

Chapter I

A biographical resume of Ramón Díaz Sánchez

Ramón Díaz Sánchez is a good example of a real self-taught man and an admirable case of literary discipline and devotion to the vocation of a writer. In fact, from his adolescence, he always cherished the secret desire of becoming a great writer and he confessed this in an interview with a certain daily of the capital:

"Recuerdo que muchas veces se me llenaba el pecho de precoz vanidad paseándome por la plaza de mi barrio, solo con mis sueños, me dirigía mentalmente a los demás paseantes: 'Mirenme bien: soy un escritor. Muchos años han transcurrido desde entonces y aun siento a veces, aunque sin vanidad, la misma pueril emoción. Sólo que ahora esta emoción desemboca invariablemente en una pregunta: 'Lo soy?' "¹

He is fundamentally a short story writer and novelist but he has also written numerous essays; in fact almost all the literary genres are evident in his work: novel, essay, biography and short stories.² Díaz Sánchez venerated all that was Venezuelan and a close scrutiny of his total literary work will reveal his genuine concern for the human and social elements in Venezuelan society and indeed his lived experiences in various parts of his native land provided him with an ample storehouse of material