



## THE EXQUISITE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAKHA AND BAKHA TOUCHING THE STRINGS OF HUMANITY IN ANAND'S *UNTOUCHABLE*

**P. VENKATA SUDHAKAR**

Lecturer, Department of English

A.M.A.L. College

Anakapalle, Andhra Pradesh, India



**P VENKATA SUDHAKAR**

### ABSTRACT

Mulk Raj Anand, one among the big three, has his own platform in Indo-Anglian Literature. All his major works spill exploitation and humanity. Especially a few encounters in Anand's first novel, *Untouchable* reflects humanity. Now-a-days, we see a lot of ingratitude between parents and their children and how the sensitive relationships are becoming worse.

In this connection, I feel, Bakha, a protagonist in *Untouchable* is really a modern Sravana Kumara. We can clearly notice Bakha's sensitive feelings towards his father, Lakha and his sister, Sohini. Though Lakha's abusing words cut Bakha's tender heart throughout the novel, Bakha does not say a single word against his father. Bakha sweeps the streets even though he is suffering from tors much hunger, that too that is not his turn.

I strongly believe that It is relevant to start my paper with these following lines by W.H. Davies, a well known British poet.

No doubt it is selfish thing

To fly from human suffering-W.H.Davies

Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao established themselves as the big three in Indo-Anglian novel. This Trio chose different themes and got international fame in literature. Mulk Raj Anand (1905-2004), one among the big three has his own platform in Indo-Anglian literature. All his major works spill exploitation of rich over poor and humanity.

As E.M. Forster said:

'It recalled to me very vividly the occasions I have walked "the wrong way" in an Indian city, and it is a way down which no novelist has yet taken me.'

Anand has found a new way of looking at the lives of the under privileged of India.

One can clearly notice that what Anand believes that he practices. His writings and his voice are against exploitation of rich over poor and for the underdog. As per his steps towards the poor, he donated his property to the Charities for the benefit of the poor in his last days to expresses his generosity and humanity.

Basically, the noel *Untouchable* was refused by the Publishers. Finally with the fore word of E.M. Forster, the novel was published and later it was translated into more than eighteen international languages.

Primarily, a man who loves his mother, definitely stands for noble qualities. I think in the same way Anand created a good character Bakha in his first novel *Untouchable* where Bakha loves his father, brother, sister though they live in miserable social and financial conditions.

A few encounters among the characters in the novel *Untouchable* are really a thought-provoking and heart-touching. Jawaharlal Nehru says 'If you love others, others will love you.' The above quoted statement



relating to humanity, relationship, truth, honesty are getting new meanings and theories, Day by day, though people are becoming educated they do not care for the human relationships.

But the novel *Untouchable* deals with the utmost feeling about the suffering of Bakha and the sensitive bond among Lakha, Bakha and Sohini. Based on my paper's title I %yam to focus a few encounters.

When Lakha was trying to get medicine for his son, he was rejected to enter the room without explaining his son's critical condition. In the same time, he received a blowing message from home to see his son's face for the last time. He ran home and found his son's critical condition and thought that he might die at any moment. Then he ran and ran towards Hakim ji and entered the room forgetting the formalities to be observed and knelt down and held the feet of Hakim ji by saying:

"Still there is a little breath left in my child's body, Hakim ji, I shall be your slave all my life. The meaning of my life is my child. Hakim ji, take pity. God will be kind to you".

In this way Lakha requested Hakim ji. Instead of showing pity on Lakha, Hakim ji simply abused in a high pitch calling Lakha 'a Chandala' (low caste). Lakha begged Hakim ji from many angles to convince and take him to his son. For saving Bakha, Lakha suffered a lot physically and mentally.

In the same way Bakha also showed gratitude towards his father. Even though Lakha escaped From his work and abused Bakha with ugly words like: 'get up, ohe you Bkhya you son of a pig' throughout the novel, Bakha does not say a single word against his father. I can see the mythical character Sravana Kumara in Bakha. Sravana Kumara carried his old and blind parents on his young shoulders to pilgrimage. In the same way, Bakha respected his father and tried to keep him cool always by obeying the latter's orders.

Bakha, after coming home from his daily duties, narrated the incident about the priest's attempt to seduce Sohini to his father and expressed his aversion and dissatisfaction against upper caste people. Then Lakha consoled Bakha and said that all the upper caste people were not like the priest. Some good people like Hakim ji, who helped the low caste people in time by showing humanity were there. They were really kind. LAha said that it was religion which prevented them from touching us. This indicates the quality of observation of society and maturity in Lakha. In this way Lakha gave a message to his son that all the upper caste people are not bad and all the lower caste people were not good. He said, 'Every where there is good and bad'.

By thinking of all the advantages which come with education, Bakha felt very happy. In the same time he felt very sad when he came to know that those schools were only for the high caste people and their parents would not allow people like Bakha to sit and touch by their children. When Lakha did not show interest on Bakha to send him to school. Bakha felt very sad. Later he knew the fact and consoled himself.

In general, Lakha's words are very harsh towards his son. When he failed or neglected his duties, Lakha was very affectionate towards his son, Bakha.

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