

Tucholsky Wagner Zola Scott  
Turgenev Wallace Fonatne Sydon Freud Schlegel  
Twain Walther von der Vogelweide Fouqué Friedrich II. von Preußen  
Weber Freiligrath Frey  
Fechner Fichte Weiße Rose von Fallersleben Kant Ernst Richthofen Frommel  
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Fehrs Faber Flaubert Eliasberg Eliot Zweig Ebner Eschenbach  
Feuerbach Maximilian I. von Habsburg Fock Ewald Vergil  
Goethe Elisabeth von Österreich London  
Mendelssohn Balzac Shakespeare Rathenau Dostojewski Ganghofer  
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Mommsen Thoma Tolstoi Lenz Hambruch Droste-Hülshoff  
Dach Thoma von Arnim Hägele Hanrieder Hauptmann Humboldt  
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# **Truth and the Myth : Couplets quips**

A. R. Narayanan

# Imprint

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I dedicate this book to that entity who has granted me all mental and physical faculties and keeps me in the world whom I could not meet yet, in spite of my constant search.



## FOREWORD

By Dr. D Anjaneyulu, M.A., B.L., D.Litt.

Author and Journalist, Ex. President: Madras Press Club  
and

Member: Authors Guild of India.

When Mr. A.R. Narayanan rang me up to ask me for a foreword to his book of verse, I did not know what I was in for. Because I had not met him before, nor had I read any of his written work. But I was instantly impressed by the simplicity and sincerity, earnestness and anxiety in his voice, and I readily agreed.

At the outset, I must say that I was attracted by the title of the work "Truth and the Myth - couplets Quips". 'Couplet' reminded me of the heroic couplets of Alexander Pope (Dunciad and the rest) and those of John Dryden (Mac Flecknoe and so on). 'Quips were reminiscent of the witticisms of Bernard Shaw, the epigrams of Oscar Wilde and the paradoxes of G.K. Chesterton. A combination of the two should be quite spicy, I imagined. Nor was I disappointed. For, I found them undoubtedly spicy and readable. The couplets in this booklet cover a wide range of subjects of general interest - of God and Man, of life and death, of truth and lies, of profession and practice, of politics and profit making and many other things. The concept of truth and myth seemed to remain upper most in the mind of the author, as when he says:

"In the beginning was the word;..... word was  
truth;

Now word of truth has become old-fashioned myth"

He is refreshingly frank in the expression of his views, be they traditional or modern or a happy blend of both. This, for instance, of God and Man:

"Who created man is unsolved mystery -  
But creation of God is mans mastery"

"If everywhere the God fill  
Where, on earth, do devils dwell?"

The author has no patience with man's capacity to deceive himself and others, and man's flair for hypocrisy. And rightly so too, as we are all sure to agree:

"Say one thing and do something else  
Is the first step towards success".

"Man is prisoner of his own mind;  
None else can bail him out of the bond

Sometimes, he is philosophical and unconventional, as in the couplet:

"If our God is present everywhere,  
Should one go to temple for prayer?"

Or

"Why need middlemen  
Between God and man?"

At other times, he is satirical, with elements of irony and sarcasm. But he is always effective, because he is in right earnest.

This might be his first attempt at poetic composition, but there is maturity of thought and depth of feeling, which come from his variety of experience in life. I wish more power to his elbow; and hope that this collection, or may be selection, of couplets, will have a wide circle of readers. The quips are thought provoking, without being too harsh or hurting.

Dr. D. Anjaneyulu

Madras, 22nd May 1995

## INTRODUCTION

Look around us, people are busily engaged in many things; serious, silly or sincere; inducing a spurt of smile or laughter; of fun, scorn or sympathy; on our lips. You and me are no exception. We too contribute to others fancy.

"Of God's creations, only man can laugh -  
For, to be laughed at, he does lot enough"

Laughing at others, we should also be bold to direct the very scorn at ourselves. But many of us simply won't or refuse to in the belief that each one of us is an exception. Laughter is a good medicine and, coming out of the hermit shell, we should learn to laugh at all laughable actions of the self and others. Man is sincere to and concerned only about himself. In his frenzy to own all the comforts and happiness of the world, he forgets his roots, tradition, nobility, culture and obligations towards the society, rendering his every action a ludicrous one.

"Man invented money for trading;  
But, on man, money is now treading"

Money has become everything to man and he is today and addict to it. His prayers, religious rites and marital, paternal, filial and fraternal relationships are guided by the quantum of money inflow. Here, in this era, man would do anything for handful of money because money is power.

Man derives all pleasures, respect, opportunities, and even a ticket to contest elections as candidate of a popular political party, get through it and reach positions on the top rung of political ladder by mere might of money. When the moneyed scoop all the fortunes on earth, the poor can only gaze agape at them, with a sigh.

The moneyed may be able to buy everything on earth, but not love. To exploit and live under his opulence, even distant relations and kith around him will pretend to love him. He will live in a fool's paradise believing that all of them really care for him, until

the day his last pie is drained off and the love, sincerity and the loyalty of this so-called kith and kin are put to the acid test.

Even after knowing the occult deceptive function of it, man stakes his life in the grand race for money. Blinded by the spell of its tinkle, money becomes everything for him. He plunges into all sorts of malpractice to earn money and to create a comfortable cushion of savings.

No man is an exception to it. However, the most culpable are the public servants that have turned the public offices into private profit centres. Their pray are the poorest of the poor and those who are in distress.

Religious consciousness and respect for human values are overtly exhibited and upheld by him and he goes through all the rites and customs, in the guise of a man committed to social well being, camouflaging the evil intentions that lie deep beneath his heart. The places of worships, priests, charitable institutions and social organisations get profuse patronage from such people who literally steal the show wielding money. The poor are trampled to earth by the moneyed in their endeavour to grow tall, tall and taller, piercing the sky.

As the obeisance for money grew, the religious devotion became a mere ritualistic showpiece without any priming or pricking of conscience. Not only the religious rites, but also man's every interaction with his family, relatives and the society, in general, have become a real deplorable mockery. The sacred profession people select are also being desecrated by taking short cuts to riches at the cost of quality.

Religious fanaticism is another epidemic that has, of late, invaded the mankind. The intolerance of alien faith assumed devastating proportions and threatens the very existence of social, national and international amity. While none of the staunch fanatics have met God and ascertained his identity, they do not realise, all their frenzies to safeguard and sanctify the name they attribute to the God are all ill disposed. The masses follow the religious leaders blindly reminding the innocent children that walked into the back of beyond trailing the Pied Piper under the spell of his magical music.

God and the religions are creations of man for the betterment of mankind. Trifling all tenets and codes of moral conduct of their religion, the fanatics violently impose their ideology on the followers of alien faith and get easily infuriated on expression of slightest dissention or criticism.

Where will this tendency take us? I am afraid, back to savagery. I dart my thoughts towards all social evils, sprouted from the lust of money, egoism, and religious fanaticism, in the form of couplet quips, philosophy instilled and sarcasm anointed.

Many of these couplets are impregnated with occult and thought-provoking concepts and the reader may have to think and think over, even traverse through religious scriptures to enjoy the real kick of it.

I do not know how far I have succeeded in making an impact on the conscience of society and in summoning one and all to throw down their gloves against this social menace.

You are the judge. I welcome your bouquets and brickbats alike and, whichever it may be, I love to treasure it within the inner lobe of my heart, wrapped in velvet, forever.

A.R. Narayanan

OUM Namō Narayanaya! Chanting hymn octave  
Narayanan offers at Thy feet, his couplets stave.

## ALMIGHTY

If temple idols suddenly start speaking,  
All the devotees, from sanctum, start sneaking!

The god who is all pervading  
For fear of human, now hiding!

The god Almighty is cemented\* To altar, by him He created! (\* In Hindu temples, the idols are fixed on the altar by 'Ashta bandham', i.e. eight knots, a rite of cementing and consecration using gum made of eight ingredients consisting of lacs and seeds)

Who created man is unsolved mystery  
But, creation of god is man's mastery!

Who is, how is and what name is the God?  
Man gives various answers as per his mood!

If everywhere the god fill,  
Where, on earth, do devils dwell?

Prayers are like letters sent by post -  
Some may reach, some in transit, get lost.

Why count thy incantations by rosaries,  
To be accounted in Lord's inventories?

So good, you're praying for hitting jackpot,  
But, buy a ticket at the racing spot!

The timid bashful lotus, the mud born, Reached the palm of the Lord\*, by devotion. (\* Hindu God Vishnu, the second among the Trinity, is depicted as holding a full bloom lotus on his right palm.)

Formless god is difficult to conceive  
Formation of the formless is defective.

God, like spice to the soup,  
Adds flavour to life's scope.

For all our deeds, let Him be patron;  
For he shall, all our mistakes, pardon.

Partha\* prayed unto the Lord to be his charioteer;  
Whom do you opt to drive yours thro' the future?  
(\* Another name for Arjuna, the warrior hero of Hindu  
scripture, Mahabharata)

Rituals are based on solid truth;  
The faithless find it all mere stealth.

"Man proposes but God disposes", an adage;  
If proposal be divine, even God will budge.

All the bank balance you have piled up  
Can't tilt His balance when you are called up.

Only at the hour of calamity  
We all seek helping hand of Almighty!

Lord who taught us not to expect fruit of action\*  
Hath never sought reward for prayers he'd sanction  
(\* Lord Krishna in Bhagvat Gita)

God is not one we should visit;  
Make Him descend into our midst.

When one has to wage a Mahabharatha war  
Certainly need a "Krishna" to prop him from rear.

The religions amidst us were not founded  
By Krishna, Jesus, Buddha or Muhammad.

Unmanifest will manifest  
When atheist becomes theist.

You shall thank God for being generous  
In giving you that he's denied others.

God used to come in the guise of man;  
Now the man comes in the guise of God.

If "child is the father of man",  
Man is the father of God.

Drop the 'I' from "O I'm", "O me", "O my" and "O mine" Remaining is Om,\* chanting which makes one's life divine. (\* The monosyllable hymn of Hindus called "Pranava Manthra" believed to be the source of the entire cosmos, chanting of which is believed to produce psychosomatic changes in the body)

If our god is present everywhere,  
Should one go to temple for prayer?

God is in you and you are in God  
But you are you, you cannot be God.

One step you pace forward on the road to God,  
You will be few steps nearer to his abode.

Sacraments are not made for God to eat.  
In it, man gives himself his choicest treat.

Radha\* still awaits, on the banks of Yamuna, That determined not to return cupid Krishna. (\* Radha, was the consort of Sri Krishna until adolescence in Brindavan. When he left for Mathura for good, He promised to rejoin her soon but he never did. She awaits him since the moment He left her. The expectation of sweet reunion keeps her alive and her fondness for Krishna remains fresh in her bosom. So does a devotee.)



# MAN

Of God's creations, only man can laugh,  
For, to be laughed at, he does a lot enough!

The dawn marks the reign of Sun on earth;  
The dust marks the reign of sons of earth.

Only blind love can make us see  
God who gave us two eyes to see.

Man is willing to do anything  
For the sake of couple of Farthing!

Lady of the house is Lakshmy\*, And man of the house is dummy.  
(\* Lakshmy is the Hindu Goddess of prosperity. In India, chaste housewife who is at the realm of household stands sentinel of the moral codes of conduct and, by it, causes the heavens to shower prosperity on the entire family. She is equated to Lakshmy.)

You can buy and own all that is on earth,  
But will you enjoy it after your death?

Live, and, while living, earn only for living;  
For, you can't carry the surplus while leaving!

From earth, plants produce things useful numerous;  
Man only consumes quantity enormous!

The most uncommon is common sense;  
And most inhuman is the human.

Man is said to be a social animal  
Since, in him, beastly qualities still prevail

Man invented money for trading,  
But, on man, money is now treading!

Coming out of the womb  
Man walks unto his tomb.

Man who will rest at last in a coffin  
Wrests until his last to fill his coffer.

Lord hath rightly named woman  
Since she is made to woo man

"Do not expect the fruit of action"\*  
But be on guard for its reaction!  
(Expounds Lord Krishna in Bhagvat Gita)

Day man is born, creator's job's over- Hell with Brahma\*, who  
cares for him thereafter? (\* Hindus believe, Brahma the first of the  
Trinity is the creator. Strangely, He is not worshipped widely as  
only two temples are dedicated to Him.)

Animals mate for procreation;  
Men mate for simple recreation.

Women are no weaker sex any longer:  
The wonder pill makes them virtually stronger!

Ministers gladly offer service,  
Free at church and for fee at office!

Mother's labour in bringing forth a child  
Can't be paid for, even by tons of gold.

Sun lights the world, emitting rays perceptual;  
Since world spins and is unsteady, nights do fall.

The lotus, that blooms under sunlight,  
Won't bloom at night, if thousand lamps lit.

Attachment to kith, kin and wealth  
Brings all the misery on earth.

Against thy wishes, thou grow and get old;  
Life flows on its own, to live it, be bold.

Evil sees only viciousness  
In the goodness of the virtuous.

You can, well, cork the mouths of a thousand bottles,  
But not that of one that always tittle-tattles.

The one, for long, had gone through adverse times,  
Be afraid to face even good that comes!

So far, none is born in this world  
Whose mind did not, at times, run wild.

None is perfect, each having a blemish;  
Even the sun has black spot to tarnish.

Singer wishes to perpetuate his name  
Shall stop singing at the peak of his fame.

If tomorrow wouldn't be dawn,  
What's the worth of all that you own?

Through mythology we try to know the myth;  
Though many of us try to ignore the truth.

I can't say: "miles to go before I sleep",  
Because the last sleep is not in my grip.

Behold, if somebody is nobody, nobody respects;  
Anybody is anybody, anybody respects.

In this universe of eternal darkness,  
Sunshine, at times, brings momentary brightness.

Elation and dejection  
Are the mind's self-deception.

We are searching for peace of mind  
Keeping it locked up within mind.

What you know now is only a millionth  
Fraction of what you ought to learn henceforth!

Better be fragrant flower ephemeral  
Than living millennia as granite idol.

Beautiful dame willing for any game  
Gains, in record time, all the wealth and fame.

You cannot speak out all that you think;  
For, most of them are rubbish that stink!

While mundane life is a myth;  
Money is eternal truth!

Follow wise counsel, to the letter,  
Even though it always tastes bitter!

Poor know the comforts enjoyed by the rich  
Rich are ignorant of poverty's pinch.

Who dives deep down comes up with a pearl;  
Who flies high lands with nothing at all!

Boy, titled "Master" grows up to a "Mister"  
Can then gray-haired old man be a "Mooster"?

Even wildest fire will itself extinguish  
If it has nothing more to devour afresh!