

Representation of Dalit in Mulk Raj Anand's *Coolie*

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Dalit literature is a literature which focuses on the lives of Dalits. According to Indian caste system, there were many categories of people. Among them, the Dalits forced to occupy the lowest position. So they have to fight for their rights to survive in the society. The primary motive of Dalit literature is the liberation of Dalits. This paper focuses on the novel "*Coolie*" written by Mulk Raj Anand. In this novel, he has made his attack on the Indian social system. Mulk Raj Anand's novels and short stories reflect the real picture of Indian social and political scene. His works include a wide variety of character from the king to the downtrodden. His pen does not recognize any barrier. It goes beyond the limitation of caste, creed, conventions and rituals. Through his writings, he has done his service for humanity.

"*Coolie*" is the second great political novel published in 1936. It narrates the life of fourteen year old boy Munoo, who lives with his uncle and aunt. He lives happily in the village named Bilaspur, inspite of his uncle and aunt's ill-treatment. His uncle Dayaram is a peon in Imperial Bank, Sham Nagar. He decides to take Munoo to the town for earning. Munoo also wants to visit the new world, but after his examinations. But his aunt Gujri, orders him to leave the town immediately. Munoo leaves the village and goes to the town with his uncle. Munoo is introduced to Babu Nathoo Ram, who is a sub-accountant in Imperial Bank, Sham Nagar. In addition to Babu, his wife, children and his brother Prem Babu lives in the house. Babu's wife takes charge of Munoo. But she is a woman of cruel nature. In spite of Munoo's hardwork, she ill-treats him.

Munoo's life becomes worse when compared to his early life. Since Munoo belongs to the lower caste, he gets ill-treated and finds difficult to survive in the society. One day W.P. England, a respectable man in the society visits Babu's home for a tea-party. Munoo wants to serve the tea. While serving the tea, the tea-tray falls from his hand and the precious China crockery breaks into pieces. Bibiji beats him very badly after the tea-party. Prem Babu saved Munoo from Bibiji. After few days, Munoo fights with other boys in the street because they does not allow him to fill his pitcher at the water pump. As a result, Munoo gets a wound and he was bleeding. Prem Babu, brother of Babu gives him a better treatment and he

takes a good care of him. One day, Babu's daughter Sheila is dancing in the house with her friends. Munoo enters and begins to play his monkey dance. Sheila tries to keep him away according to her mother's advice. Sheila pulls his ear to send him out. She goes on pulling his ear harder and harder. Munoo gets angry and bites her cheek. She begins to cry loudly. At that time, Babuji and Bibiji enters the house and beats Munoo badly. Because of his lower state, he never gets a chance to prove himself. He runs away from Sham Nagar with the opinion that the world is filled with two classes of people, the rich and the poor. Munoo knows that he is a slave and so he has to do all odd jobs. After leaving Sham Nagar, he visits Daulatpur. There he gets a job in a pickle factory. The owner of the factory Prabha Dyal and his wife treats him well. But he is abused and beaten by Ganpat, the co-partner of the factory. He is of cruel nature and he betrays Prabha Dyal. And so Prabha Dyal is deprived of his ownership.

Again Munoo wants to find another job. Munoo begins to work as a Coolie. There was a heavy competition in the market. Munoo gets a very low wage and the traders often abuse and beat the coolies in a very bad manner. Munoo as a representative, shows the life of all the coolies. Because of their lower state, they become slaves for the upper class people. Throughout their life, they had to do odd jobs to survive in the society. Then Munoo visits Bombay and gets a job in the cotton factory. In spite of their hard work the workers received very low wages. The managers of the factory are greedy and arrogant. They steal the wages of the workers in every possible way. The workers decide to go for a strike for their rights and self-respect. Throughout his life, Munoo as a slave suffers a lot to lead his life. The strike turned into a communal riot and the workers are beaten badly. Finally they are saved by some social activists.

When Munoo is on his way, he was knocked by the car of Mrs. Mainwaring. She decides to offer a job to Munoo. She appoints him as a richshaw puller and takes him to Simla where her husband hired a flat for her. Mrs. Mainwaring is a woman of loose character. Because of the heavy work in Simla, Munoo becomes ill. Mrs. Mainwaring shows sympathy towards him and calls a doctor named Mr. Merchant to treat him. She develops illegal relationship with the doctor. Munoo wants to continue his work because of the kindness shown by Mainwaring. It has also hinted that she uses him sexually. As day passes, Munoo's health is becoming worse. He continues to cough and spit out the blood. Ratan, his friend advises him to return to Bombay where he can get a job in the union office. A coolie named Mohan takes care of Munoo. Mrs. Mainwaring also takes a good care of him. At last, the doctor advises the lady not to visit him because she will contract the same disease. Mohan visits Munoo frequently and looks after him. Finally Munoo's suffering comes to an end by his death.

Through the life of Munoo, the author describes the suffering of entire Dalit people. Coolies have been exploited in many ways. There should be a change in social structure. Education can make such change. By educating more number of people, it is possible to form a new social structure in which equal rights exist for every human being.

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