

## **THE ELEMENTS OF HUMANISM IN MULK RAJ ANAND'S "COOLIE" AND "UNTOUCHABLE".**

### **ABSTRACT :**

The research paper explores the elements of "Humanism in Mulk raj Anand's work. The theory and practice of utopian vision and social realism intermingle in an incredibly strange manner, when the two great novels, namely Untouchable and Coolie, fall under the purview of critical study and analysis. In the first novel what happens externally in the life of the protagonist, Bakha, is social realism; and what goes on within his mind along with the two solutions, i.e, conversion to Christianity and Gandhi philosophy is utopian. In the second book Coolie Munoo's escape from rural to urban world, exploitation as a child labourer, infernal life in the factory and sexual abuse prior to death by consumption, constitute social realism. On enjoying a better life, a coolie's joining the strike in anticipation of a classless society is utopian in nature.

### **KEY WORDS :**

- Realism
- Social conflict
- Humanism
- Exploitation
- Orphan

### **INTRODUCTION :**

This novel Untouchable expresses his belief in the dictum 'man is the measure of all thing'. To him man is able to remove the misery and unhappiness in the society with the aid of advancing science and technology and with the practice of love and compassion for the weak and low. But in the root cause of his problems and sufferings.

Coolie is a novel of social protest. The anger with which he has portrayed Munoo's sufferings and exploitation is a direct expression of love of man, a basic tenet of his humanism. According to Anand, casteism is a heinous crime and it is realistically portrayed in this novel. It is a sociological novel, and it is concerned with the injustices and exploitation to which one large section of the Hindu society is subjected by the other section enjoying a higher status in the social hierarchy.

The word “ Humanism” has a number of meanings and authors and speakers do not clarify which meaning they intend. There are different types of Humanism- Literary Humanism, Renaissance Humanism, Cultural Humanism, Philosophical Humanism, Modern Humanism, Secular Humanism, Religious Humanism etc. Humanism is a realistic philosophy. Humanism is the philosophy for those in love with life. Humanists take responsibility for their own lives and relish the adventure of being part of new discoveries options.

### **DISCUSSION :**

Anand’s humanism may be defined as, “ A system of thought in which human interest, values and dignity are held dominant Humanism implies devotion to the concerns of mankind, it is an attitude that concentrates on the activities of man rather than on the super natural world, the world of nature or so called animal kingdom”. Historically humanism is a Renaissance doctrine which stresses the essential worth, dignity and the greatness of man as contrasted with an older view that man is wicked, worthless and doomed to destruction both in his life and in that to come. Anand’s humanism makes him use his arts for the service of humanity.

### **CONCLUSION :**

Humanism as a philosophy runs as a red thread throughout Coolie. Compassion for the poor is the major strain in his treatment of his wisdom. This is his message to the suffering humanity. Munoo’s tragedy is universalized and the human element in man of low class is brought out by showing their essential dignity and innocence. Although all his novels present him as a humanist, his earlier novels including Coolie revealed what may be called proletarian humanism. It is true that his humanism seems to be biased in favour of the poor and the oppressed, but then is there not the example of the man who turned towards the woman taken an adulteress away from those who sought to condemn her.

### **WORKS CITED :**

#### **Primary Source :**

Mulk Raj Anand, Untouchable, New Delhi; Arnold publishers, 1981 print.