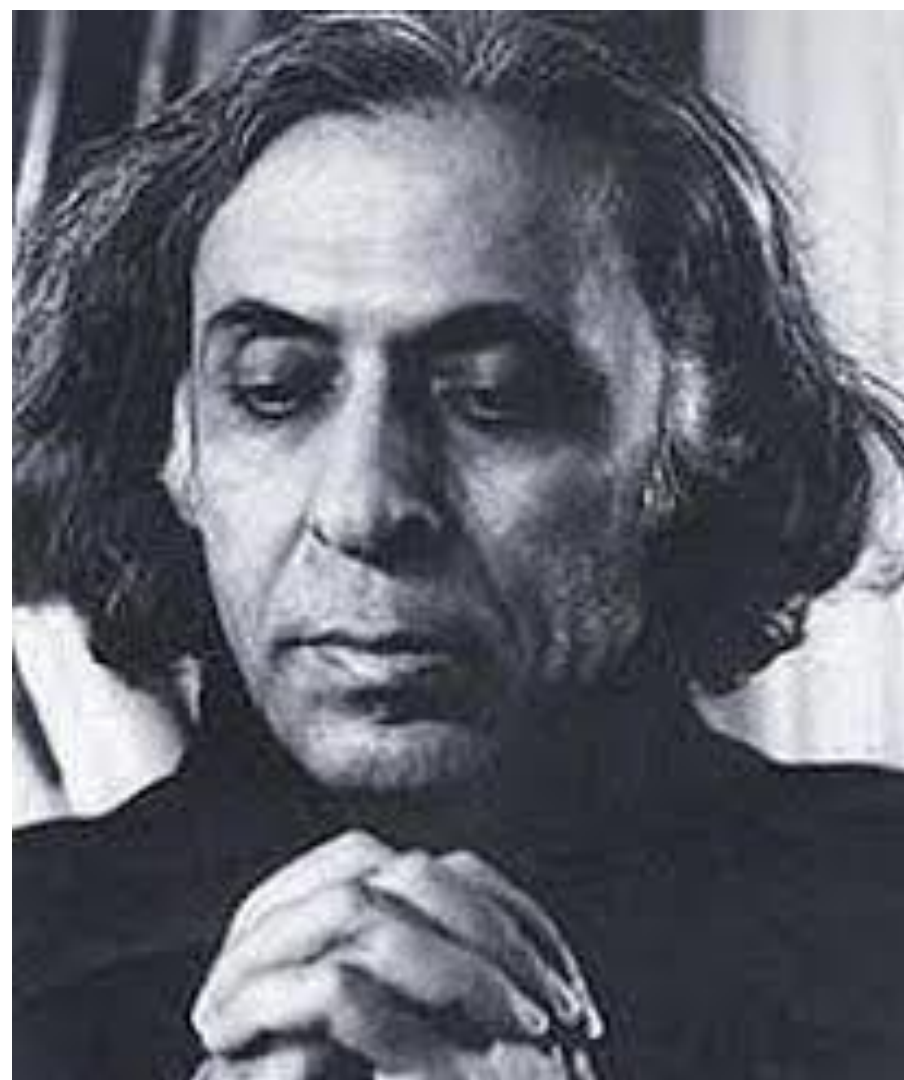
- **Padma Bhushan (1969)**

- **Neustadt International Prize for Literature  
(1988)**

- **Padma Vibhushan (2007)**

RAJA RAO'S  
**KANTHAPURA**

A CRITICAL STUDY



EDITED BY  
SUDAN SANKAR • RANU UNYAL

## Raja Rao

### RAJA RAO'S **KANTHAPURA**



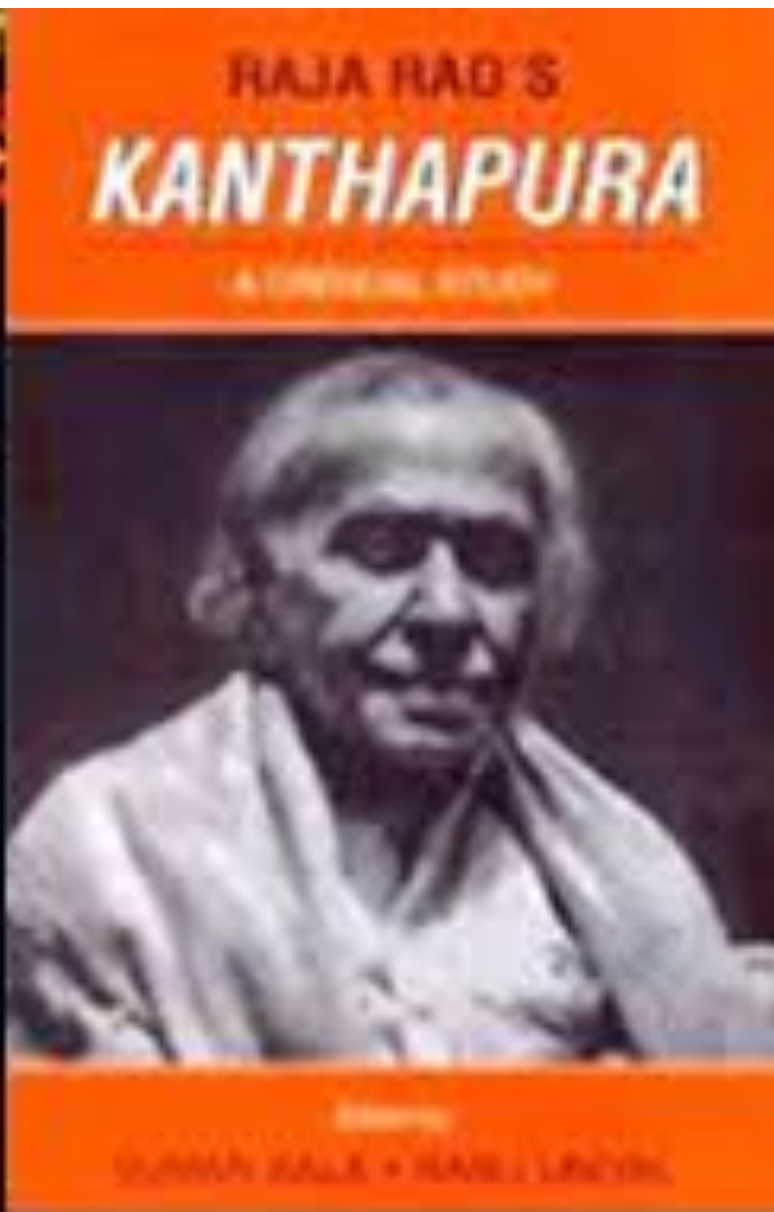
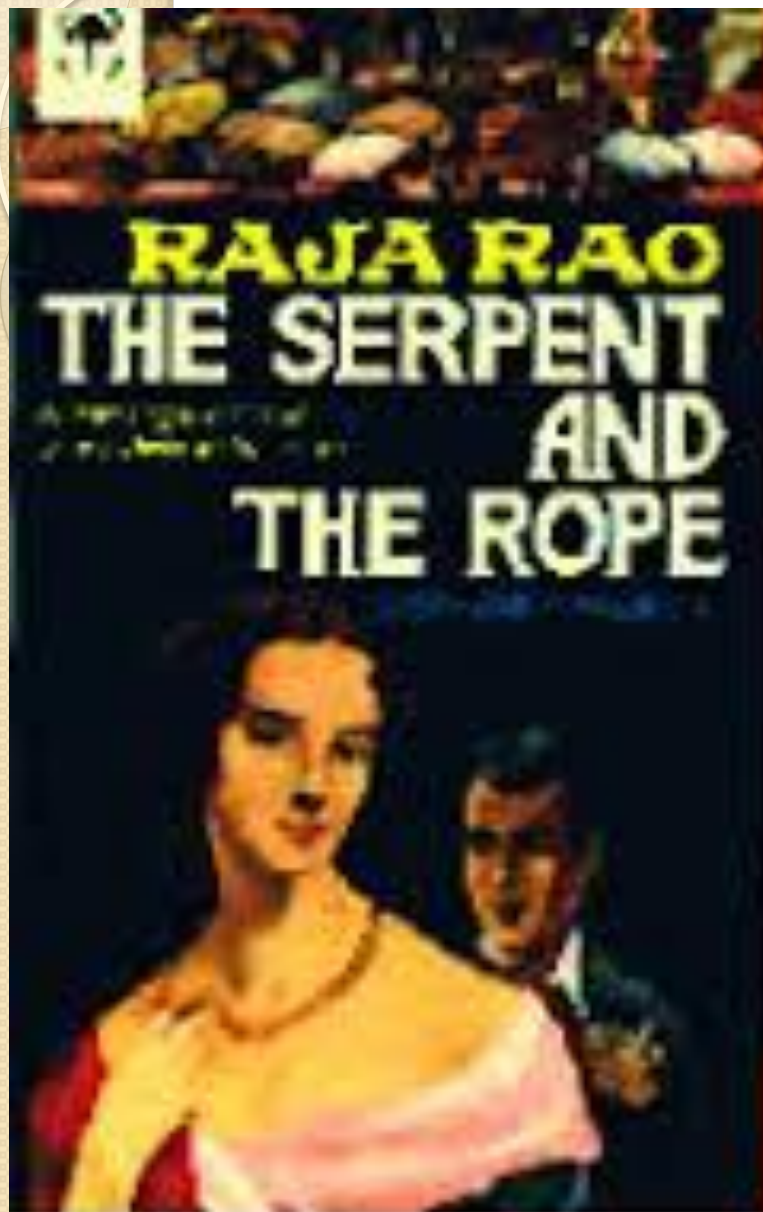
www.kannada.com

- Born on 8<sup>th</sup> november, 1908 in Hassan (Karnataka) in well-know Brahmin family .
- His mother tongue was Kannada and he was graduated from Madras and post-graduate in France, but the form of all his books publication was in English. He was an Indian writer of English language novels, short story and essay.
- He died at the age of 97 on 8<sup>th</sup> of July at Austin in Texas.

## Kanthapura:-

- "Kanthapura" is the story of a village in south India.
- Name of the village is Kanthapura.
- In this village we see the clear discrimination between Brahmin, Shudra and Parihas.





Novels of Raja Rao



**SOCIO-CULTURAL  
ASPECTS OF LIFE  
IN THE SELECTED  
NOVELS OF  
RAJA RAO**

*A. Sudhakar Rao*





**SOCIO-CULTURAL  
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THE  
**C**ow  
of the  
Barricades



RAJA RAO

- ***The Serpent and the Rope* (1960)**
- a **semi-autobiographical novel** recounting a search for spiritual truth in Europe and India
- established him as one of the finest Indian prose stylists and won him the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1964.**

- 
- He was the **eldest of 9 siblings, having seven sisters and a brother** named Yogeshwara Ananda.


- His father, **H.V. Krishnaswamy**, taught Kannada, the native language of Karnataka, at Nizam College in Hyderabad.
- His mother, **Gauramma**, was a homemaker who died when Raja Rao was 4 years old.

- The death of his mother, when he was four, **left a lasting impression on the novelist** –

the **absence of a mother** and

**orphanhood** are recurring themes in his work.

- Raja graduated from the **University of Madras**
- He received an **Asiatic scholarship, from the government of Hyderabad in the year 1929** for continuing his education in abroad.

- 
- Raja then moved to France and got admitted to the University of Montpellier.
  - He was the first English philosopher and novelist of Indian literature.



- He married Camille Mouly, who taught French at Montpellier, in 1931.




- the couple split in the year 1939.



- 
- Later he depicted the breakdown of their marriage in *The Serpent and the Rope*.

- Rao published his first stories in French and English.
- During 1931–32 he contributed four articles written in Kannada for *Jaya Karnataka*, an influential journal.

- Returning to India in 1939, he edited with Iqbal Singh, *Changing India*, an anthology of modern Indian thought from Ram Mohan Roy to Jawaharlal Nehru.

- 
- He participated in the Quit India Movement of 1942.
  - In 1943–1944 he co-edited with Ahmad Ali a journal from Bombay called *Tomorrow*.



- **Fiction: Novels**

- *Kanthapura* (1938)

- *The Serpent and the Rope* (1960)

- *The Cat and Shakespeare: A Tale of India* (1965)

- *Comrade Kirillov* (1976)

- *The Chessmaster and His Moves* (1988)

- **Fiction: Short story collections**
- *The Cow of the Barricades (1947)*
- *The Policeman and the Rose (1978)*
  - *The True Story of Kanakapala, Protector of Gold*
  - *In Khandesh*
  - *Companions*
  - *The Cow of the Barricades*





- **Fiction: Short story collections**

- *Akkayya*

- *The Little Gram Shop*

- *Javni*

- *Nimka*

- *India—A Fable*

- *The Policeman and the Rose*

- *On the Ganga Ghat (1989)*



- **Non-fiction**

- *Changing India: An Anthology* (1939)

- *Tomorrow* (1943–44)

- *Whither India?* (1948)

- *The Meaning of India, essays* (1996)

- *The Great Indian Way: A Life of Mahatma Gandhi, biography* (1998)



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विवरण  
DESCRIPTION

पत्नी Wife

व्यवसाय } WRITER

स्थान } HASSAN,

MYZORE

जन्म की तारीख } 21-11-1909

देश } INDIA

उंचाई } 1 मी. 65 से. मी.  
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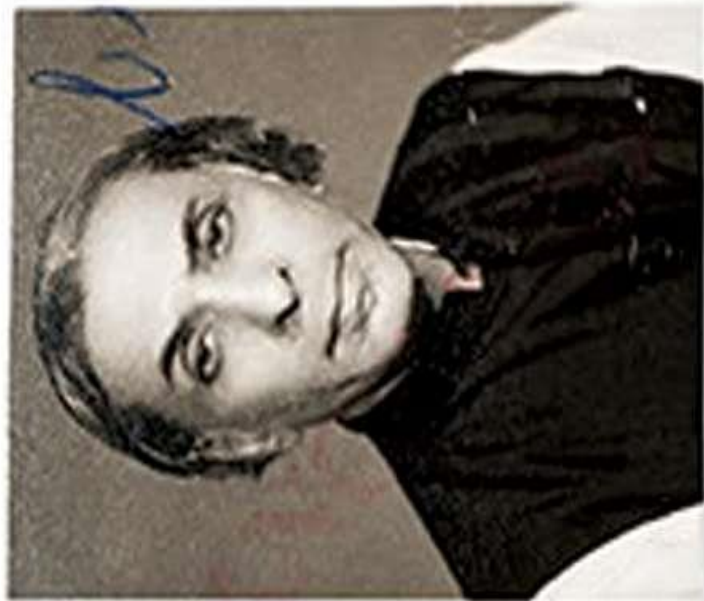
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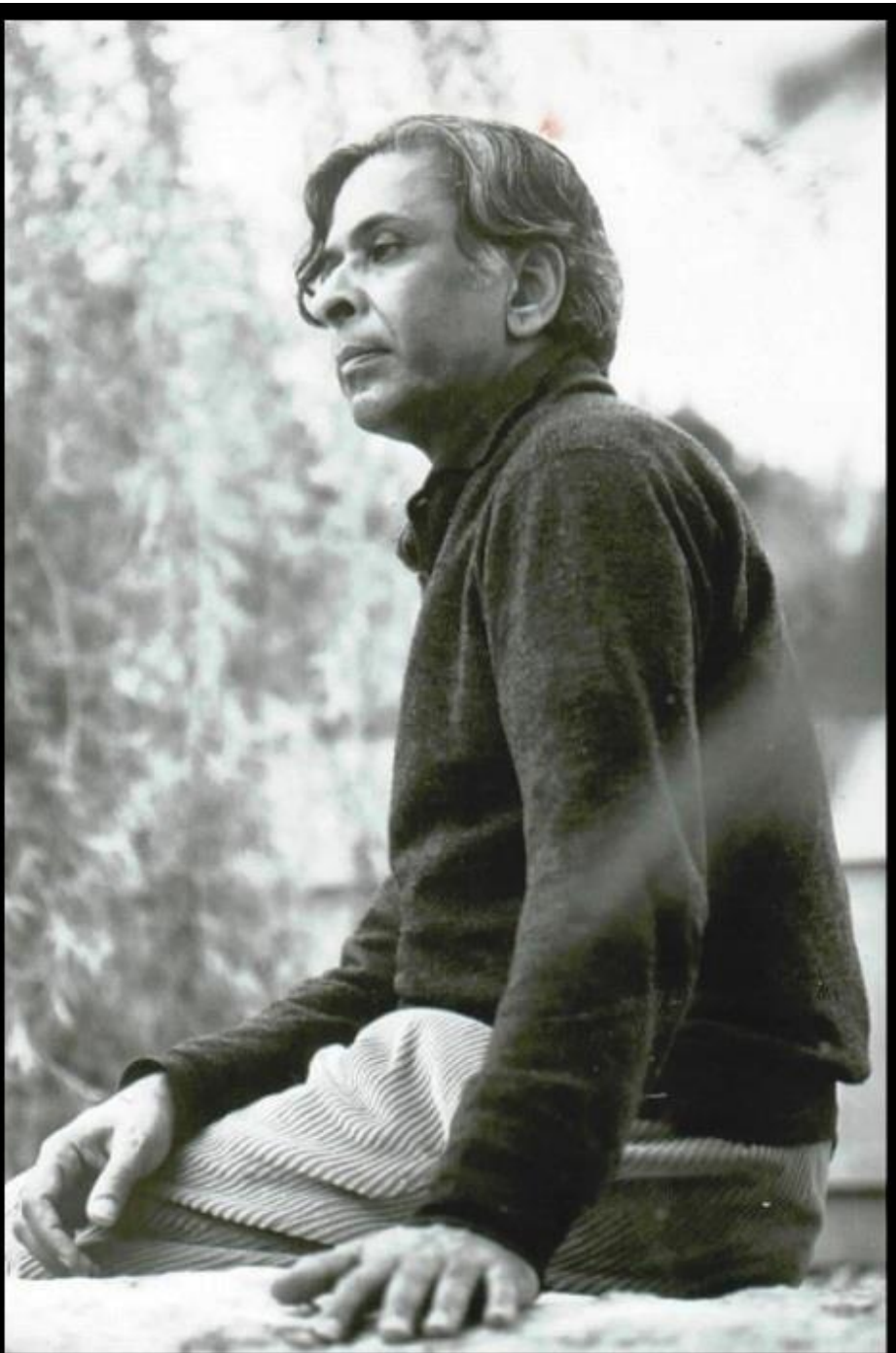
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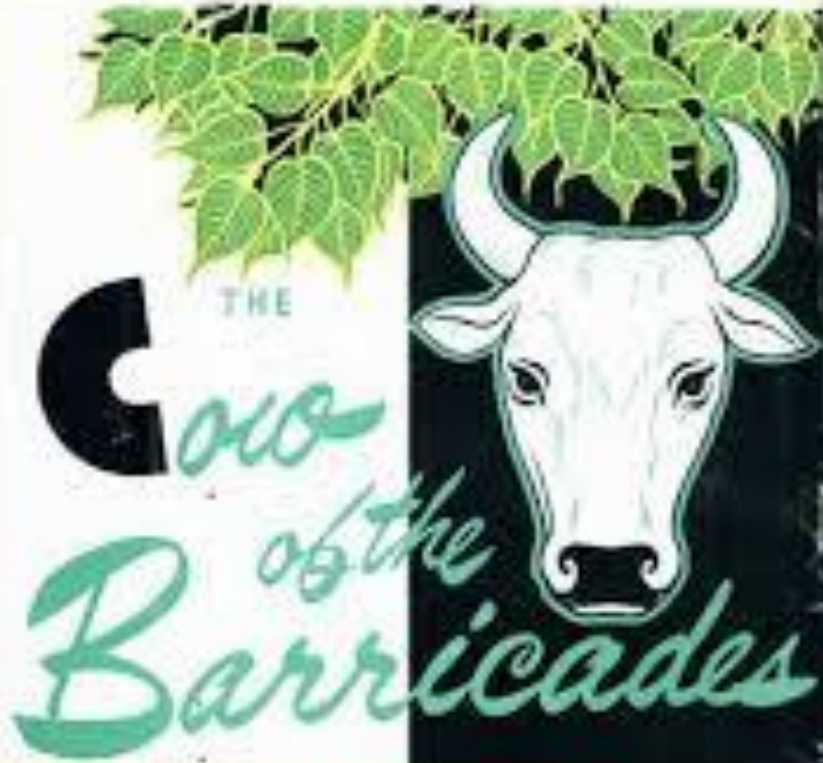
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RAJA RAO










- 
- In The Cow of the Barricades
  - we have the theme of **conflict, independence, struggle, control, sacrifice, peace and freedom.**


- 
- The short story “**The Cow of the Barricades**”
  - gives us a **picture of India’s struggle for independence under the inspiring leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.**


- The Master in this short story is none other than **Mahatma Gandhi.**
- The presence of the cow, Gauri, in this story and its death at the end of the story symbolizes the enduring source of energy that lies in **purity, peace, goodness and unselfishness.**
-




Original Photo of Gandhiji after death.  
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- 
- the story is narrated in the third person by an unnamed narrator


- 
- There are two sides in dispute.
  - The **government (British)** and those **who seek independence from the government.**

- 
- The Master does not.
  - Something which leaves many people in conflict with themselves –




- 
- It is also possible that the **Master is a representation of Mahatma Gandhi.**
  - Who struggled to **obtain independence from Britain through peaceful means.**
  - Something that the Master himself attempts to do throughout the story.


- 
- It is also noticeable that when **Gauri** arrives at the barricade the workmen lay down their weapons believing that they can see **Ghandi in Gauri**.


- 
- For the first time in the story **there is a sense that those in opposition to the government become conscious of the fact that they should follow the Master's lead** and strive for independence through peaceful means.

**My life is my message**  
**-M. K. Gandhi**




- 
- **The barricades that the workmen build** may also be symbolically important as they represent the workmen's opposition to British rule.

- 
- Similarly **by refusing to pay taxes to the government the workmen** (and others) are not only highlighting effectively their opposition to British rule but **symbolically they may also be attempting to defeat the government by peaceful means.**


- 
- The fact that **Gauri achieves martyrdom may also be important**
  - **She has sacrificed her life in the struggle for independence.**






- 
- Gauri is a symbol of peace but she is also a source of strength

- Through the master's words and Gauri's actions peace and independence has come to the town.

- 
- All people paid high respect to Gauri, the cow, **who used to visit the Master on every Tuesday evening before the sunset and nibble at the hair of the Master.**

- 
- The Master touched and caressed her and said: How are you, Gauri? She simply bent her legs and drew her tongue and shaking her head and ambled round him and disappeared among the bushes.
  - And till next Tuesday she was not be seen anywhere.

