

# Projection of Social Realism and Humanism in the Fictional World of Mulk Raj Anand

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## Abstract

This article sheds light on the books of Mulk Raj Anand in social realism and humanism. Humanism and socialism are the governing principles of his writings

**Keywords:** Mulk Raj Anand, Social Realism, Intellectual Realism, Romantic Realism, Psychological Realism, Folk Realism, Moral Realism, Downtrodden, Exploiter, Exploited.

Mulk Raj Anand was the first Indo-English novelist to comment on the tragic plight of underdogs in Indian society. He realistically wrote in his fiction about the devastating lives of the upressed and oppressed. All his novels highlight the universal philosophy of life, which is nothing but natural and humanistic philosophy. All of his characters belong to the low caste and downtrodden society. M.R Anand in his article "The Source of Protest in My Novels" states:

“I wish to create the folk whom I know  
Intimately from the lower depths the lumpens  
And the suppressed, oppressed, repressed, those  
Who have seldom appeared in our literature” (p. 20)

All his characters have a certain vision of reality. They are all simple, easy-to-read human beings and know their social status. In **Two Leaves and a Bud** Anand says, "All these heroes and other men and women... were the reflection of real people I had known during my childhood and youth ... they are the flesh of my flesh and the blood of my blood". His first Novel *Untouchable* is the voice he used against the exploitation of a stripper boy by the character of Bakha. According to Pramila Paul, Bakha serves as a mirror for the pathetic condition of the untouchables.

E.M. Forster rightly observes: "... The slave may change his master and his duties and may even become free, but the sweeper is brown forever born into a state from which he cannot escape, and he is excluded from social intercourse" (P10).

Mulk Raj Anand is a service tool for humanity. No one can read his novels without being inspired by his involvement with the subject and the community. For example, *Coolie* is a novel in which he describes the tragic accident of the Indian people aimed at bringing about

a change of heart. “*Untouchable* shows the evils of caste system along with the panacea for the social malaise” (Abidi 45). Prof. P.P. Metha says:

“Dr. Anand in all his novels emphasizes the fact that nobility and dignity are not the monopoly of the rich. The poor have their greatness honour as well as the richness. ... Cromwells are not uncommon in the ranks of the poor” (P 39).

Anand’s is realism is social realism. Yes, the transcript of life is reproduced with photo accuracy and minute details. *Untouchable* is a realistic description of the evil of untouchability practiced by caste Hindus. *Coolie* is a piece of life without any change in the facts of life. “Realism in *Untouchable* and *The Big Heart* is naturalistic realism, in *Coolie* intellectualism, in *Two Leaves and a Bud* epic realism, in *The Village Trilogy* romantic realism, in *Seven Summer* psychological realism, in *Private Life of an Indian Prince* folk religion, in *The Old Woman and the Cow* moral realism in *The Road and the Death of a Hero*” (Herrex145).

To conclude, his works beautifully illustrate the Realism and humanism. These two factors form the major two traits in his fiction.

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