

Curry Goat and Calypso and Other Short Stories by Subba Rao

By : **Juggernaut**

In the collection of short stories entitled Curry Goat and Calypso, author Subba Rao assumes the name of Juggernaut in exploring his thoughts and experiences from living and travelling in India, Trinidad, Jamaica and the United States. His is a private cosmology that pertains to living in the current mode of life â his travels, as do the travels of his characters from India to a better life in America, he half-jokingly calls moksha, or salvation.

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Showing a free-ranging style that takes in the vastness of creation through his chosen motifs or symbolic characters, Subba Rao explores not only his roots but makes his knowledge of Indian culture and beliefs the bases of translating his experience of the world. It is done with a lighthearted affection for the world and its foibles and it shows in how Rao finds these little moments of humor with which to entertain his readers in the stories.

In India, Juggernaut explores the culture of Baba and idol worship; in Trinidad and Jamaica the easy going life style; in the United States the practices in the animal and yellow grease recycling business. In some stories, Juggernaut expresses his anguish over the bizarre sounding names given in the past to some tropical fruit and vegetable plants that now needs renaming to reflect their true identity. In all these stories, one can see the Indian sense of life as undivided from the spiritual plane, how things and beings just naturally travel from plane to plane. Rao comports himself with finesse and a delicate sense of spatial and temporal values on a wide range of subject matter on local culture and practices.

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