

DH Lawrence : The Man and his Stories



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ABSTRACT

Lawrence ever remained a controversial figure and his works have been subjected to much severe scrutiny and he has been both praised and blamed for his achievements and failings. In fact, like many contemporary writers, Lawrence is so near to us that any attempt at assessing his values is apt to be discolored and vitiated by our personal likes and dislikes and individual bias and prejudices. Therefore, one has to be very much on the alert at the time of evaluating Lawrence as a story writer and as a creative genius who emerges as a gifted story writer to be reckoned in the succession of great story writers of the world - Zola, Flaubert, Maupassant, Tolstoy, Pushkin, James Joyce, Henry James and Virginia Woolf - to name only a few. One must find out at this stage that as a story writer D H Lawrence maintained his individuality all through in choosing a subject, handling his plot and exposing the truth of life in a language which is essentially poetic and emotive. In this respect Lawrence is without a peer. It is actually impossible to find his equal in the whole range of English story writings. As a creative genius he stands out apart from other writers by virtue of his special endowments, his specific attitude to life, his uncommon gifts and his revolutionary life's philosophy.

INTRODUCTION

The bond of love that exists between a man and a woman gets its social validity only when they are united in a nuptial tie. But institutionalized marriages do not have any sense of altruism left in them. The husband treats the wife as slave, bullies her and craves to keep her locked in a room like a dumb animal. In a country like England marriages have come to be disbelieved by the common mass sexual promiscuity, women's liberation movement, liberalized divorce laws and legalized abortion have undermined, the faith in the institutionalized marriage further.

In a country like India, where marriages are usually arranged by parents, who have the problem of dowry besides many other hurdles in getting the marriage settled, institutionalized marriages tend to fail. Lawrence is deeply aware of his changing spectrum of society, specially in matter regarding sex, love and marriage. He therefore, gives his comments sometimes directly, sometimes veiled through his character.

It is always interesting to see the original self in man being modified by a big universal idea. One has to recover the original self now. Lawrence's sympathy recoiled from most of the stock relationships and sentiments of the modern world. The emphasis of the primacy of the bold or the natural urges of man is central to Lawrence's thinking. It is only by obeying the natural urges intuitions and instincts that a man can know the mystery of the darkness.

The theme of wholeness obsessed Lawrence. Man can develop an integrated personality when he realizes that he is both spirit and flesh, mind and body. The artificial division between the two is the root cause of all the wretchedness and misery of the modern man and he can escape it only when he develops a new integral faith based on the fundamental cosmic harmony between the blood consciousness of man and nature. With this end view he advocated a return to nature. He rejected Christianity because it denied the wholeness of man and falsely renounced the primal source of consciousness in nature. For him the flesh and spirit were one and any division of the two was an evil. He was hostile ever to Christianity because it glorified the ascetic life and taught that the flesh is unholy. Lawrence distrusted the abstract cerebral orientation towards life, since such an approach takes one nowhere near the reality, his self as aspiring from his attaching too much importance to the mind and neglect of the instinctive life.

D H Lawrence works under obvious limitations. He concentrates on the diverse relationship between man and woman in modern social context. He is averse to modern culture as also to modern civilization. He does not believe that we have actually advanced from the Stone Age this accounts for his primitivism. He likes to go back to that society when man and women were free to think and behave and establish sexual relationship. He is critical of those writers and thinkers who in the name of modernity fail to have a grasp of the stern realities of life. It is a pity that they cannot look beyond their nose. They want to hide themselves behind the smoke screen of false and sham morality. Lawrence is convinced that man in the primitive society was happier than he is today. The age old taboos do not allow him to think independently and act freely. Hence Lawrence is an admirer of the primitive man with his uncultured habits, unpretentious behavior and dirty countenance. Lawrence has faith in the natural ebb and flow of human emotions. Modern civilization has done a great harm by snatching away his freedom and by damaging his real self. It has killed the natural man. It has done away with his natural emotions. Lawrence tries to bring back the natural man on the forefront. Sometimes it becomes difficult to agree with Lawrence. His views are so crusading and so basic and revolutionary and so far ahead of time they cannot be easily accepted. Whether we agree with him or not, we cannot miss the spark of his genius.

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This is to certify that Dr. Punam Jayaswal W/o Mr. Savindra Kumar who has been awarded the Ph. D. Degree from VBU in English in the faculty of Humanity in the year Dec. 2019 meets the following criteria as per the UGC Regulation.

1. Ph.D. Degree of the candidate has been awarded in the regular mode.
2. He/ her Ph. D. thesis was evaluated by two external examiners.
3. Open Ph. D. Viva-Voce had been conducted.
4. He/ She has published the following two research papers out of which one was published in a refereed journal related to his/her Ph. D. work. The detail of publication is mentioned below:
 - i. Title of the paper: Gradual Evolution of English. short story & D.H. Lawrence. International Journal: Journal of Scientific Research in science , Engineering & Technology . Year Nov. 3 2017 No. 08 UGC Approved Journal No.: 47147 page No. :1354-1357 ISSN : 2394-4099\Title of the paper : Language of the Muse : Stylistics Journal ITSRSST Vol : 04 No : 7 Year : March 2018 Page No. 1130-1134 ISSN: 2395-602X(UGC approved Journal) He/she has presented two : out of his/her Ph.D. work
 - ii. Title of the paper : Religion and global place in the short stories of D.H. Lawrence. Name of the Conference Seminar/Symposium/workshop: Conference Status : International/national/State level : National Date : 14-16 march 2015 Organizer : Deptt. of History VBU, Hazaribag. (U.G.C. New Delhi)
 - iii. Title of the paper : Problems of Teaching English to the undergraduate students of Jharkhand. Name of the Conference/Seminar/Symposium/Workshop : Conference Status : International/national/State level : National Date : 14-15 March 2010 Organizer : Sindri College, Sindri (VBU, Hazaribag) in collaboration with P.K.R.M. College, Dhanbad) Head Department of English Vinoba Bhave University Hazaribag.

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