

## Mulk Raj Anand: A Pioneer Novelist in Indo-Anglian Literature

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### Abstract

India is a Hindi reign country, it is difficult for an Indian writer to struggle oversea language i.e. English in their literary cosmos. English language was considered as a burden in pre independence period which was imposed in our education system by Lord Macaulay to get advantage for British administration in India. But Indian writers took it as a challenge in valorous way and achieved their destination with more efficiency. They drafted Indian civilization and religion thoughts through their literary pieces in a decent manner. This paper points out Anand's efforts to raise voices against hunger, industrialization, clannishness, suffering of Indian milieu of weaker section and their absorption in the hands of opportunists and powerful through his second sequel novel- 'Coolie'.

Keywords: Absorption, Opportunists, Indian Civilization, Coolie, Literary Cosmos.

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#### Introduction:

In modern world, Indo-Anglian literature has popularly got its existence in an impressive level. These litterateurs use alien language as a casement for variant country people to introduce our social sentiments and culture in profound mode. Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao belong to first generation of Indian litterateurs who, later on, are known as “The Father of Indian Literature”. Mulk Raj Anand (1905-2004) Anand indirectly creates a web revolt against the prescriptive English and lays the beautiful stones to attain the higher peak of literature range.

Anand is one of these prolific writers who born at Peshawar (Pakistan) in a coppersmith ordinary family. In pre independence period his family settles in North India as his father Lal Chand works as a clerk in British Military Cantonment. His mother Ishwar Kaur brings up her son under the doctrine of religion and nationalism. Anand is influenced to see the life style and language of the English. Anand is a brilliant student who easily understands the norms and values of his milieu. After seeing the ‘Jallianwala Bagh’ massacre in 1919, his pre induced emotions related to British culture come to an end very soon. He gets his graduation from Khalsa College, Amritsar and starts taking part in national movement. He goes to England to get the doctorate degree in philosophy where he enjoys the company of English literary personalities and feels fascination towards literature. After coming back to India, he published his first novel Untouchable in 1935 reflecting Gandhi’s philosophy about inequality which gets much popularity among the readers.

Anand is such a type of optimistic human being to encourage pessimist mass to raise their voice against the social evil of inequality. His writings produce a voice for voiceless people of the society. He projects a pavement to cure pathetic life of workers, coolie, peasants and downtrodden who clutches under the hands of social complexities poverty, exploitation, cruelty and other social evils. The wealthy colonial society cheats the inhabitants of weaker

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section physically, morally and socially. Anand is always appreciated for his revolutionary views as a social reformer

The Coolie (1936):

In the ocean of literature theme of Narayan's works dominates traditionalism and mythological aspect of Indian society. Raja Rao presented the theme of metaphysical and psychological elements, while Mulk Raj Anand, the revolutionary writer represent the various structures of life with his own vision of love and sincerity. The evil of the inequality between the rich and the poor always exist as a burning point in the society. India has been a cast based country since unforgettable time, but said social evil never comes to an end. Anand uses his writings to awaken the people of weaker section against the prevailing social evil.

Anand published his second novel 'The Coolie' which reflects the pathetic position of an orphan child, 'Munoo'. Anand is not a regional writer, but he highlighted a real picture of the poor in a vivid manner using colloquial language. Anand accepts that he himself led a life with the company of the protagonist of the novel. In The Collie, the 14 year old guy starts his journey from his native town Bilaspur, situated at the foot of Kangra hills near Beas river. Munoo, the hero of the story, lives with his wicked, snobbish greedy uncle Dayaram, who served as a peon in the Imperial Bank of India at Shyam Nagar. His cruel aunt Gujri wants that Munoo himself must earn his bread. In lousy manner, his aunt calls him:

"Where have you drifted, you ominous one! You , of the evil stars? Come back! Your uncle is leaving soon; you must go to the town with him".

Munoo never forgets the pangs of curse given by his aunt and sufferings of his late parents. The preexisting circumstances force him to go with his uncle as he has already

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secured a menial job for Munnoo in the house of his bank's sub-accountant. His poverty loses the love of his kith and kin and drives him away. They go to Sham Nagar on foot where the worldly shining things fascinate Munnoo. His uncle brings him to the house of Babu Nathoo Ram to put him as a domestic servant. Bibi Uttam Kaur, wife of Nathoo Ram, is an ill tempered woman who treats Munnoo harshly and cruelly. Tears stream down his cheeks as he leads a pathetic and miserable life there. One day Mr. W. P. England, the chief cashier of the bank come to take tea at Babu's house, as he wants a recommendation for his promotion as an accountant. At the time of serving tea, out of hurry, Munnoo stumbles and lets the tray falls down from his hands. Bibiji abuses him in filthy way and beats him mercilessly. She compels him to overwork and never gives him food to his fill. Munnoo leaves the house in her absence. His uncle rebukes him and returns him back for the same domestic service. The thoughts of revenge and wildness start racing through his head but the cool floor seems to sponge the brain till he sleeps down. In this milieu, he starts hating everyone except the Chhota Babu, Doctor Prem Chand and Sheila, the daughter of Bibiji, who mockingly calls him monkey. At another occasion, Munnoo bites Sheila on her cheeks during play. At this Bibiji beats Munnoo relentlessly, Babuji slaps him and kicks him with his shiny black boots.

'A whipping dog hides in a corner; A whipping human being seeks escape'.

In the tense emptiness he feels intensely alone and leaves the house. in deep despair and darkness of night.

He gets into a stationary train and hides himself below the seats in its compartments without knowing its destination. From the conversation of the passengers, he came to know that the train is going from Shyam Nagar to Daulatpur. His sadden appearance and filthy dress amazes the passengers of the compartment. Seth Prabhu Dayal takes pity on him, who is a proprietor of a pickle making factory. After hearing his pathetic story, Seth brings him to

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his factory. Seth Prabhu Dayal is a kind and discreet man, while his partner Ganpat is a dishonest and inconsiderate person, who ill treats Munnoo and other workers of the factory. Seth and his wife Parbati, the childless couple, treat Munnoo with love and affection. Wife of Rai Bahadur Sir Todermal complains against the smoke coming out of the pickle factory, as it damages the recently whitewashed house. A scuffle took place between them. Ganpat cheated Parbhu Dayal resulting in Seth getting bankrupt. All the creditors complains the matter with the police, resultantly the police arrests him. Parbhu Dayal, then returns to his village. At the time of departure he give a silver coin of one Rupee to Munoo. Now, Munnoo decides to earn his living at the station as a collie. But the police ask him to run away as he fails to produce license of collie. At this stage, the surroundings of Daulatpur leaves him in vain and he decided to go somewhere in search of job. Once again Munnoo's life becomes horrific. While reading the Novel Coolie any one may get the impression that the protagonist Munnoo was born to bear the brunt of evil characters throughout his life. Now, he reached Bombay with a group of circus persons and starts new journey of life of cotton-mill worker. Here Anand alienates the awful environment in which the labourers were forced to survive in a touching way. Chimta Saheb, the supervisor of the mill provides a hut for Hari and Munnoo near the factory in a crowded and dirty colony. Here Munnoo makes a web of friendship with a Punjabi boy Ratan. One morning, Chimta Saheb announces the dismissal of Ratan from the factory. As a result of it the trade union declares a troll down strike with several demands of the workers.

In the meeting place, the sound of 'kidnapped...kidnapped...' cracks the air resulting into Hindu Muslim riots. He gets a narrow escape in the envelopment of riots. The volunteers of the social service help him to leave the area of riots. Here Munnoo again makes his mind ready not to stay in such a horrible place and decide to run away. Then he visits the costs of Malabar Hills where he is knocked down by an accident caused by the car of a Eurasian lady

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Mrs. Mainwaring and he becomes unconscious. She brings him to her home and saves his life. Now, in the last phase of his life, Munnoo finds himself in Shimla where he works as a domestic served in the house of Mrs. Mainwaring. It seems that this lady saves Munnoo for her own sake and to let Munnoo dying of sufferings. In his company, Munnoo feels a sort of strange and in inexplicable feeling. Munnoo is one of four coolies who drives that rickshaw in which she takes a joy to sit in. When he spits out blood from his mouth, he comes to know that he is suffering from tuberculosis. He starts losing health and at the age of sixteen he passes away in the white light of one unreal white night. Infact, the life of Munnoo not seems better than that of an over laden animal who patiently suffers the blow coming down in his deserted life. Cramped atmosphere of neglect at every places where he goes don't bring a sigh of relief.

#### Conclusion:

The profound knowledge of Anand's mind assesses the various outdated social system and institutions and evokes an immensely varied life of a downtrodden in vigorous form in his realistic prose fiction as it bubbles in front of his eyes. He nurtures the message to create social goodness through embedding the stones of social evils. Economic determinism is truly responsible for crushing Munnoo's budding youth that inspire pity in our hearts. Anand places a stress to think deeply about kith and kin relation, the shadow of the existed illegal relation and throws a beam of light in good intensity on the existed state of mind, based on religion, diversity which can become fatal for a well living society. Thus the philosophy and the subject matter of Anand inspire us and award him as 'A pioneer novelist in Indo-Anglian literature'.

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