
NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES OF MULK RAJ ANAND

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Mulk Raj Anand's novels embody a conscious effort to organically relate Indian reality. Anand's masterpieces present the motif of anger at various levels social, psychological and religious. Anand's *Untouchable* (1935) and *Coolie* (1936) reveal the basic motif of Anger. *Untouchable* and *Coolie* are the best work of Anand. Anand started his career with his best novel *Untouchable*. *Untouchable* deals with the theme of anger. Bakha fights for his identity. He raises his anger against injustice. In society Bakha is neglected but he rises to the height by the end of the novel.

Coolie is also the masterpiece of Anand. Both these novels deal with the motif of anger. Bakha and Munoo are the best protagonists of Anand. *Untouchable* deals with the anger of Bakha. His anger is against caste system. Munoo shows the exploitation in society. Munoo is exploited everywhere. If the *Untouchable* deals with the anger of Bakha against society, *Coolie* shows the exploitation of weak people in society. Both these novels reflect social anger. Anand has put a problem before the society. The anger of Bakha is reasonable. He fights for the justice, equality and identity. The molestation of Sohini is inferior a work of shame by the reputed person. Why did Anand show Sohini's molestation? He wants to show the gap in society. Untouchables are ignored, neglected by the reputed Hindu but when there is like Sohini they fall such an extent to torture a girl. Bakha in the end influenced by the ideal of Gandhi. He rose to the height like Mahatma. The meeting with Mahatma changed his personality. The talking with Bakha in the market place and in the temple also shows the gap in society.

Bakha and Munoo is not the only person. Such cases we found in society. Bakha and Munoo feel inferiority complex to the humiliation which they meet in the society. All persons are equal, why all these gapes are? These incidents make Bakha and Munoo angry. They are angry. They raised their voice against, injustice, inequality and identity.

Untouchable is Anand's best novel. It deals with social anger. It may safely asserted that *Untouchable* is likely to continue to enjoy the honour of being "a little classic"¹ in Indian English fiction. *Untouchable* is perhaps Anand's most perfect novel, through it happens to be his very first attempt in this genre. Annand's *Untouchable* is not a thesis novel, since it

transcends the formulaic exploration of untouchability as prevalent in Indian society. The novel though centring on the day-long experiences of its protagonist, Bakha. The Novel is indeed, informed by what may be called “the philosophical science of man” which takes as the starting point of its inquiry “man with man” and thus may be said to suffer a telling. “It exemplifies the fiction of the human condition, of the promethean struggle for self-definition amidst conditions of existential isolation and alienation.”² *Untouchable* has the distinction of pinpointing the issues concerning the calculated, deliberate subordination of the untouchable from childhood onwards, which makes for his harrowing plight. Indeed, it focuses protest and even revolt against the caste-ridden structure of the Indian society. It articulates in a most disturbing manner the untouchable’s sacrifice of his creative initiatives to the unjustifiable societal demands. The protagonist of the *Untouchable* projects the pathetic predicament of a vast segment of Indian society, which has for centuries been the victim of cruel contempt and heartless exploitation at the hands of a hypocritical society. This work is pioneer of burning social consciousness.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

1. *Untouchable*. Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1935.
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3. *Two Leaves and a Bud*. Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1937.
4. *The Village*. Jonathan Cape, London, 1939.
5. *Across the Black Waters* (1940) Bombay-Kutub Popular.
6. *The Sword and the Sickle* (1942) Bombay-Kutub Popular.