

Omprakash Valmiki's Joothan : A narrative of caste oppression

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Joothan is an autobiography of Dalit's life. It was published in Hindi in 1997 and translated into English by Arun Prabha Mukherjee in 2003. Joothan is related to Hindi word "jootha" which means scraps of food left on a plate. The writer has mirrored India's untouchable have been forced to accept and eat joothan for century and encapsulates the pain of humiliation and poverty of a community forced to live at the bottom of Indian society. More than 65 years of independence and the condition of Dalits are not completely changed. In this narrative Omprakash Valmiki has narrated his own personal experience since he was born. His narrative is the depiction of not only his own personal experience but that of his community also. This paper is an attempt to bring out the main theme of this narrative. Moreover it has also been tried to find out the relevance of the title of this autobiography in the context of the experience narrated here.