



PERSPECTIVES ON INDIAN DALIT LITERATURE

Critical Responses

Dipak Giri



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**The Rise of the Falcon from the
Limbo of Non-Existence:
A Reading of Bama's *Karukku***

Aswathy Mohan

One of the most significant features of the postmodernist movement in India is literature's unapologetic shift in focus to the marginal existence of Dalits. The recent spurt in Dalit literature in India is an attempt to foreground the experiences of discrimination, violence, and poverty the Dalit have been subjected to for many a millennium. The phenomenal growth in Dalit writing indicates, among many others mid twentieth century developments, the growing need of the Dalits themselves to articulate their experiences. These voices question the institutions and ideologies that have placed them at the margins. As Arjun Dangle observes:


Dalit Literature is one, which acquaints people with the caste system and untouchability in India, its appalling nature and its system of exploitation. In other words, Dalit is not a caste but a realization and is related to the experiences, joys and sorrows, and struggles of those in the lowest stratum of society... 'Dalit' means masses exploited and oppressed economically, socially, culturally, in the name of religion and other factors. Dalit writers hope that

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