

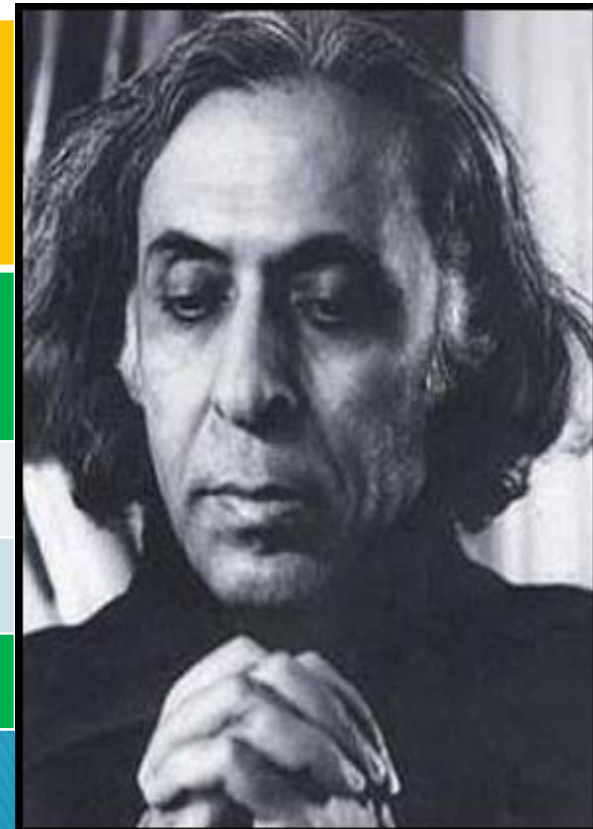
VAISHALI MAHILA MAHAVIDYALAYA HAJIPUR, VAISHALI

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Takes you to–

KANTHAPURA

K.Raja Rao

Born	8 November 1908,Hassan,Kingdom of Mysore,British India
Died	8 July 2006,Austin,Texas,USA
Occupation	Writer,Professor
Language	Kannada,French,English
Nationality	Indian



Alma mater

Osmania University, University
of Madras,
University of Montpellier
Sorbonne

Period

1938 –1998

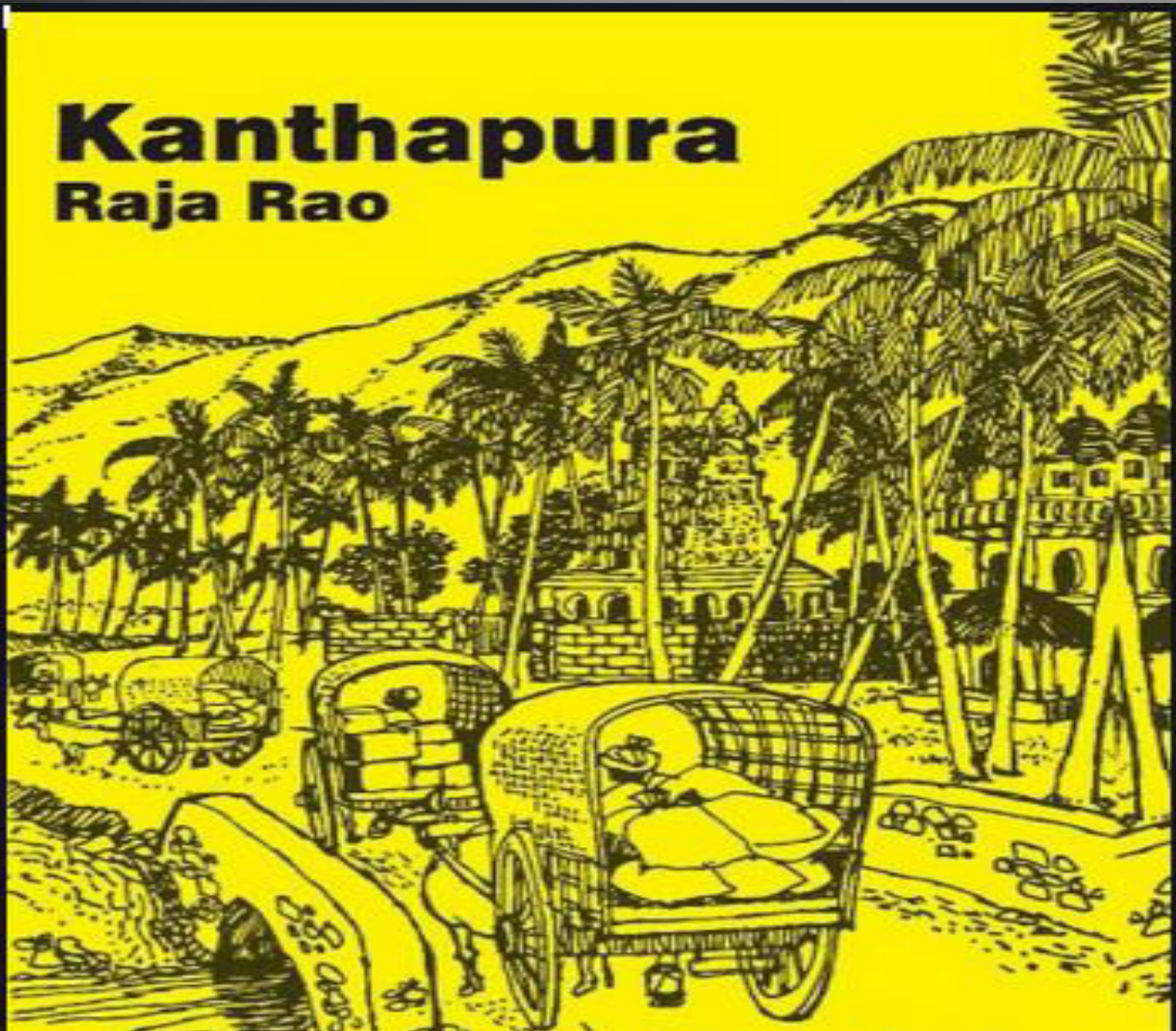
Literary movement

Notable works

Kanthapura(1938)
The Serpent and the
Rope(1960)

Kanthapura

Raja Rao



Kanthapura Characters

- ▶ *Achakka
- ▶ *Rangamma
- ▶ *Bada Khan
- ▶ *Bhatta
- ▶ *Ratna
- ▶ *Moorthy
- ▶ *Mr. Skeffington

Summary

- ▶ Rather than being a traditional novel with a neat linear structure and compact plot, *Kanthapura* follows the oral tradition of Indian sthala-purana, or legendary history. As Raja Rao explains in his original foreword, there is no village in India, however mean, that has not a rich legendary history of its own, in which some famous figure of myth or history has made an appearance. In this way, the storyteller, who commemorates the past, keeps a native audience in touch with its lore and thereby allows the past to mingle with the present, the gods and heroes with ordinary mortals.

- ▶ The story is narrated in flashback by Achakka, a wise woman in the village. She, like her female audience (whom she addresses as “sisters”), has survived the turbulence of social and political change which was induced by Mohandas K. Gandhi’s passive resistance against the British government. Achakka provides a detailed picture of the rural setting, establishing both an ambiance and a rhythm for the novel. It is clear that her speech and idiomatic expression are meant to express a distinctively feminine viewpoint an extraordinary achievement for a male Indo-English novelist.

- ▶ Achakka quickly creates a faithful image of an Indian way of life, circumscribed by tradition and indebted to its deities, of whom Kenchamma, the great and bounteous goddess, is made the village protectress. She is invoked in every chapter, for the characters never forget that her power resides in her past action. It is she who humanizes the villagers, and their chants and prayers ring out from time to time.

- ▶ The narrator establishes the parameters of the story within old and new legends. While Kenchamma and Siva are remembered for their marvelous feats and interventions in human affairs, analogies are sometimes drawn with contemporary figures such as Gandhi who serve to turn fact and history into folklore , and who provide the motive for political struggle. At the beginning, while there are simply rumors of Gandhi's activities, the villagers follow their customary routines. Then, Moorthy, a young, dedicated Brahmin, inspired by Gandhi,...

HOPE YOU
UNDERSTOOD AND
ENJOYED

THANK YOU