





### An Appreciation

I was pleasantly surprised by the collection of tales under the head Bhoomi Tales to be published by S.Cyril Alexander on behalf of Centre for Social Work and Research, Chennai 600024. Besides being interesting by themselves, all the stories have significance of positive thinking. The tales are collected from different districts of Tamil Nadu but they are universal in the message they contain. I was particularly impressed by the story 'What the Cloud and the Stars Wished For.' In an unobtrusive manner God grants the wishes of Cloud and Stars only for them to realise the wisdom of nature with unique functions for the innumerable phenomena. The twenty five stories in this collection are backed up by appropriate notes and questions which would help the reader get to the bottom of truth underlying the stories. The translation by Dr. Mary Vidya Porselvi is done keeping in mind of young, uninitiated readers. The collection and appendices are a delight to be shared by young minds not only of the southern region of this country but to children of other developing countries also. My sincerest congratulations to all involved in the venture of bringing out 'Bhoomi Tales.'

Chennai, Jan.24, 2015

Ashokamitran

*Bhoomi Tales is a collection of stories narrated by rural women from many districts of Tamilnadu and translated into English. In this simple world of Women, cat and fox are friends; Elephant receives a hunter as his guest; Long-tailed monkey saves his friends from danger; Clouds and stars wish to touch the earth; Parrots in a banyan tree take care of a little princess; Neem tree and mango tree are friendly neighbours; Little sparrows find refuge in sea-god's palace; A Bear saves a man from tiger; Cock, sparrow and ant work in a farm; A child teaches a lesson to the king; Fishes gift pearls to a fisherman; Kandam becomes a king for his honesty; Nandan and Govindan learn a lesson for their greed; Good things happen to good people. Indeed a celebration of Mother Earth and all her children.*

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