

write a note on pathos in 'Untouchable'

- 1. Discuss 'Untouchable' as a pathetic novel.
- 2. Show that Mulk Raj Anand's novel is a powerful attack on the inhumanity of the caste system.

Ans: - Dr. Mulk Raj Anand has written his novels & stories for art for art's sake but for the sake of liberal the present novel 'Untouchable' is a highly pathetic novel. All his novels are full of moving and pathetic scenes. Like Dickens and Lamb, he has blended humour and pathos very successfully and artistically. It pictures the ~~that~~ problem of untouchability in India pathetically. It deals with that problem which has harmed the psychological balance of millions of Indian people. It describes how the untouchable caste people suffer the humiliations and suffering at the hands of high Hindu caste people.

There are various scenes in this novel that have pictured very pathetically in here. First of all, we can pick up the touching scene ~~where~~ of a morning of Bakha a sweeper-boy. One Bakha was going to clean the road and the temple courtyard with talabis in his mouth. He enjoys the ~~refuse~~ rapture and pleasure of the delicious taste of the honey and talabis. He does not think himself a blight on the ~~way~~ road. In the meantime a traditional talaji is touched by him and he makes much ado about nothing. He somehow or other wants to escape from the abuses and curses of majority of the people on the road. Nobody ~~wishes~~ wishes to have to show mercy on the untouchable boy, only the tongawalla comes to his rescue. In the meantime he gets slaps from the enraged and touched talaji and thus his turban and talabis are thrown into the dust. Thus it is the most touching and ~~path~~ pathetic scene of the inhumanity of the caste system of the novel.

The second pathetic episode occurs in the courtyard of a big temple. Bakha has to clean the outer part of the temple. But he has a curiosity to see the process of worshipping in the temple, when

... goes a step to see the process, the he

This the novelist has made untouchables and castes his heroes and heroines in a revolutionary way in Indian literature before the second world war. His memorable heroes can be seen in the forms of Bakshi Bikkur, Munoo and Sandagar. The memorable heroine can be seen in the forms of Gauri and Sohini. Dr Anand's women play a minor and sub-ordinate role in comparison to men. His heroines are very simple and sincere women everywhere. He describes the rustic realistically, full of dirt and dust and disease, debt, anchery and debts though they are exploited by the priestly or money-lending classes, they face insults, kicks and abuses.

The portrayal of children has been done by Dr Anand in an expert way. This can be seen in his creation of characters like Bakhi, Munoo, Ananti and Gauri and Parvati. British characters have a great role in all his novels. This can be seen in the creation of his characters like Colonel Hutchinson, Hite, Coxa and Tweedie. They have been presented without any touch of colonial or racial prejudice and with the characteristic objectivity and realism. Anand's portrait of English characters are the photo-stat of the nature and ways of English life. Some comic characters like Ramji and Abram can also be seen in his novels. Their portrayal with great humanitarianism has been able to create some pity in the audience.

In this way we find that his characters are the pictures of his intimate experiences. A lamb becomes a lion and a dove becomes a Jackal. There are some autobiographical sketches also. The Baza Baku's son in "Untouchable" is Anand himself in childhood. "Seven Summers" and "Morning Face" have autobiographical touches in their heroes or Starkov is Dr Anand. In all his novels have the characters from top to bottom, from the Maharaja to the medicant and from the Anglo-India to the untouchables. Here we can find different types of soldiers, artists, priests, teachers, money-lenders, shopkeepers, coolies etc. Thus his characters cover the <sup>and political</sup> Indian social scene over a period of more than 10 years.