

The Novels of Arun Joshi: A study.

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Abstract: *The main purpose of this abstract to identify the significance of the Bhagavad Githa Which acts as right path for the redemption of human beings with regard to their urge. Sri Arun Joshi introduced his characters through novels in a normal way. But their journey is described from becoming to being, from initial negation to final affirmation. In fact the truncated state of the Protagonists is a first step towards the preparation for their metaphysical reconciliation and its resultant poise. They subjected themselves to all kinds of purgatorial experiences obviously trying to discover the secret of life in their distinctive ways in accordance with their individual accomplishments and angularities. Joshi's first three novels Viz., "The foreigner", "The strange Billy Biswas" and "The Apprentice", deal with three ways of redemption as preached in the Bhagavad Githa, Karma Yoga, the Jnana Yoga and the Bhakthi Yoga respectively. The novelist has also tried to present solutions, problems arising out of one's awareness of the lack of the purpose or meaning in life. A realization of the meaningless in life is a prelude to its diagnosis and cure. It is viewed that the protagonists of all these three novels basically suffered from their similar crisis of faith resulting into their loss of identity and sense of alienation. In the midst of such a crisis, all the protagonists desperately started a quest for peace, harmony and meaning in life to regain their identity which they essentially traced in their own soil and culture.*

Keywords: *Protagonist, Redemption, Metaphysical reconciliation, Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga, Bhakthi Yoga.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Arun Joshi is one of the very few Indian novelists in English who have success fully revealed subtleties and complexities of contemporary Indian life. He has produced very compelling works of fiction. Sensitively alive to the predicament of modern man, Joshi has ably delineated unfortunate consequences of the absence of value and faith in life. In fact, it has been rarely excelled in exemplifying the existential dilemma of present – day world. He has also worked out various dimensions of pressure exerted by the complex character and demands of the society in which modern man is doomed to live. This awareness of man's rootlessness and consequential anxiety is the key note of Joshi's unique vision of the plight of modern man. His novels delineate human problems rather than issues arising out of ephemeral loyalties. Joshi marks a definite departure from the general run of Indian novelist in English and his experimentations in themes and technique have added new dimensions to the art of the novel. In his search for new themes he has "renounced the larger world in favour of the inner man" and has engaged himself in "a search for the essence of human living". An outstanding novelist of human predicament, Joshi has chartered in all his novels the inner crisis of the modern man. His protagonists are intensely self – centered persons prone to self-pity and escapism in spite of their weaknesses they are, however genuine seekers who strive to grope towards a purpose of life and self-fulfillment. The protagonists suffer from loneliness and crave for a meaning and purpose in life. In their loneliness they quest for peace and harmony. They have progressed from alienation to existential affirmation. Sindi (The foreigner) slowly knows that real detachment lies in involvement. Rathan's (The Apprentice) sense of alienation teaches him humanism. Billy (The strange case of Billy Biswas) alienated from the higher middle class society in which is born and brought up and in which he is compelled to live through he finds in himself an overpowering urge to a march to a different drum altogether.

Even though the above protagonists considered as lively pictures of dilemma of dual cultures, they are also walking metaphors of alienation. His Sindi in 'The Foreigner' is a foreigner wherever he goes, Billy in 'The Strange case of Billy Biswas' is retreating to the primitive world to find the life essence in Bilasia and Ratan Rathor in 'The apprentice' He is torn between guilt and confession. Joshi skillfully describes the deviation among his heroes in an amazing way. The realization can be seen in Sindi through action (karma youga) Billy through knowledge (jnana Yoga) and Ratan through devotion (Bhakthi Yoga). The novels of Joshi mentioned the above deal with three ways of redemption as preached In the Bhagavad Githa.

II. CONCLUSION

The novelist has tried to present solutions to problems arising out of one's awareness of the lack of the purpose or meaning in life. In his novels the modern man suffering from the crisis of alienation, loneliness, rootlessness and loss of identity. This loss is the by – product of cultural – alienation and social - alienation. These Protagonists seem to be striving desperately for their identity in quest of peace and harmony.

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