

Thathajee of Telugu

Sahityasri Thapi, (11 years)

When I learned that my Great Grand Father, Thapi Dharmarao, was famous, I was thrilled. I got interested in him and wanted to learn more. So I collected facts about him and his life. What I learned is the following.

Thapi Dharmarao was an unforgettable person in the Telugu Literature World. He was the beginning of many changes in the language of Telugu. His writing inspired many people. Thapi Dharmarao was also known as Thathajee.

Thapi Dharmarao was born into a rich family on September 19th, 1887. His father Narsingarao was a government doctor who liked the British ways. He never encouraged his son to learn or read Telugu. But Thathajee was very interested in Telugu. Dharmarao was a student of Giddugu Rammurthi. He learned a lot from him. At the age of 14, Dharmarao read the Vijayavilasam.

His early education was in Srikakulam, matriculation was in Vijayanagram, and he finished his degree in Madras. Thathajee's first job was as a math teacher in a college in Bharampoomam. Later he started a magazine named Kontegadu, which only costed one Kani (2 pennies). For a few years he tutored royal children. He also wrote many articles for the magazine Prajmitra, under the pen name of Kothapali. When the Pitapoomam raja started the Janavani Magazine, Thathajee worked as the editor of the magazine. In a few years he started his own magazine (Kagada). Thapi Dharmarao was the founder of the

Visalandhra Newspaper. When he was in Orkado, Srungeri Peetadhipati honored him with the name Andhra Visaradha. In 1971, Thapi Dharmarao won the Sahitya Academy Award for Vijayavilasam Hridayollavyakhya. These are only a few of the many awards he won.

In 1904, Thapi Dharmarao married Anapoorna and later they had 2 daughters, and 3 sons. The youngest son was Thapi Chanakya who was a movie director in multiple Indian languages.

In 1936, Thathajee started his career in the Telugu movie field as the dialogue writer of "Sarangadara" film. He wrote the story, dialogues and lyrics to 50 other Telugu movies.



For example, Malapilla, Rithu Bida, KeeluGurram, Palletoori Pilla, Rojulu Marayi, and Bheeshma. He was the 1st person to use usage Telugu in movie dialogues. This is why they called him 'Telugu Bheeshma'.

Thathajee wrote many books. In each book, he explained beliefs or social issues existing in that particular time period. Like Devalayala meeda Boothubhoomalenduku, Inupakachdalu, and Pelli dhani Putuporotharalu. Thapi Dharmarao thought that to get married you should understand the mantras you chant. So he translated all the mantras into Telugu and explained the meaning of the mantras. Then he started performing weddings with his method. Even in his last days, Thathajee was an active member of the Nandi Awards Society and Andhra Sahitya Academy.

On May 8, 1973 Thapi Dharmarao died at the age of 86. His work in Telugu literature is unforgettable.

Books By Thapi Dharmarao:

- Devalayala Meeda Boothubhoomalenduku
- Ralu Rapalu
- Inupakachdalu
- Sahitya Mormaralu
- Pelli Dhani Potu Porvotharalu
- Pathapali
- Kothapali
- All India Adukone Vala Maha Sabha
- Vijayavilasam Hridayollavyakhya