

# THE BOOK OF MEMORIES

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Jacob Abraham is a young novelist. He is one of the foremost writers who enriches Malayalam literature with a variety of themes and innovative writing styles. His works have received many prestigious awards including the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Geetha Hiranyan Award, the Kerala Language Institute Karur award, and the Mathrubhumi Weekly Vishu edition award. The beauty and simplicity of the rural language make the novels of Jacob Abraham aesthetically pleasing. *Kadhakaludeyum*, *Ormakaludeyum*, *Varakaludeyum* Christmas Pusthakam (The Christmas Book of Stories, Memories and Lines) is one of his most unique collections. The sixteen unique stories in this work give us a beautiful and different world of memories and vision.

The days of the month of Vrishchikam (November - December) are warm but the nights are cold. The coolness during the month of Dhanu (December - January) and Vrishchikam, the vast blue sky, the stars scattered like pearls, and the cool breeze showcases a time when nature's beauty is astounding. Jacob Abraham's Christmas book takes us back to this wonderful time

of our memories, to the month of December that awakens the brightest memories of the birth of Jesus Christ. The festive sweetness of Christmas stories is also a retrieval of wonderful memories.

The first story in this collection is Sophie's Christmas Cards. This story takes us mainly to the concept of Christmas cards, because there was a fascinating thing about Christmas of sending Christmas cards or greetings in the olden days. There was a market in that fashion. Christmas cards become the link between this market and Christmas. But today that market has perished. Similarly, the connection between Christmas cards and Sophie's life. Roy once said that he remembers Sophie every year and whether Sophie remembers him. Christmas cards are the greetings of memories... Sophie came to Sharon Villa from Goa with Kenni uncle for Christmas. Roy was in the tenth grade at the time. He came to his house after a quarrel with his wife who lives in Goa. Occasionally there occurs a quarrel and he returns home. He first encounters Sophie in the garden of Sharon Villa, under a Sapodilla tree, wearing a frock with polka dots. Sophie was gorgeous with butter-like cheeks, rose apple like lips, and black plum like eyes. Sophie once told Roy about Christmas parties in Goa. She tells about her mom and grandma drinking wine, the story of tasting feni at her young age and many unforgettable Christmas memories. The beaches and roads of Goa are intoxicated with wine during the Christmas season. Sophie returned to Goa the very next day after Christmas. Roy received Sophie's first Christmas card the following year. Most of the Christmas cards sent by Sophie

are written as my dear Roy. In some it is also written as my dearest Roy. Every now and then he would take each of those Christmas cards out of the table and look at them. But nowadays the market for Christmas cards has disappeared and that place has been taken over by emoji, stickers and online media. One of the major changes in this situation is the breakdown of friendships or people losing touch with each other. The narrator also presents the man's nostalgia for sending and receiving Christmas cards. Did Sophie try to tell me anything?... The narrator concludes the story with this one inquiry. This story leaves many questions within each reader. We have found many such characters in the stories of M. T., O.V. Vijayan and Mukundan. Some intimate relationships that can not be distinguished as a friend, girlfriend or sister.

Sophie's Christmas Cards , Edwinamissi and Jenny in Proverbs are three stories that give importance to the female protagonists. The story of Edwina Missi has a Portuguese background. The narrator also brings here a European background through the depictions of the streets with a British-Portuguese setting. The story infuses us with the sorrows and struggles of anuprooted society. In a way, Edwinamissi is the story of three Portuguese personalities doomed to isolation.

In the story of Jenny in Proverbs, we come across many familiar places like Chittar and Thiruvalla in central Travancore. Although Christmas is a foreign festival, this story gives it a Kerala background. Through the story of the ghost of Hippie , the narrator takes us to a

completely different world. The ghost of Hippie entered my body on the fourth day after my grandmother's death. Every reader who passes through these lines feels as if the ghost of Hippie has entered their body. This is a very beautiful story. This story gives us the feeling of reading some suspense thrillers.

The second part of the novel is the author's Christmas memoir. The shared meat of writing memories gives a new experience to the new generation. In those days when meat was a rare food item, the sharing of meat for Christmas and New Year was easy in the hilly villages of Pathanamthitta,. A person who shares the meat a week before slaughtering the beef visits home and finds out if they are participating in the share and gets an advance. The reminiscences of Christmas walking through the rubber garden and carrying home the blood-stained shared meat wrapped in teak leaves still linger in the narrator's mind. It can be said that the stock market of sharing meat, which was once active in the countryside, is now a thing of the past. Although it's a great cruelty to animals, the unity of human beings and more than a trade it is a kind of marketplace where the rich and the poor alike can share in the joys and makes Christmas pleasures even sweeter.

The unlit Christmas star, Christmas mountains and valleys, Christmas in Barnassery, the well where verger fell, Christmas friend and those Christmas cards are very different stories. Christmas Father, Santa Claus, Christmas cake and Christmas card are all Christmas experiences from the outside. All of these are taking place in the stories brilliantly. Similarly,

when it comes to Christmas night, the narrator tries to bring a beautiful background of Christmas carols, Christmas star, Christmas tree, coloured paper and so on to his stories. An important feature of each story is that they are closer to the memoirs than the stories themselves. Beautiful memories that can be read in one sitting. The intensity of the experience and the powerful flow of language take us to a world of unusual beauty.

