

Chrysalis
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Those who unleashed violence during hartal were anti-social: R.A. Babu

R. Jayaraj did not get justice even from the judiciary: R.V. Jayaraj



A HOUR TO WISDOM

Portrait of a drunkard as a reformed professor



Prof. John S. Mangalam

ARVIND K. BOSE
KOTTAYAM, INDIA

John S. Mangalam actually went to Berlin, Sweden, to get a second marriage, so that he could apply for an insurance before committing suicide.

He had continued in the regulations, including discharge from liquor at a de-addiction centre.

He had planned to end his life when he got the certificate so that the entire amount of insurance money would be transferred to his family comprising his wife and son.

He then had apparently no other way out as liquor had taken a toll on his personality, reputation, health and coverage of education.

But the questions posed

by Dr V.J. John at the centre, changed Mangalam's attitude. He got another chance at life.

Fourteen years later, Mangalam's experiences were written with candour in his autobiography, *Confessions: A Drunkard's Story* (The confessions of a drunkard).

A first of its kind autobiography, authored by an admitted professor will hit the shelves this month. DC books is bringing this to readers.

Professor Mangalam is running a de-addiction centre called *Psychosocial Ambassador in Kerala*. "I have decided to lead a helping hand to those who are suffering a similar plight. The organisation is the product of that desire," professor Mangalam told



The cover of John S. Mangalam's book
Dennis Chrysalis
The life of professor John

S. Mangalam, head of the department of philosophy at Stree Kerala Varma College, was strikingly like the tragic personae of the Thomas Hardy character who sacrificed his wife and baby daughter when he was under the influence of alcohol.

Tragedy had engulfed Mangalam, till he reached the de-addiction centre. His health was affected and his wife had lost her job.

Not only does Mangalam have a first class in BA and MA in philosophy but he also has a doctorate in the discipline, apart from a law degree.

"This book will be a reminder of how liquor can spoil one's life. How a drunkard's wife and his children are affected by

the ill-effects of his drinking," Mangalam said.

DC books had approached the professor after learning that he was writing his memoirs.

"With the publication of the book, we are making a new theme into the semi-history of Malaysian literature. Earlier we had published the experiences of a sex worker, and a thief. The aim all through these initiatives is to give exposure to the marginalised sections of society, and affect all around in the Malaysian literary sensibility," said A.V. Deyram, senior associate editor of DC Books, Kottayam.

Three thousand copies of the 100 page book will be released in the first phase, he added.