



## THE APPLICATION OF HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVES TO MULK RAJ ANAND'S COOLIE

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### Abstract :

It is generally accepted that Mulk Raj Anand is, at his core, a humanist, and that he has made important contributions to the area of literature by penning a number of works with a humanist perspective. Books, articles, and essays have all made important contributions. His two books, "Untouchable" and "Coolie," are both important works in this field. The protagonist, Bakha, struggles against the social forces of society represented by untouchability, and the novel is hailed as an epic of sadness because of it. Coolie, on the other hand, has been considered as an essential addition in this field due to the way it shows the daily activities of a young woman. Munoo is another victim of the cruel system that permeates Coolie's culture, and his terrible story ends with his untimely death. The community generally adheres to this strict system. Anand has a great deal of sympathy and compassion for those who act in the manner described in the previous paragraph since his worldview is entirely humanistic and filled to the brim with compassion.

Key-words: Humanism, Zeal, Propaganda, Society, Exploitation. Paper

### Introduction :

Because of the significant impact that he has had on people's lives, Mulk Raj Anand has, without a shadow of a doubt, established himself as a major figure in the world of English literature via the production of a massive body of writing that has brought him widespread recognition. His life experiences have been the inspiration for his novels, short tales, and other works. When we study Anand's literary works, we see that these literary outputs by him serve as a record of individuals who have a direct interaction with society. "The readers of Anand's works get into a personal and contemporary contact with life as a result. Because his writings include a humanistic undercurrent, they continue to captivate readers even after years have passed since they were first published.

Since Mulk Raj Anand is of the opinion that humanism is the key that is required to awaken the heart, mind, and soul of the people, some academics and critics have classified him as a humanist. Anand, who was truly and profoundly affected by Karl Marx, Guru Nanak Dev, and Mahatma Gandhi, followed in the footsteps of these visionary figures in his creative works. This is because Anand was deeply and profoundly impacted by these three individuals. It is abundantly obvious that Anand is a dedicated author who is concerned with the challenges and predicaments that people face in addition to the societal problems that are pervasive in the society. In order to spread his humanistic worldview via his writings, he has spared no effort, as can be seen through a careful



examination of his works, which reveals that he has not missed a single opportunity to do so.

The regular people, who are the victims of an oppressive and harsh system, have Mulk Raj Anand's compassion as a delineator of Indian social life, and he feels sorry for them. In point of fact, he is the leader of the oppressed, and his heart breaks for many of the marginalized members of Indian society, such as untouchables, coolies, and those in the working class. His objective has always been to extract from them that which is really human by integrating the psychological realities of modern Indian culture. This has been his primary focus. Anand expresses his compassion for those who are destitute and oppressed, as well as his protest against the injustice that is meted out to those people, in practically every work that he has written.

When seen from humanistic views, the current work might be read as a chronicle of infinite sorrows in the life of coolies. Mulk Raj Anand's novel *Coolie* is a potent examination of social protest in which he deals with the suffering, predicaments, and tribulations of coolies. There are a number of commentators that see *coolie* as a post-colonial work since it addresses the repercussions of the colonial control of the British over the Indian population. The heartbreaking story of the novel's primary protagonist, Munoo, an orphaned country lad from Bilaspur in the Kangra Hill, who leaves home in search of a way to support himself is described in exquisite detail in *Coolie*. His heartbreaking story recounts his time spent working as a domestic helper for a family from the urban middle class in Sham Nagar. The family's head of the household is abusive to him and constantly accuses him of wrongdoing.

The first chapter of this book focuses on Munoo's ordeal, which begins with his aunt Gujri and uncle Daya ram mistreating him in a manner that is both inhumane and deplorable. Because even his birthplace is not immune to the corrupting effect of commercial and feudalistic exploitation, he is forced to abandon his hometown in full disdain and disillusionment. After leaving his hometown, he finds himself for the first time in the city at the residence of Babu Nathoo Ram, an accountant who works for the Imperial Bank. Because of the mistreatment he receives at the hands of his mistress, Bibi Uttam Kaur, who constantly puts him down, the pristine beauty and innocence of his childhood are tarnished over time.

After leaving this city, Munoo relocates to Daulatpur, and then on to Bombay from Daulatpur. One of the primary themes of this book is the master-servant connection, which is brought to light by the fact that Munoo is given respectful treatment by Prabha, while Parvati, Munoo's wife, is cruel and uncaring toward him. The betrayal of Prabh Dayal's partner and the brutality of Todarmal lead to Prabh Dayal's downfall. The factory is put up for sale, and Munoo looks for employment as a miner at the Daulatpur market.

The merchants have the power to fire and punish the coolies, force them to carry weights that are abnormally large for their size, and terminate their employment at will. Munoo runs away to Bombay with the expectation of finding a better life there, where her ambitions may come true. As a result of Munoo's employment at Sir George White's Cotton Mills, he is subjected to the full weight of the colonial and industrial system of exploitation.” The British system is very unfavorable to the laborers, who are given very low salaries and are forced to work day and night. Additionally,



the laborers are forced to work long hours. The workers' bodies and minds are shattered because they are not only underpaid but also poorly housed, malnourished, and harassed.

The last act of Munoo's tragedy begins when Mrs. Mainwaring, whose automobile knocks him down, takes him to Shimla as her servant. This event marks the beginning of the final act. She uses



the youngster who serves her as her rickshaw puller, and there is some evidence to suggest that he is being exploited sexually. As a result of a deeply ingrained sense of inferiority to the superior people who lived in bungalows and dressed in English clothing, he accepts his lot as a rickshaw puller without uttering a single complaint about it. As a direct consequence of it, Munoo passes away from consumption while he is just sixteen years old. The people of Munoo had suffered much as a result of being uprooted, subjected to colonialism and capitalism, exploited by industry, and subjected to human oppression.

Since a result, Munoo is a victim of society, as the latter does not assist him in a variety of settings, which finally leads to the terrible conclusion of his story. “Even though he has to work very hard in order to keep his head above water, the affluent people refuse to help him because of their avarice, exploitation, complete self-centeredness, and callousness. He is treated with the same deference that one would show an animal, and a determined young man's aspirations are thwarted at every turn of his life. He has no choice but to turn his life into that of a wandering nomad since he is unable to change his fate. It might have been possible for Munoo to become a content person if the community had shown some compassion for him.

In this sense, the current book is notable for its humanism, for its condemnation of society as a whole - a civilization that produces such biases and brutality - and for the fact that it is exceptional for its denunciation. This book has reached the level of an epic for all time, and Anand lends a global flavor to the central issue he explores throughout the book. Munoo is a victim of the merciless harshness and unbridled exploitation of industrial colonial civilization, and she is offered as a sacrifice. The fact that Munoo is among the most lasting characters, like Mark Twain's Huck Finn and Dickens' David Copperfield”, is one of the reasons why this book has been appropriately referred to as an epic of sorrow. Munoo's unquenchable curiosity and zeal for life help make him one of these characters.

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