

16. Plight of Marginalized in Mulk Raj Anand's Untouchable

Prof. A. R. Maniyar
Balbhim College, Beed.

Stratification is found in all the cultures, advanced or not. History gives examples of divisions even in the oldest civilizations. Social stratification is also a common feature, found in our society. With the development of man, our life became complicated. Many changes took place in our society as time evolved. So a great change also occurred in stratification but it was never filled with negative implications. The main objective behind creating these divisions was to contribute to the systematic and smooth functioning of the human society which was evolving rapidly. But with the development of society, a great change also came in socio-economic condition, man's attitude and approach towards life. These changes made man self-centered. Man became greedy and selfish. He intended to establish his powers over others. This greed became main reason because of which the system that was formed for better working of human society, gradually suffered a decline. Society was divided into various groups. This created factions in our society. Older foundations of society shook when this system came into being. Insatiable hunger for power and dominance blinded man, which resulted in competition for power. In this fight, the powerful people started exploiting the marginalized section of the society. Hence, the terms like high and low, victim and victimizer, subaltern and mainstream, blacks and white, dominant and dominated, colonizer and colonized came into existence. All these sections of the society are at margin in our societal system. These people are considered of less importance. The plight of these marginalized people has now become an issue immediate and acute concern not only in the contemporary politics but also for those who with their mighty pen, have taken the charge of narrowing this perilous gulf.

In India, there are so many sections of society which can be categorized as marginalized. Dalits, untouchables, tribals, women, peasants etc. these people are away from the mainstream society. These sections of society have been deprived of even basic commodities of life. People are suppressing them so that they can enjoy their services. When we talk about marginalized sections, cannot forget untouchables. In India caste system governs social order. The caste