

Our Heritage

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Mulk Raj Anand's Untouchable: Inhumanity of the Caste System

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Abstract:

Muk Raj Anand is the most prominent writers of Indian writing in English. His father was a soldier whose regiment was transferred from one place to another. So Anand got an opportunity to see many sections of Indian society in different parts of India. First of all he learnt the conditions and the life of both the rural and urban parts of the Punjab. Three events had lasting influence on him in his childhood. The first incident was the death of his beautiful nine years cousin, Kaushalya. The second event was the ostracizing of his aunt Devaki, for fraternizing with a Muslim woman, which led to her suicide. The third event was his arrest. As a young man he had suffered at the hands of the police during the Jalianwala Baug incident. He was also imprisoned for a day during the civil disobedience campaign of 1921. Untouchable was the first novel of Mulk Raj Anand which deals with the major problems of untouchable in India. It describes the plights of the outcastes, especially the untouchables in the country. Mulk Raj Anand has successfully portrayed horror and sufferings of the untouchables. The present paper depicts Mulk Raj Anand's novel Untouchable and its attack on thenhumanity of the caste system.

Keywords: Inhumanity, untouchable, cast system, ostracizing, outcastes, horror and sufferings.

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