



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

English

SOCIAL EXPLOITATION IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF MULKRAJ ANAND'S 'UNTOUCHABLE'

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ABSTRACT

Mulk Raj is an Indian English author who has published several works. Like coloured glass, his stories bind human experiences and offer a feeling of life and character. He's gotten Anand interested in humanity's flowing, dynamic heart, and he feels its anguish down to the marrow of his bones. Anand, as a humanist, has brilliantly depicted our Indian society as aggressive and cruel to the lives of the poor. Untouchable is his debut work, and it depicts a day in the life of Bakha, an untouchable sweeper child. It depicts the sentiments, aspirations, and difficulties of a sweeper child who faces many challenges as a low-caste member of Indian society.

INTRODUCTION

Anand is from a time in India's history when the country was fighting to free itself from the yoke of slavery. The resolution to leave India had been passed. It was a fight against British imperialism. The Indians were handled as though they were animals. When Anand began writing, the wounds of Jalian wala bagh had not healed.

Untouchable was written by Mulk Raj Anand, an Indo-English writer who writes in a simple and easy style. "Bhaka," the novel's protagonist, is an untouchable, ostracised youngster. The whole narrative is based on incidents that occurred in Bhaka's life on a single day. It depicts the harsh lives and hardships of the so-called "Untouchables." Bhaka despises cleaning the toilet. He wants to study and become a wise guy. The outcasts were not permitted to drink from wells, visit temples, or touch anything since it was thought that their presence would make everything unclean and corrupt. Bhaka is also mistreated emotionally and physically by upper-caste individuals such as Pandits, while others are dissimulators, as one of them wants to touch Sohini's (Bhaka's sister) breasts but claims to have been contaminated when mistakenly touched by a "Untouchable." Untouchability in simple terms which exists as a practice whereby a particular class or caste of persons are inclined with on the ground of their being born in that particular caste or on the ground of their being members of those social groups concerned with tedious jobs.

Untouchability is a menace and a social ill associated with traditional Hindu culture. Higher castes were thought to become unclean even if a shadow of an untouchable person touched them, and that the only way to regain their cleanliness was to bathe in the Ganga's sacred waters. The untouchables are social outcasts. They are not included in any of Hinduism's conventional 'Varna System.' As a result, untouchables are not even recognised by Hindus' caste system.

Persons born in the lowest castes and classes of people performing monotonous occupations, people suffering from infectious illnesses, and tribals living outside of the so-called civilised world were previously deemed untouchables. Their exclusion from mainstream society was founded on the assumption that they were dirty and destructive, and that detesting them was important for the society's general wellbeing. Untouchables are also known as disheartened classes, harijans, and other terms, although they are now more often recognised as 'Dalits.'

Mulk Raj Anand proposes three solutions to this wrongdoing towards the novel's conclusion. Bhaka is given the opportunity to convert to Christianity, which has no caste structure, and so no longer be an outcast. But, even if it implies equal treatment and the option to attend a church, Bhaka is afraid of such a rapid shift of faith. Following that, Mahatma Gandhi visits

Bhaka's village and teaches everyone on the issue of untouchability. Bhaka pays close attention when he hears someone speaking on behalf of his caste. In the last paragraphs, a person appears out of nowhere and notifies everyone about a contraption (toilet-flush machine, etc.) that would clean faeces automatically, eliminating the need for physical excreta collection. Bhaka believes that this will solve all of his issues.

There is still a sense of caste and birth superiority in our culture. Untouchability is a practise that we may see in daily life, particularly in rural and semi-urban sections of the nation. Manual scavenging continues to be practised unethically even in major cities. According to a Press Trust of India article, four tea shop sellers in Karnataka were detained on 3 January 2014 for practising untouchability while selling tea, providing tea in various sorts of cups to caste Hindus and SC/STs. The incident demonstrates that the wicked habit persists in Hindu culture even after 67 years of independence. However, it can be claimed that things are progressively changing, and that the present generation's mindset is evolving as well. With contemporary education and a worldwide approach, today's kids are perceiving the social order from a new perspective of equality and impartiality, rather than from a religious one.

Hopefully, the practise of untouchability will be phased out of society sooner rather than later, ushering in a new age of social equality and fraternity in our nation.

CONCLUSION:

Man is a key character in all of Mulkraj Anand's works, from Untouchable to The Bubble. His works are all about responsibility, creative tension, and resolution, as well as deep humanism and moral principles. Mulk Raj Anand's main goal is to provide a positive and humane perspective on life. He writes in order to assist the untouchables, peasants, and coolies achieve human dignity and self-awareness. Mulk Raj Anand's works demonstrate a unique mix of idealism socialism, revolutionary socialism, and complete historical humanism in modern fiction. Mulk Raj Anand attacks hypocrisy, superstition, caste and class biases in his works. Mulk Raj Anand considers man as a social entity with a moral purpose and the ability to improve himself. Mulk Raj Anand's literary works depict India before and after independence. His books make concerns that affect every individual, community, and nation more widely known. He produces a tragic vision of life but also finds resolutions to the problems it presents. In his novels he envisions a world permeated with love and good. No other novelists of Mulk Raj

Anand's period dared to display this lovely emotion through their works. As a result, it may be argued that Mulk Raj Anand excels in portraying characters. He seems to value Indian culture and ethos in his depiction. When he discovers that the Indian custom is changing, he decides to change it. One of the

best instances of this genre is "Untouchability." The heroes of Mulk Raj Anand remain passive spectators to all of the social and psychological tragedies inflicted on them by the soulless societal custom. To summarise, Mulk Raj Anand's characterisation is intended to provide Indian civilization a new turn or direction, not just a characterization.

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