

Treatment of Human Relationship in R.K.Narayan Selected Novels

Pawan Kumar¹, Dr. K .K. Arora²

INTRODUCTION

R. K. Narayan was born in Madras (now Chennai), Madras Presidency, British India. His father was a school headmaster, and Narayan did some of his studies at his father's school. As his father's job entailed frequent transfers, Narayan spent part of his childhood under the care of his maternal grandmother, Parvati. During this time his best friends and playmates were a peacock and a mischievous monkey Indian author R.K. Narayan is widely considered to be one of India's greatest English language novelists known for his simple and unpretentious writing style, often compared to William Faulkner. Narayan has been nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature multiple times but has not yet won the honor. Narayan broke through with the help of his mentor and friend, Graham Greene, who was instrumental in getting publishers for Narayan's first four books, including the semi-autobiographical trilogy of Swami and Friends, The Bachelor of Arts and The English Teacher. Narayan's works also include The Financial Expert, hailed as one of the most original works of 1951, and Sahitya Akademi Award winner The Guide, which was adapted for film and for Broadway.

LIST OF SOME WORKS BY R.K.NARAYAN

- **The Bachelor of Arts (1937, Thomas Nelson)**
- **The Guide (1958, Methuen)**
- **The Vendor of Sweets (1967, The Bodley Head)**

- **The Bachelor of Arts :-**

This novel tells about human relationship, love and an old tradition Mangal Dosha. This condition is astrologically believed to be unfavorable for marriages, causing discomfort and tension in relationship, leading to severe disharmony among the spouses and eventually to other bigger problems. This is attributed to the "fiery" nature of Mars, the planet of war. Also, if two mangliks marry, the negative effects are believed to cancel each other out, this is taboo in Indian society. It revolves around a young man named Chandran, his love and his marriage. Malti, the girl with whom Chandran falls in love with after graduating from college, is married to someone else.

- **The Guide :-** Again a novel by R.K.narayan which explains love, sacrifice. Railway Raju is a disarmingly corrupt guide who falls in love with a beautiful dancer, Rosie, the neglected wife of archaeologist Marco. Marco doesn't approve of Rosie's passion for dancing. Rosie, encouraged by Raju, decides to follow her dreams and start a dancing career. They start living together and Raju's mother, as she does not approve of their relationship, leaves them. Raju becomes Rosie's stage manager and soon with the help of Raju's marketing tactics, Rosie becomes a successful dancer. Raju, however, develops an inflated sense of self-importance and tries to control her. Raju gets involved in a case of forgery and gets a two-year sentence. After completing the sentence, Raju passes through a village where he is mistaken for a sadhu (a spiritual guide).
- **The Vendor of Sweets :-** The conflict between the old and young generation, their ideals and the generation gap makes 'Vendor of Sweets' a memorable story. This novel was made as a TV serial in Hindi and subsequently dubbed into English. The relationship between Jagan and his son Mali might be read as the clash between Eastern and Western cultures. As characters, Jagan and Mali are contrasted in many ways: while Jagan keeps a strict,

religiously founded diet, Mali has begun eating beef and drinking alcohol after his stay in America. While Jagan prefers to walk everywhere, Mali insists on getting a car. While Jagan's labour is manual; he is a vendor of sweets, Mali want to go into industrial business.

REFERENCES / BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Crossette, Barbara (14 May 2001). "R. K. Narayan, India's Prolific Storyteller, Dies at 94". *The New York Times*. Retrieved 9 July 2009.
2. Sen, Sunrita (25 May 2001). "Gentle chronicler of the essence of small-town India". *India Abroad*. Retrieved 12 July 2009.
3. "R K Narayan". London: *The Daily Telegraph*. 14 May,. Retrieved 25 July 2009.
4. Broyard, Anatole (12 June 1974). "A Monkey and a Peacock; Books of The Times". *The New York Times*. Retrieved 20 October 2009.
5. "Remembering a writer par excellence". *The Hindu*. 8 July 2005. Retrieved 20 October 2009.
6. Rao 2004, p. 13.
7. Alexander McCall Smith (18 March 2006). "The god of small things". *The Guardian*(London). Retrieved 10 July 2009.
8. Robinson, Andrew (2 May 1997). "The peopling of Malgudi". *Times Higher Education*. Retrieved 10 July 2009.
9. Guy, Randor (26 July 2001). "A flood of fond memories". *The Hindu*. Retrieved 12 July 2009.
10. "Priyadarshan's tribute to R K Narayan". *Televisionpoint.com*. 3 March 2006. Retrieved 12 July 2009.
11. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mangal_Dosha
12. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Guide
13. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Vendor_of_Sweets