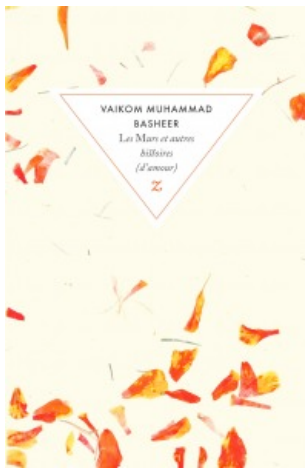


MORE ABOUT VAIKOM MUHAMMAD BASHEER AT ZULMA

VAIKOM MUHAMMAD BASHEER'S BOOKS AT ZULMA

<i>Les Murs et autres histoires (d'amour)</i> , January 2007, 192 pages.....	p. 1
<i>Grand-père avait un éléphant</i> , April 2005 / Reedition in January 2007, 144 pages	p. 2



> *Les Murs et autres histoires (d'amour)* (*The Wall and other [love] stories*)

January 2007, 208 pages

Translated from the Malayalam language – India

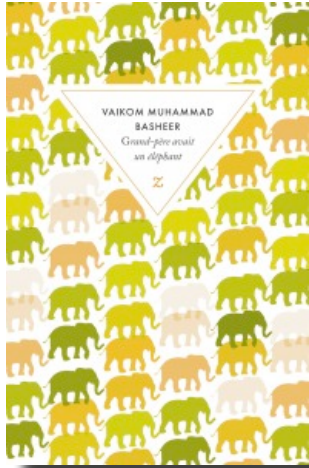
A vivid and colourful picture of Indian culture

Mangalam Shubam! May you live happily forever!

With these words, Basheer ends his roguish stories. He enriches them with experiences from his own life as an activist and traveller, adding intrigue. One such experience is in *Les Murs*, which tells of prison life in the preindependence days. It is a sadly ironic novel set against a backdrop of political turbulence. The love story it tells was inspired by his own stay in Trivandrum jail (Kerala).

The novelist did indeed fall in love with a woman under the sentence of life imprisonment, who was kept from him by insurmountable walls. The mere scent of a woman inflamed the prisoner's excited imagination, so beginning a poetic love affair which ended without their ever being able to say good-bye.

Basheer, whose benevolence always shines behind the irony, succeeds in drawing a vivid and colourful picture of Indian life, his superficially simple style concealing great subtlety of expression.



> *Grand-père avait un éléphant*
(Grandad Owned an Elephant)

*Translated from the Malayalam (India)
by Dominique Vitalys*

Kounniou pattoumma, daughter of a rich Muslim family of Kerala, has a little black mark on her face which distinguishes her from other girls. Because her grandfather owned an elephant! So when she marries, the occasion must be fittingly sumptuous. But ruin, blind to the subtleties of cast, strikes at their door. Fortunately every cloud has a silver lining: when prejudices are blown away, Pattoumma discovers love and self-knowledge. Poetic, imbued with humour and filtered through the golden light of ancestral India, this realist yet magical tale from Basheer carries a lesson that is universal in its humanism.

"In this delightful tale, published in 1951, we discover two very different concepts of Islam, as well as the humour and humanism of Basheer..."

LIBÉRATION, Roland Jaccard

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