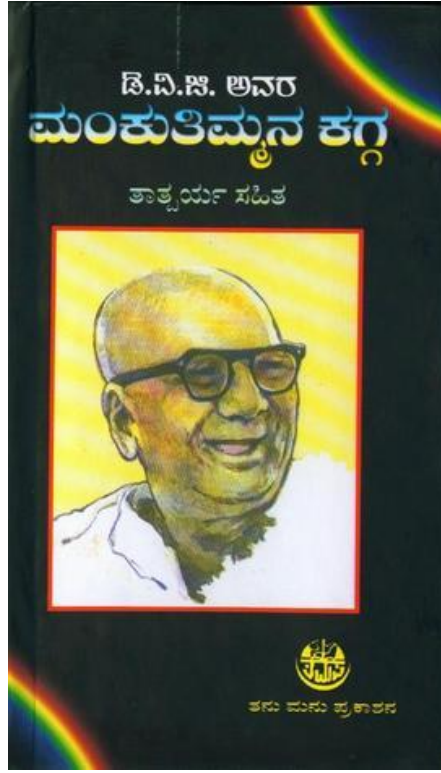




Manku Thimmana Kagga

Devanahalli Venkataramanaiah Gundappa , D.V.G

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Mankuthimmana Kagga, written by Dr. D. V. Gundappa (known by the name D V G) and published in 1943, is one of the best known of the major literary works in Kannada. It is widely regarded as a masterpiece among the Kannada speaking population of southern India, and is referred to as the Bhagavad Gita in Kannada. The title of this work can be translated as "Dull Thimma's Rigmarole". Kagga is a collection of 945 poems, each being four lines in length. Some of these poems are written in old Kannada style (halegannada). Kagga poems are profound as well as poetic. Most of them can be sung. Though the author calls it an 'afoggy fools forrago', it is a book giving expression to a noble personality's rich experiences. The poet politely that if the word Mankuthimma is crude and below standard it can be substituted by either Venka or Kanka or Shankararya as they please.

Manku Thimmana Kagga Details

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From Reader Review Manku Thimmana Kagga for online ebook

Vinay Kumar says

nice book

Anusha Arva says

The single most important work of literature I've read so far.

Mankutimmana Kagga is one of the most crucial works of literature that conveys profound philosophy in poems (945 of them) of mere four lines each. The work covers nearly every nuance of everyday life while conveying the much needed wisdom. DVG has given insights on simplicity, balance, attachment, detachment, morals, learning, emotional conditioning, nature, hunger, self awareness, hardwork, duties, cosmos, the Universe etc. No wonder it is referred to as “Common Man’s Bhagavad Gita”.

Coming to writing aspects, I am not well versed in HaLegannaDa (old Kannada style) and I do depend on English translations for a lot of Kaggas. From those that I understood without the help of translation, the way DVG strings extremely common words to convey striking philosophies is pure genius. I’ve become a huge fan of metaphors and imagery he employs in his writing. What appealed to me the most is that a number of Kaggas end with a beautiful advice/theory expressed in a single (the last) line containing 3 to 4 words at max. Example:

??????????????? - ????????? (Life is uncertain. Message being, we should learn to accept and deal with uncertainty.)

???????????????? - ????????? (Everything, good or bad, has an end. English equivalent: And in time, this too shall pass.)

??????????? ????? - ????????? (Live in the moment.)

???????????????? - ????????? (Practice moderation. Message being, excess of anything is harmful.)

It is a book that needs to be read at every stage of life.
