



Cruelty Vs Humanity in Chaman Nahal's Selected Novels

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Abstract: If Literature is the treatment of experience through the medium of words, the quality of the literature depends on the kind of experience handled. The works of great literary men stem from high consciousness. No literary work can achieve its true aim of expanding the consciousness and increasing the awareness, if the author does not rise to the spirit and carry the creative power to kindle fire in others. Chaman Nahal, the most renowned post – Indian Historical novelist, sharpens the sensibilities of the readers by forecasting the spirit of the times. The Study highlights Nahal's artistic skills as a novelist, his high purpose of awakening the value and faith in life, which is dormant in man. He is greatly concerned with the materialistic preoccupation of modern man and the growing malaise of values. The analysis examines the above said concerns in his novels.

Keywords: experience, consciousness, sensibilities, materialistic, modern.

I. INTRODUCTION:

Chaman Nahal born in 1927 in Sialkot, India (now in Pakistan) educated at Delhi University and the University of Nottingham, England. He was a professor of English. Nahal may be said to be one of such "good writers" who is mediumistic to the deeper strings of life of the Gandhian age. Nahal's first novel 'My True Faces' (1973) deals in main with the marital discord and the resultant conflict between Kamal and Malti. Azadi (1975), which won the Sahitya Akademi award for the year 1977, is one of the most comprehensive fictional accounts of the partition holocaust in Indian literature. The theme of 'Into Another Dawn' (1977) is cosmopolitanism and international fraternity. Nahal's next novel, 'The English Queens' (1979) is a satire on the follies, affectations and moralities of the anglicized Indians. 'The Crown and the Loincloth' (1981) is a forceful recordation of the non-violent non-cooperation movement that swept the country during 1920-22. He once again introduces the quest motif in his Sunrise in Fiji (1988). 'The Salt of Life' (1990) is a remarkable historical novel with a fine blend of fact fiction, representing vast canvas of the Indian freedom struggle. 'The Triumph of the Tricolor' (1993), which deals with the third and final phase of Indian freedom struggle – Quit India movement.

The spectrum of consciousness for celebration of life in Nahal's novels has not been specifically dealt with. Critics have indulged in analyzing themes of affirmation, the Indian sensibility, the use of history, and the Gandhian aspect. Nahal's novels provide ample scope for a clinical study of various types of Consciousness in men at different premises. The characters awaken to particular Consciousness and display remarkable commitment to life and its worth.

The analysis seeks to bring forth and emphasise Chaman Nahal's intentions in sketching the varied sensibilities in man, from each of which he tries to spread the message of the unbending and rejuvenating spirit of man, affirming life's worth after each trial he encounters. The second chapter explores Nahal's treatment of the individual and his conflicts with the family, society and the nation. The third chapter presents an analysis of Nahal's presentation of the collective psyche.

The study aims to analyse and establish the hypothesis that the various experiences of the characters of Nahal unfold the dimensions of consciousness pointing to the new direction of recreating life, affirming its meaning.

A more evocative and analytic method, more supple and more harmonizing becomes essential for an exploration of these dimensions of consciousness in the works of Chaman Nahal. The study shall unfold Chaman Nahal's attempt at awakening consciousness and scrutinize his view about individual and communal responsibilities, Gandhian ideology and gender issues, not excluding his moral, social,

Philosophical and psychological delination. All the eight novels of Chaman Nahak have been taken for study. They are the four include in The Gandhian Quartet – The Crown and the Loincloth, The salt of Life, The Triumph of the Tricolor and Azadi – Sunrise in Fiji, into Another Dawn, My True Faces and The English Queens.

Chaman Nahal is one among the Indian writers in English who has been denied justifiable attention. With an exception to Azadi, his other works remain insufficiently analysed. Nahal's short stories and his critical works suffer the same indifference while his latest contribution to juvenile literature, the Akela trilogy has indeed won considerable acknowledgement. As a novelist, Nahal has invited attention to critical works in the form of reviews, thematic analyses, interviews and articles in journals.

The novels of Chaman Nahal provide interesting reading and the critical works indeed enrich the understanding of his themes and style. Nahal's autobiography, *Silent Life: Memoirs of a Writer and Other Free Encyclopedias: Chaman (Lal) Nahal Biography* provide details of his biography presented in this research. Subba Rayudu's extensive analysis of his Gandhian novels, Gandhian ideology and the Indian Novel: Chaman Nahal's *The Gandhi Quartet* along with a host of articles on his other novels have motivated and contributed to the indepth study of his themes and patterns.

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The study also evaluates Nahal's skill at dealing with the diasporic sensibilities in novels like *Sunrise in Fiji* and *Into Another Dawn*. The fourth chapter deals with Gandhi's role as a beacon light in India's freedom struggle, his life of discipline and the Gandhian morality, his ideologies and his misgivings too. An attempt has been made to highlight the relevance of Gandhi to modern times. The fifth chapter studies the feminist consciousness, as perpetuated by Chaman Nahal in his novels, which is different from the stale cry for independence from male domination. Nahal's remarkable portrayal of empowered women is brought to light, highlighting that their self-sufficiency renders them freedom and modesty together.

The approach is thematic, dealing with the individual, Social and moral concerns, and the methodology chosen is analytical. The purpose is to evaluate Nahal as a novelist with the lauded purpose of awakening consciousness toward celebration of life. The forthcoming chapter traces Nahal's focus on the individual consciousness, the discovery of the meaning of individual life by restoring personal discipline and values. His individuals experience fulfillment as well as failure in the struggle they encounter and emerge from these vicissitudes of life adding greater meaning to it.

Nahal's works do not just entertain or instruct but change the perception of the readers, thereby strengthening, ennobling, and enlarging the affirmation of the meaning of life. Nahal was strongly influenced by the inner reserves of strength and power of Gandhiji which emanated from his moral convictions and devotes a quartet to exemplify Gandhian principles. The temper of India in the first half of twentieth century is wonderfully captured in his works. The attitude of the people towards individuals, community, family, religion and culture find vivid realistic reflection. Nahal's themes which range from the individual and the social, to the national and the nurtured by the Indian mind steeped in dharma. Nahal views life as a series of challenges and makes his characters overcome them to re-assure his faith in the Goodness of life.

The study, *A Thematic Study Of Chaman Nahal's Novel* highlights Nahal's artistic skills as a novelist, his high purpose of awakening the value and faith in life, which is dormant in man. He is greatly concerned with the materialistic preoccupation of modern man and the growing malaise of values. The analysis examines the above said concerns in his novels.

Striking the Chords of Consciousness:

The striking the Chords of Consciousness discusses the compulsion of artists and philosophers to represent contemporary problems and their essential role in moulding a better society. The growth of the historical novel has been traced and Nahal's unique place in the order is highlighted. Biographical details are drawn from his autobiography, *Silent Life* along with other sources to provide an insight into his artistic acumen. Instances that have inspired Nahal to present life-like situations are identified from his own testimonial statements.

The study establishes the hypothesis that the various experiences of the characters unfold the dimensions of consciousness pointing to the new directions of recreating life, affirming its meaning. The study seeks to look afresh at the problems and see how they can be created a new in the light of the experiences of his characters. It examines Chaman Nahal's attempt at awakening consciousness of the readers to the social problems and to scrutinize his view of life at the individual, national and the cosmopolitan levels, not excluding his moral, social, philosophical and psychological delineations in another plane. Towards this purpose, eight novels have been taken for study: *Sunrise in Fiji*, *Into Another Dawn*, *The English Queens* and *My True Faces* and the four novels included in *The Gandhi Quartet*-*The Crown* and *the Loincloth*, *The Salt of Life*, *The Triumph of the Tricolour* and *Azadi*.

Individual Seeking Meaning in Life:

It explores Nahal's treatment of the individual and his conflicts with the family, society and the nation. Chaman Nahal devoted considerable space to family as an institution. *The Gandhi Quartet*, supplies ample scope for analyzing the responsibilities of an individual, *Into Another Dawn* analyzes the highly sensitive individuals seeking meaning in life. *Sunrise in Fiji* focuses on the spiritual famine concealed by materialistic splendour. The individual in relation to family, the civic sense aroused during the freedom struggle, personal discipline as advocated by Gandhi, the East West encounter in respect to individuality are the other concerns of the chapter.

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The Sensitive Issue of Partition:

Partition delineates the whole saga of struggle for Independence based on Satyagraha pointing toward awakening of the collective consciousness. As families, as communities, and as a nation, the background provides immense opportunity for the novelist to bring about a spectrum of awakening at various levels, The other prospective fields of communalism, the presence of extremists and moderates among the freedom fighters, and the sensitive issue of Partition are analysed. The chapter assesses how the dawn of freedom becomes a nightmarish "false dawn of freedom and "a wiped-out dream", with the horrendous experience of the holocaust of communal violence, besides emphasizing the need for religious harmony. The chapter analyzes *The Gandhian Quartet*, which is rich in the colonizer and the colonized attitudes for the collective sensibilities. Nahal's skill at dealing with the diasporic sensibilities in novels like *Sunrise in Fiji* and *Into Another Dawn* and the comical treatment of the imitative English consciousness in *The English Queens* are also examined. The chapter highlights that Nahal's concerns stem from a code of stable ethical and cultural values.

Reflecting Gandhian Thoughts:

It concerns itself with Nahal's portrayal of Gandhi and his role in awakening the national as well as moral consciousness. Nahal's *The Gandhi Quartet* is an exclusive presentation of the mechanics of Gandhian methods and how people responded to them. Gandhi's firm belief in non-violence, his frustration over the division of people on basis of religion and creed are elaborately analysed. An array of novels portraying Gandhi as a character and the relevance of Gandhian ideologies are discussed. Nahal's difficult and challenging task of portraying Gandhi both as an individual and as a symbol has been explored. Gandhi saga sets the pace and the deeper meaning to his novels. The chapter focuses on the relevance of Gandhi and the need to interpret Gandhian values in response to the new life demands.

Analyze the spectrum of women character:

The studies the feminist consciousness as perpetuated by Chaman Nahal in his novels. Nahal has the flair for portraying strong women. The role of women in the freedom struggle has been glorified by Nahal. His women are smart and are often the anchors of the storyline. The chapter analyzes the spectrum of women characters- the instrumental woman of a family, the convicted women in the freedom struggle, the British and the American women living in India, and the emancipated yet cultured woman typical of the Indian tradition.

Renewing the Spirit:

The conclusion part Within highlights the main threads running through all the chapters, illuminating the relevance of his observations on the exultation of life at all circumstances. The various techniques employed by Nahal are examined to assess and establish Chaman Nahal's position among the major writers of Indian English novels. Nahal's creative writing is an embodiment of a positive attitude to life, Its acceptance in its totality, the celebration of its joys and resignation to its sufferings, leading to relentless exploration of values that make life meaningful. He succeeds in awakening the dormant spirit of men pointing out, that though confined within the frame of society or history, the essential pursuit should be to search and celebrate the meaning of life.

II. CONCLUSION

Nahal's characters and situations revealing a host of other like cosmopolitanism, the impact of ethnicity, Indian sensibility and Nahal's love for the Indian landscape provide enough scope for study. His style, techniques, short stories and juvenile literature are vast areas which provide ample scope for study and appreciation. The novels of Chaman Nahal have an amplitude and richness of human life and advocate understanding sympathy, love, forgiveness, and brotherhood. The background may be potentiality of his being. A thematical study of his novels and it is these qualities which load them with rich meaning and significance.

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