

HUMANISM IN MULK RAJ ANAND'S *UNTOUCHABLE*

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Abstract:

Mulk Raj Anand is one of the perfect writers in India. Anand's flow exhilarated of fiction has been raised to as the grand facts of realism on lack of humanity that exists in India Anand throughout his most of his other novels also depicts about humanism. The present Study highlights about Anand's sympathetic touch towards the backward castes who has been ill treated from many centuries onwards. India is known for its rich culture, traditions, and the existence of its grandeur etc., since then it has becoming popular, due to some of the involvement of social maladies. The entire novel is centered around treatment of other characters and out caste religion related to Indian Hindu beliefs.

Key words: Humanism, Social ills, Hinduism.

Introduction:

In Indo Anglian trio everybody has their own talent. In this trio, R.K. Narayan is famous for Humorous writing style. Anand is the first writer who wrote his novel in English. He became familiar with Mohammad Iqbal. Anand did not find untouchability in England. In those days, James Joyce was a popular writer in those days. He read Joyce novels deeply, his novel Ulysses influenced him a lot to compose untouchable. Every minute detail came out from his heart. Anand condensed it to one day. Within the short span of time, it appeared in 40 languages.

In *Untouchable* novel, Bakha's experiences permitted to one day, Munoo exposed to livelihood. He moves from one job to another. Eric Gill influenced Anand very much. He wrote a preface to "Art and Beauty." Gill had ever lasting skill in Art.

In 1973, a famous critic named M. K. Naik published a book on Anand. He explored and analysed all the works of Anand in an impartial way.

A critic named Githa Kapur quoted about Anand's characteristics in the book "Mulk Raj Anand : Shaping the Indian Modern." She quoted "Mulk is a typical guy, socialist, habituated tourist. He has worldly attitude. In winter he wore yellow, Brown mixed colours, in summer chudidar shirt, Bandi. He chose beauty things carefully."¹

According to Cambridge Advanced Learner's dictionary the word 'Humanism runs thus, "Understanding and kindness towards other people."² The present novel Untouchable unveils Anand's good heartedness towards the poor people who are ill treated like animals during the days Pre Independent India. In Anand's Untouchable novel, Bakha, the champion of the novel appears as a sweeper boy who has endured a hard life due to extreme poverty. Anand portrayed Bakha's nature of work and treatment received from upper castes. In which shows the humankind to think about the fact that every human being is equal.

Mulk Raj Anand shows the ugly facts of contemporary social life in a plain manner. He supports the downtrodden people. In Untouchable novel, we discover Anand both as an artist and humanist filled with

love of his motherland. He chooses a single day in the life of the untouchable sweeper boy Bakha. He lives in a one room hut, dingy and dark. He faces a series of humiliations. He has to keep crying "Posh, posh, Sweeper coming." In the bazaar accidentally he touches Lala and curses him for polluting him. A crowd gathers and a Muslim Tongawala intervenes and saves the situation. Bakha receives second humiliation at the temple. He mounts the temple to witness the grandeur of the temple architecture. He is taken aback by shouts of polluted, polluted and fined Sohini. When the innocent girl goes for sweeping the premises of the temple, Pandit Kalinath tries to molest her. The third humiliation happens at Silversmith lane where food is thrown at him as if to a street dog.

"Untouchable is a short novel. It discloses a lot and covers the events of a single day in the life of the low caste boy Bakha. Bakha is a child of the twentieth century, and the impact of new influences causes stirrings within in him. From a Tommy he has secured a pair of old breeches, and from a sepoy a pair of old boots; he would, if he could, like to look like the white foreigner and so be in the 'fasshun'. But as the day dawns, his work of latrine- cleaning also begins; and his dreams notwithstanding, he is a steady and efficient worker: "Each muscle of his body, hard as rock when it came to play, seemed to shine forth like glass... what a dexterous workman ! the on looker would have said."³

The psychological thoughts that has come into existence in the mind of Bhaka who has been facing many endless miseries throughout his life as a sweeper boy..The word "sweeper" became worse than the word "slave" until when Ghandhiji has preached on vindicating the caste system in India which is probably was a wide criticism about the divisions of Hindu castes in India. Untouchable is exactly the one which has raised as a good product of churning the minds of people who are still running behind those social evils. Anand being a humanist created humanitarianism in the readers mind and makes the present generation also to think about why our India is still lagging behind in maintaining the integrity among all people. And above all we are equal in front of God who has created us and there is nothing like the discriminations of creed among the human beings.

The other day in the life of Bakha when he wanted to fetch some food for his family he began to move near the alleys and began to start the vain appeals for food near some of the Hindu houses .In this attempt he has been ill treated by a house wife who began to abuse him like.

"May you perish and die !

You have defiled my House!

Go, get up and leave this place,

Do you think that this is your father's house where you come to rest?"

Bakha being an untouchable for the society also has his own desires and aspirations to attain the things beyond his creed. He one's wanted to borrow the second hand and discarded motley of British clothing and his intense desire to learn English etc are given as some of the examples for the commonness of striving for the equal desires by all human beings.

The novel not only throws the light on the treatment towards the backward castes people especially in India which is a secular country but also creates a commiseration towards the treatment of women which is genuinely intrigued by Anand in his novel untouchable. Here Sohini who is the sister of the protagonist of the novel Bakha is a benevolent character. Sohini in the novel is known for her graceful figure and a ripe bosom is also been ill-treated by other women near the well who wants to fetch water for her household work .A Priest near by the temple though who is known for his skills and who is an orthodox in religious beliefs creates a lustful desire towards Sohini known for her lower caste religion according to Indian Hindu caste system. Though she is an Untouchable the priest creates interest to seduce her when she was alone. Sohini to her voluptuous figure not only enhanced the Priest interest towards her, but also made her brother himself to become attracted for her beauty and he himself do not want his sister to get married to

any other man. Here the author clichéd about the ethics of humanism that are not followed by some men towards the women in our society. Anand who wants to humanize the minds of people has enlightened his views through his characters to the readers of his novels to think about the lack of humanity in the present society. The priest is a character in the novel which throws the behavior of some priests in our society who are said to be the messengers between human beings and God almighty pretends some times as the custodians of the morality to the people but are having flaws in nature.

Mulk Raj Anand's some other works like the coolie 1936 and two leaves and a bud 1937 are also having the existed immaculate picture of social evils which are against to our Indian constitution and which spoils national integrity. And Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable* is behind about all those folly interpretations of Hindu caste systems and the agony of those people who are so called the pariahs of the society.

Family is an Institution. An institution can function effectively only if it follows the rule of continuity of change. The entry of a newlywed bride into the house of her husband is an important landmark in any family. She is the child of the present and represents continuity. The in-laws act as the link connecting the past to the present. They ensure continuity in a family. Both the bride and the in laws have to understand and love each other to allow an interrupted progress in the family.

Bakha's sister, Sohini is dexterous after her fashion: "How a round base can be adjusted on a round top, how a sphere man rest on a sphere is a problem which may be of interest to those who think like Euclid or Archimedes. In never occurred to Sohini to ask herself anything like this as she balanced her pitcher on her head and went to and from her one-roomed home to the steps of caste well where she counted on the chance of some gentle man taking pity on her and giving her the water she needed."⁴

Sohini is quite good looking, sixteen year old girl. In the beginning of the novel the readers come across her first when she tries to light a fire for preparing tea, using a bundle of wet sticks. As outcastes are forbidden mounting the platform surrounding the well, they have to wait patiently till an upper caste Hindu bales out some water for them. The middle aged woman Gulabo is jealous of Sohini's youth. The washer woman abuses her. At one moment Gulabo rushes at Sohini to thrash her. The weaver's wife Waziro rescues Sohini. Sohini seeks help from a Hindu sepoy comes that way. Fortunately, a temple priest, Pandit Kalinath appears and asks her to clean the courtyard of his house in the temple premises from that day. A little later she goes to the pandit's house. The priest comes to her and catches hold of her. She screams. The priest at once turns the table by shouting polluted. Sohini joins her brother and confesses to him.

India is based on values. Indian Culture is a combination of various traditions. Men and women are equal in the creation of almighty. The difference is in the eye-sight and perception. If we come across a damsel in the shopping mall, public places we ogle at them and create a problem. It lies in our thinking process. Change must come from within the heart in every individual.

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