



Mulk Raj Anand's Untouchable – Shows The Image Of Eternal India.

¹Lavesh Dhamgaye, ²Dr. Shashi Yadav, ¹Research scholar (English), ²Assistant Professor, ¹BU Bhopal (M.P.), ²BUIT Bhopal (M.P.) India

Abstract - The word “Untouchable” refers to an Indian caste system that includes the lowermost of the lowest working class of India. Evil Untouchability in India has an ancient history rooted in the four groups of Hindu caste – Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishya, and Sudras. The Sudra represents the bottom of all in the social hierarchy. This work portrayed with the help of Anand's Novel shows the shocking image of social, political, and economical image of Indian society. In this novel Protagonist Bakha is a unique creation in the realm of Indian English literature. He is a scavenger boy who suffers every minute because he is untouchable.

Index Terms – Untouchability, caste, social, image, scavenger.

I.Introduction- Mulk Raj Anand is regarded as one of the most controversial Indian novelists writing in English and his writing own style and techniques with Indian flavour. He is compared with Prem Chand and Charles Dickens. He was born in Peshawar of India. His father was a coppersmith in Amritsar who later joined the British Indian Army. His mother come from a peasant family in 1925; after graduating from Khalsa College Amritsar, he went to London on scholarship to obtain a Doctorate in 1933 he returned to India, lived in Sabarmati Ashram with Mahatma Gandhi, and wrote the first draft of Untouchable. Mulk Raj Anand the eldest 3 great Indian novelists regarded father of Indo English literature the other two being Raja Rao and R. K. Narayan. Untouchable is a novel that depicts a genuine and transparent image of India where the situation of the untouchables was very fascinating because of their historical background.

“Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains”

These lines are said by the Rousseau it is suitably justified by Mulk Raj Anand in his novel. Marginalized group who cleans the toilet and is often as a sweeper boy in the novel. Through Bakha's character, Anand highlights harsh realities of the caste system and the societal norms that oppress him; therefore, he is desecrated by the high-class society he hates to clean the dirt of others but he is bound to do so just because he is born out of caste. In the preface of the novel E.M. Forster says Bakha has not been idealized or dignified by Mulk Raj Anand though an exceptional leader among the sweeper. He remains a true archetypal of his social stratum. Bakha is dishonored at every point of the novel social discrimination Bakha dreams of studying and desires to look like a sahib (officer), he is not allowed or admitted at any school just because he was from a lower caste.

Mulk Raj Anand also presented the condition of Women of lower caste were exploited by higher caste. Drinking water is the basic and essential need of life. It is not available to downtrodden. As apparently, their touch will pollute the public well and ponds. Bakha's sister Sohini is molested by lanky priest Kalinath. Erotic pleasure from this untouchable girl even on the temple premises touch of a harijan girl. Here in this realistic image can be seen the existing issue in India.

In the same manner political condition in the eternal India. 18-year-old Indian youth Bakha son of Lakha is a sweeper boy and the protagonist of novel *Untouchable* strong and able bodied he is fascinated by the life and way of Indian English colonizer. He was listening Mahatma Gandhi's speech in the crowd. He registers that this person could conduct unity among all classes and castes and too says that all Indians are equal. Bakha marks the indispensable and imminent end of the cruel and savage treatment of untouchables. *Untouchable* in 1930 must be regarded as prophecy that the savage said brutal practice of untouchability would no longer exist in the coming year. He gets peace of mind when he hears Gandhi's speech fills his heart with hope for a better future for the downtrodden now, they can lead a life without any fear of freighting the other side Anand has endeavored to dispense the colonized India with his novel. The struggles and injuries that were faced by the freedom fighter indirectly shown to us gave the opportunity of all the issues that triumph India. He is very well picturized the characters that gave justice to the sorrow which was caused by the issues. He gave the true persona and sketch of India to this liberal nation.

In the same condition of picturization of the novel *Untouchable* Anand expresses the economic condition of untouchables. The shopkeeper always deceived the sweepers and poor people, charging them much bigger prices, even and they accept the money paid by the outcaste by splashing water on it and throw at them the things they buy and as if to compensate themselves for the pollution they allowed by dealing with the outcaste. Anand exposes the high caste shopkeepers at that time. The business of priest Kalinath in the name of the religion, through the miserable plight of untouchables outcasts the horror of the poverty sufferings. He makes the sensitive to heartless, they exploit the poor in the shield of devotion. who are they keep themselves away from the shadows of the untouchables but do not hesitate to molest outcaste girls (Bakha's sister Sohini). As Bakha says below dialogue in frustration.

“They think we are dirt because we clean their dirt”

This dialogue of Bakha manifests the pathetic situation of the depressed class of Indian society. The superiority and the inferiority complex are both deeply in high caste Brahmins feels that praise the low caste is below his prestige they allow sweepers to clean the courtyard of the temple but do not allow them even to tread the steps of the temple. They keep themselves away from the gloom of the outcaste. The thought of Marxism is also very much noticeable in his works. The capitalist people exploit the poor and take the pulp out of them. They are not paid their wages accordingly and also; they are not giving allowance to the basic needs of life.

Anand gives voice to the voiceless by raising issues of Untouchability. Part of this the other picture we encounter in the novel is about the Untouchables wanting to follow the British just because there was no barrier in their religion all were treated equally in the politically and economically colonized India. The author has presented the image of pre-independence India where the social, political, and economic condition of the downtrodden has succeeded in presenting the graphic and realistic sketch of a brutal tradition of eternal India. This paper attempts to point out the points that Mulk Raj Anand raised or implied at that time.

II. Conclusion- In a word the novel *Untouchable* is the creation of Indian society. Antisocial Activities such as humiliation rape, social discrimination, and gender biases crush the social standard of society. To sum up, of the paper there is no doubt novel *Untouchable* Anand has displayed a truly realistic image of traditional Indian society where the situation of the marginalized people was pathetic and sorrowful and in this practice a human is not considered as a human being but is being treated as an object of consumption which will never end easily from Indian society, it is always eternal just like curse.

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