



HUMANIST TALK IN THE NOVELS OF MULK RAJ ANAND

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ABSTRACT

Mulk Raj Anand extraordinarily depicts the life of Dalit in his novels. He is one of the three novelists from Indian English literature who got fame because of their social explanation and make aware to the world about downtrodden. He was born in Peshawar today it is in Pakistan. Studied at Amritsar, Lahore and moved to London, and earned Ph.D. in 1929. He was awarded many awards like Padma Bhushan, Sahitya Academy Award in India. Most of his novels give a brief description of the downtrodden. The first novel of Mulk Raj Anand Untouchable was published in 1935, Coolie (1936), Two Leaves and a Bud (1937), The Village (1939), and so on. In his all novels he shows his deep concern about caste, class, and religion in India. The picture of people their condition, sorrows, sufferings gives a sense of humanity to the reader. The beginning period of the writing of Anand was the period of transformation the Indians were struggling for freedom, it was not only for politics but also for economic, literacy, casteism, superstition, untouchability, and poverty.

INTRODUCTION

Mulk Raj Anand is one of the pioneers of English writer in India. He develops sympathy in his reader about the condition of the Dalits and poor from our society. He provided the feelings, imagination, sensitivity of the contemporary period. Social setups of that time were varied rigid. Till today it is not normal for the downtrodden. He feels that it is my duty or responsibility toward society to clear the picture or show the realness and uncover facts to the people of their society itself.

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The period when he published almost eight novels was pre-independence where the people from high caste were demanding political freedom but at the same time and in the same country the people from the downtrodden, Dalits, and poor were not only fighting against Britishers but also with their people for suffers and unequal treatment. Here we can give the example of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and their struggle for humanist behavior from the Hindu religion and upper cast for Dalits. It is very correct that all should participate in the freedom fight but the question is, what will be the place of Dalits in the new India after freedom?

In his published novel untouchable (1935) was the first in which he deals with the subject of untouchability and the story of a toilet cleaner. The character Bakha is an untouchable boy in the city of Balushah and how he becomes the victim of a society of the rich caste. The description of the four-fold caste in India can be understood through this novel. Bakha is a Dalit and forbidden from improving his life situation because the upper castes people considered him the servant of all. His touch and presence are considered impure. His job is to clean the human west and latrines. In another event when his sister Sohani goes to bring water from the communal well she has to wait till the upper caste men and women will commiserate and give water because untouchable was not permitted to dip their pot in the communal well.

The 'Coolie' (1936) is the second novel of Anand that shows a dismal or unfortunate and terrible situation of the poor and Dalits. It provides a detailed view of the life of lost people from India. There is a re-presentation of life, hunger, lure, contempt, and poverty. Life conflicts between tradition and new age or sophisticated life. Anand himself suffered from casteism and feelings of untouchability. As he was a follower of Gandhi so he was influenced by the Indian struggle for freedom this reading, thinking, and observation of suffering is reflected in his novel Coolie. The novel deals also with the problems of poverty which is the root of all evils. In the words of Mahatma Phule.

*Vidyevina mati geli;
mativina neeti geli;
neetivina gati geli;
gativina vitta gele;
vittavina shudra khachale;
itke anartha eka avidyene kele.*

The meaning of the above lines is how illiteracy leads dreadful life for a person, family caste, religion, and society. In the novel 'Coolie' the hero Munoo faces cruel or harmful treatment, abuse, and abasement dishonor at every stage of his life. It is from his birth to death he was



rejected from every need of life. Munoo represents these countless children whose childhood is lost through the endless physical work. There are a thousand children today who force to beg on-road and work in factories in bad condition. It is the anger of Anand reflected in the novel Coolie. He says that a bit more sympathy and a little warmer feeling from the upper caste could have made Munoo the hero of the story a satisfied person in his life. If he could get the love and care after the death of his father and mother his life could have taken a positive turn. But his aunt never allowed him to play with the children and kept him away from all happy movements and that was the beginning of his miserable life.

He later moved to the city and worked in Bombay cotton mill with Hari. He bears mistreatment, harassment, and even physical abuse in the mill. He separates himself from the mill worker and their riot against the owner. A lady Mrs. Mainwaring took Munoo with her to Shimla. He has given the work of ladyship's rickshaw pulling. He has been diagnosed with the sign of tuberculosis, high fever, and bloody cough. Despite his efforts in medical treatment, his condition deteriorated finally he died. In the mill how, the worker suffers is well described by Anand low wages, too polluted environment, unsanitary huts of workers, deadly poisonous surrounding and pitiable condition of all people. So, this is very realistic fiction of Anand. In which he provided solid facts of life, the reality of world miserable condition of worker and low line people.

Two Leaves and a Bud (1937) is the third novel; speaks about the suffering of tea plantation workers in Assam. it is about the torture by a British master to tea plantation labor. The master treats the male laborers bounded slaves and female labor and their daughter as objects of sexual gratification. This is the heart bleeding novel of Anand. We find a dominant English character dealing with the exploitation of native coolies. Cruel Reggie Hunt sadist Mrs. And Mr. Croft – Cooke along with this Anand put best English character like doctor John De la Havre. Some Indian characters are profit makers (Dalal) by providing coolies to the master like Sardar Buta, Sardar Neogi, and Babu Shashi Bhushan Bhattacharya. In the lure of profit, they don't see what will be the condition of a provided worker to Englishman. They don't recognize workers as human. They consider them as slaves the object to sell and earn a profit, and also servants of the upper class and Britishers. They tried to eliminate Dr. John who helps the worker by providing them medical facilities and sometimes food and money. The main character of this novel is Ganju and his family who believe in the word of Sardar Buta and migrate to Assam from Amritsar in the estate of a British master tea plantation. Ganju and his family try to work hard but were not able to fulfill their daily needs. The family of coolies was trapped by the owner of the tea plantation. Even the leaving place was not provided adequate water supply and sanitation facility because of this his wife Sajani got a disease and died. After some months Laila his daughter assaulted by Reggie Hunt a Britisher, when Ganju tried to stop it but Hunt shot him dead.



In the all novels Anand tried to depict what the reality was before the independence period in India in especially regarding Dalits, workers, and women. For such a wonderful writing the real humanistic nature of humans. Anand visited many parts of India. He gathers all eye-witnessed the horrible condition of laborers and the downtrodden. The criticism on exploitation, untouchability, poor, and worker's condition is effectively exhibited by Anand in his novel. There is historical significance to the novel untouchability. The caste system and the belief of people on it are still present in modern India. How people behave with other humans is explained in the way of pathetic sense. How the people from rich caste dominates, make slaves, took advantage of their illiterateness, weak and unwellness. He wrote for the betterment and upliftment of the downtrodden of society. He works to restore humanity, dignity and create awareness. He was the crusader in the case of humanity. He concerns for the marginalized section.

In conclusion, it can be said that the novels of Anand are about social injustice, Humanity talks because his heroes from all novels are victims of casteism, tradition, and exploitation from Indian society. The reader can think over the situation of Indian society and try to help those who are suffering from the same. They will try to understand Dalit, poor, downtrodden, and women. The new age writers will get the ideas and develop their point of view to find out the truth and serve humanity among all.

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