

Biographical Attributes in Mulk Raj Anand's Novels

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Abstract

Mulk Raj Anand is undoubtedly among the top Indian authors of English-language novels. Because he rejects wealth, luxury, and money, he is a proletarian humanist. He is superior to all other great authors. Art, in his opinion, is beneficial to life. We simply use "Arts for Arts Sake" as an escape from the difficult aspects of life. He is reluctant to go. He is aware of the significance of bringing about change and fostering cooperation among the poorest members of a community, including the coolies and peasants. Anand appears to be battling for the freedom, equality, and justice of the impoverished and the untouchables. After India became a colony and subsequently an independent nation, he advocated for the fundamental rights and demands of its citizens in the emerging civil society. Of all the fundamental rights, he thought the right to be treated with respect was the most crucial. The primary character, Bakha, wanted to rebel, but he was too scared of his caste to express it aloud. Known for writing on the lives of those from lower castes in traditional Indian society, this author was Indian and wrote in English. *Untouchable*, his debut novel, was published in 1935 and offers a terrifying glimpse into the lives of India's untouchable caste, who were disregarded at the time.

Mulk Raj Anand, freedom, the Untouchables, justice, and fairness are a few terms that spring to mind.

Keyword: Mulk Raj Anand, The Road, Indian English literature, Proletarian humanism, Human dignity, Social justice, Caste system, Untouchability

Introduction

Anand is without a doubt among the top English-language Indian novelists. For this reason, he is a proletarian humanist, as he dislikes excess. Art, in his opinion, is beneficial to life. We simply use "Arts for Arts Sake" as an escape from the difficult aspects of life. He is reluctant to go. He is aware that change is necessary and that those at the bottom of a community's social or economic scale—such as coolies, peasants, untouchables, and others—need hope. Indians have been unable to be creative because of this style of thinking. The human race is shamed by casteism and untouchability.

Anand appears to be battling for the justice, equality, and freedom of the underprivileged and marginalized. After India became a colony and subsequently a free country, he advocated for the fundamental rights and needs of its citizens in the country's emerging civil society. Human dignity, in his opinion, is the most significant of all the fundamental rights. Because he was terrified of his caste, Bakha, the primary character, was unable to express his anger. Bakha stands for every untouchable in India. Anand believes that the underdogs need independence, self-awareness, and dignity more than anything else. He states, "The theme of my work is the whole man and the whole range of human relationships, not just one part of it." The tragic pathos scenes are equally significant. Readers can read page after page without becoming disinterested or feeling as though time is passing too quickly when they read about Bakha and his sister's embarrassment in "Untouchable" or Munoo's death in "Coolie." Even the most indifferent person can feel something, though. They lose sight of their everyday responsibilities and work routine. Anand's preaching and sermonizing, which are intended to showcase his writing abilities, are not noticed by the reader after they are absorbed in his in-depth writing. The majority of his books are well-

known for their captivating narratives that adhere to rigid guidelines for beginning and ending. We enjoy the stories he tells us. The components of suspense, surprise, balance, and contrast are all visible. In "Untouchable," his use of visual graphics gives the impression that the author is projecting a film onto a celluloid screen.

The birthdate of Mulk Raj Anand was December 12, 1905. He wrote in English and was Indian. His writings about the life of the lower castes in traditional Indian society made him well-known. Along with R, he was among the first to write Indo-Anglian fiction. Some of the first Indian authors to write in English were Raja Rao, Ahmad Ali, and K. Narayan; they are well-known worldwide. Anand's books and short stories are now considered classics of contemporary Indian English writing. They are renowned for their comprehension of oppressed people's life and their perspectives on exploitation, poverty, and misfortune. He became well-known for his 1935 protest novel *Untouchable*. In addition, he published books like *Coolie* (1936) and *Two Leaves and a Bud* (1937) about the impoverished in India. Additionally, he was among the first authors to employ Hindustani and Punjabi expressions in English. He received the civilian accolade known as the Padma Bhushan. On September 28, 2004, he died.

Mulk Raj Anand was born in Peshawar into a Hindu Khatri family. In 1924, Anand received his honors degree from Khalsa College in Amritsar. After that, he traveled to England. He paid for his education as an undergraduate at University College London by working in a restaurant. He graduated from Cambridge University with a Ph.D. in philosophy in 1929. Bertrand Russell and the English empiricists were the subject of his dissertation. He became acquainted with members of the Bloomsbury Group during this period. He also worked with the International Committee for Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations when he was in Geneva.

Following a family tragedy brought on by India's rigid caste system, Mulk Raj Anand started writing. The suicide of an aunt who was expelled from her family for dining with a Muslim woman was the subject of his first written essay. His debut book, *Untouchable*, was published in 1935 and offers a terrifying glimpse into the lives of the "untouchable" caste in India, who were disregarded at the time. The book chronicles a day in the life of toilet cleaner Bakha. He unintentionally runs into someone from a higher caste, which results in numerous awkward situations. Bakha looks for a way to cope with the awful existence he was given. After speaking with a Christian missionary and hearing Mahatma Gandhi's speech about untouchability, he speaks with two well-educated Indians. However, toward the book's end, Anand claims that technology, such as the modern flush toilet, could save his life by eliminating the need for a caste of toilet cleaners.

The Biographical Components of "Untouchables" Include

Anand became well-known as India's Charles Dickens thanks to the positive reception of *Untouchable*, which demonstrates the inventiveness of Punjabi and Hindi in English. According to E. M. Forster, "It has gone straight to the heart of its subject and cleaned it up, without using flowery language or beating around the bush." By taking risks and having a keen sense of aesthetics, Anand has significantly influenced Indian and global writing. Because of his Dickensian humanistic worldview, he chooses odd subjects and characters to write about. People from all social classes, from the lowest to the highest, can be found in his fictional world. These characters, who were once real individuals, have been depicted by Anand with remarkable psychological depth. Mulk Raj Anand aspires to assist individuals in realizing their place in this society. He instructed his characters in his writing. Because of this, his stories have an expressionistic viewpoint while being realistic.

Mulk Raj Anand is a prolific novelist who is concerned with societal concerns. He has published over seventy short tales and over a dozen books. Because the poor were being

exploited by the lower classes in Indian society, he concentrated on their issues, suffering, and anguish. He frequently writes about exploitation, poverty, and hunger in society.

The *Untouchable* by Mulk Raj Anand is a superb illustration of humanism and how to help the underprivileged and disenfranchised in society. It discusses the choices that trash-collecting boy Bakha must make. In a single day, his mood shifts from despair to optimism, and he believes that science may help him live a better life. At the time the book was written, casteism was prevalent, people were being exploited, and poverty was pervasive. According to Anand, humanism is a pledge to use logic, reason, and reason to work for the benefit of everyone. Humanism is not a philosophy in Anand's mind. For him, it's a way of thinking and doing things. It is, in essence, about how to lead a productive and worthwhile life.

'Coolie' Contains Biographical Elements

Anand's second book also showed how much he cared about and felt sorry for the poor people in India. In *Coolie*, he tells the story of Munoo, a young peasant boy who is a kshatriya. He goes from his village in the mountains to Bombay, where he ends up. He has to take any job he can find to stay alive because he is an orphan. He works as a servant, in a mine, in a factory, and as a coolie, which is a black man who works in the fields to empty his bowels. In each of these situations, Munoo's bosses, moneylenders, and people who think they are better than him harass, beat, and take advantage of him financially. But the story is also about how a young boy grows up and starts to learn about the world and try to make sense of it.

Parts of "*Two Leaves and a Bud*" that are about people "*Untouchable*" and "*coolie*" are two words that mean the same thing: the suffering, cruelty, and degradation of all people. In "*Two Leaves and a Bud*" (1937), Anand went into more detail about the metaphor of "*coolie*" and the social and political issue of class structure. Anand's first three novels, which came out in a short time span of three years, made him a progressive and unwavering supporter of the

lower classes of society, such as the oppressed, the victimized, and the dispossessed. Anand wrote four more novels after that, and in each one he talked about how mean people are to each other.

Biographical Elements in 'The Road'

Anand revisits the theme of untouchability in "The Road," but this time it's set in India after independence. The road becomes a symbol as the story goes on. It comes to mean journey, progress, and growth. What I think about Anand and what he did:

Mulk Raj Anand was not only the most prolific Indian writer in English, but he was also the most openly committed. He was a man with many hobbies and achievements, and his life is like an exciting love story full of struggle, adventure, and success.

To sum up,

Also, there is Mulk Raj Anand, who thinks, loves, works, laughs, argues, travels, and talks too much. He seems to always be carrying the weight of all the sin and suffering in the world on his shoulders, like the way men have been cruel to other men throughout history. It was shocking to lose Mulk Raj Anand, a brilliant writer who was a pioneer in Indian English fiction. He died peacefully after living for 99 springs and leaving behind a lot of writing. He was a writer, a political and philosophical thinker, and a humanist who worked hard for world peace and universal brotherhood. His many novels and stories make up a fictional chronicle of his fight against the social, political, ethical, and moral practices that lead to the oppression of the poor and downtrodden, as well as injustice against women, who are the weaker part of society. He was a progressive working-class person and also fought for women's rights. He was a humanist, a philanthropist, and to some degree, a feminist. His fiction shows that he believes in "Art for life's sake" and that he wants to expose how the poor, the ignorant, and the illiterate are taken advantage of by imperial masters, village money lenders, dishonest traders, native rulers, priests, tea planters, and most of all, traditional patriarchs. Anand was a

loyal friend, a tireless worker, an enthusiastic champion of the cause of the poor and the lowly, a relentless crusader against inequality and injustice, and above all, a staunch humanist with limitless trust in man and creative arts. His work as a committed writer was very important in bringing about change in society

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