



Chandrasekhara Kambara (India)

Two Trees

A tree by the side of a lake,  
And another within.

Above – the real tree  
And below – the tree reflected.

One shivers when the waves appear  
And the other smiles.

But remember, the tops are two  
And yet the root is one for these trees.

As you climb up the one  
You climb down the other.  
Your head will be held high as you climb  
And turned down as you climb down the other.  
The blue field above  
Its reflection below  
And one silence in both of them.

Think that you will become thin air  
As you climb up.  
But remember,  
You are destined to come down.  
Going up is your decision.  
Coming down is something beyond you.

Those who climb up  
Will reach the heaven –  
It is said.  
We are not sure.

But those who drown  
Will reach down,  
It is certain.

The point of merging of the real tree  
And the tree reflected has vanished.  
And that is the tragic flow of this story.

That's why, I'll tell you,  
My friend, even if you climb up  
You can't help hanging your head downwards.  
Jump, reach the bottom,  
And search the vanished land –  
Search and live.

Translated from Kannad by O L Nagabhushana Swamy

チャンドラセハラ カンバラ (インド)

二本の樹

湖のそばの樹  
そしてその中に樹

上のは一本物の樹  
下のは一映りし樹

波に震えると  
片方が微笑む

が 忘るな 天辺は二つ  
で これら 根は一つ

きみが一方に上れば  
きみは片方を下りる  
きみの頭は高くなり  
で 片方を下りる  
青い空が上にあり  
それは下方に映る  
双方に一つの静寂が

空気が薄くなると思え

上りゆくと  
が 思い出せ  
きみは下りていく途中  
上るのはきみの決断  
下りるのは何か及ばぬもの

上るものは  
天を見る――  
そう言われたもの  
ぼくらはそうじゃない  
下りるものは  
到るのだ  
確かに

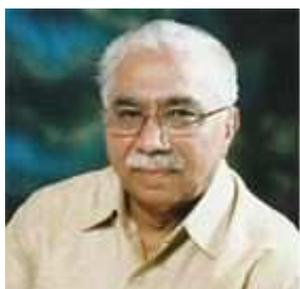
本物の樹の点  
で その樹の投影が消える  
で それがこの話の悲劇の流れ

なぜなら、言ってあげよう  
友よ、たとえきみが上っても  
きみは首を下方へ吊らずにはいられない  
跳べ、底につけ  
で 消えた国を探せ――  
探して生きろ

Translated from Kannad by O L Nagabhushana Swamy

Translated from English by Mariko Sumikura

#### Profile



Chandrashekhara Kambara (Kannada: ಛಾಂದ್ರಶೇಖರಾ ಕಂಬರಾ ) (born 2 January 1937)

is a prominent Indian poet, playwright, folklorist, film director in Kannada language and the founder-vice-chancellor of Kannada University in Hampi.

He is known for effective adaptation of the North Karnataka dialect of the Kannada language in his plays, and poems, in a similar style as in the works of D.R. Bendre.

Kambara's plays mainly revolve around folk or mythology interlinked with contemporary issues, inculcating modern lifestyle with his hard-hitting poems and has become a pioneer of such literature. His contribution as a playwright is significant not only to Kannada theatre but also to the Indian theatre in general as he achieved a blend of the folk and the modern theatrical forms.

He has been conferred with many prestigious awards including the Jnanpith Award in 2011

for the year 2010, Sahitya Akademi Award, the Padma Shri by Government of India, Kabir Samman, Kalidas Samman and Pampa Award. After his retirement, Kambara was nominated Member of Karnataka Legislative Council, to which he made significant contributions through his interventions.

