



BOOK REVIEW

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'ARJUNA', a novel written by Anuja Chandramouli

'Saga of a Pandava Warrior-Prince ARJUNA' is, in fact, a plain mythological story book written by Anuja Chandramouli, a known story-teller. The book, as a whole, is a complete life story of Arjuna, the third Pandava who was an unparalleled warring hero of the great epic, *The Mahabharata*. The story narrated in the book is, as such, is based on the said great epic presented without any twist but, of course, with a different taste because of some modern style of literary presentation. This 358 page book is comprised of 21 chapters, in fact, twenty one sub stories, each one independently told, covering different events and aspects of the life of the great hero. The author is using her vast imagination to create an appreciable fiction in the style of a modern novel. Even though the book depicts the full life story of Arjuna portraying his childhood, his Gurukul days, his bravery and expertise of handling celestial weapons, his conduct, his nobility, his attraction, his personality and magnanimity, his war strategy, his relationship with the lords of the universe, and finally end of his life in the, so called, final journey in the Himalayan range, it hardly satisfies the general characteristics of a novel. The book is a bunch of stories related to Arjuna's life but they are not arranged in chronological sequences, and that is why not a novel. In absence of critical analysis of most of the vital issues of Mahabharata, particularly teachings of Lord Krishna at the very outset of the great *dharma-yudha*, the war of Mahabharata, the book fails to generate much of social messages befitting to present day society. However the book is worth reading as mythological story book. The language of the book is soft and poetic.

By

Sri L. K. Borah, B.E. (Mech),

Ex-Chief Engineer,

Assam State Transport Corporation

Phone: 099542-58769 & 098640-28415

E-mail: ivanoo@gmail.com & info@voiceofassam.com

www.voiceofassam.com