



Image of India in E.m. Forster's a Passage To India

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KEYWORDS :

Edward Morgan Forster was born in 1879 to a cultured upper middle class family and died in 1970. His first real contact with India was in the form of Syed Ross Masood, the grandson of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. Masood entered Forster's life in 1906 when Forster was appointed to coach him in Latin indeed, his visit to India in 1912-1913 was prompted by this friendship. His accounts of India are mostly contained in "Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson" (1934) and "The Hill of Devi" (1953) and in many other articles and essays. Forster's literary career began in 1903, when he began writing for the independent review, a liberal and anti-imperialist publication that he cofounded with Lowes Dickinson. He soon published his first novel, where angels fear to tread (1905); by 1910, he had written three more. The longest journey (1907), a room with a view (1908), and Howard's end (1910) exhibit a growth in the novelist's skill and in the range of his subjects. In a room with a view, which is set first in Florence and then in English suburbia, Forster reveals himself as a critic of social snobbery and suburban pretention?

The present paper seeks to present an "Image of India" drawn from the novel, *A Passage to India* (1924). When it was published it had been popularized in literary critical practice as a comment on the British Raj. Edward Carpenter wrote to Forster, the picture of that life as shown will have a considerable and very sane and stimulating influence upon public opinion in England." J.S. Martin writes, "The India that Forster describes, is the modern world in epitome." Lionel Trilling comments that it is "not about India alone: it is about all of human life."

After *A Passage to India*, his great success, Forster never wrote another novel. He turned, instead, to short stories, essays, biographies. In 1925 he was awarded the tait black memorial and famina vie heu-reuse prizes. Forster never married and he died in 1970. It was not until the year after his death that his 1914 novel Maurice was published for the first time.

Beginning with the Oscar winning film of *A Passage to India*, which appears in 1984, Forster's popularity has increased. David Lean's version of *A Passage to India* was followed by the merchant-ivory productions of a room with a View and Howard's End, in 1987 and 1992, respectively. The success of these films has led to a renewed appreciation of Forster's gift for portraying the complex inner lives of his characters and the rigid, yet temporary, nature of the social structures they inhabit.

In the novel, India is presented in both a negative and a positive light .It is described in terms which are usually used for the lady. India is described as 'queer' throughout; the word 'queer' is constantly used to describe Adela Quested- "the queer, cautious girl", who wants to see the real India.

In addition to their observation of social codes , all of Forster's novels portray sensitive characters struggling with the inflexibility of the codes and the insensitivity of those around them .Although Forster's point of view is often comic and ironic , his characters personal feelings are usually presented as serious, or at key moments , sacred. This is specially apparent in Forster's last novel, *A Passage to India*; first published in 1924. *A Passage to India* is the novelist's acknowledged masterpiece.

Professor Godbole and Aziz personify the divisions within India. In fact," a prevalent source of misunderstanding is lack of self -knowledge among Indians and English." At the same time both represent its unity. Aziz asserts his nationalism-"I am an Indian at least", and about Englishman he thinks as, "I do not want you, I do not want one of you in my private life with my dying berth I say it." Despite this bold assertion, he does not prevent himself responding to Mrs. Moore's children and fielding. This indicates Hinduism of Godbole and his emotive nature. Rudyard Kipling has also said that India -East stands for meditation and emotion.

In the conclusion, it can be said that this novel presents an Interpretation of India, traditionally a land of mysteries and muddles and an interpretation of its impact on those who live in it and on aliens who came here. Indeed, it is more than *A Passage to India*.

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