

Art of Fiction Writing and Mulk Raj Anand

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Introduction:

The concept, "The Art of Fiction" is used by a critic Walter Besant. He describes the laws of fiction in it. He insists that novelists must write his own experience in it. He can get freedom in the novelist's choice of subject and use it to good purpose. Henry James argues the fullest advice in criticizing the various writers. His main stress is on describing life as it is. Henry James appreciates the intellectual force of George Eliot. Walter Besant, Henry James and George Eliot speak with personal views on life. This wide range presages the house of fiction image. James could include in the New York edition preface to the portrait of a lady. Henry James is known not only as a novelist but also a critic. In his famous essay *The Art of Fiction* (1884) he reacted on a pamphlet that the British author Walter Besant had published under the same title earlier that year. Henry James used the opportunity to present his ideas on the novel of fiction, "A novel is in its broadest definition a personal, a direct impression of life". Each novelist looks at life from a particular window of the house and thus composes a unique and personally characteristic account.

1. Choice of subject belongs to the artist without restriction.
2. Conscious artistry and treatment of the subject is the key.
3. Organic structure is important.
4. Artistry, not morality, should be the criterion. "Bad" novels and "Good" novels are a matter of taste, not morality or choice of subject matter.
5. Faithfulness to life (realism) is the important factor.
6. The experience of the writer, like that of the painter, depends upon an artistic sensibility and openness to impressions.
7. Critics must judge works by the standards the artists have established.
8. Too many critics have drawn false distinctions, such as that between novels of action and novels of character. Novels representing reality ultimately address character.
9. Although it was formerly held in disrepute, the novel is a true art form and expresses legitimate truths, as do painting and history.
10. Accordingly, the author should take his obligation seriously and keep himself out of the text, or at least treat his subject matter seriously.

John Gardner says regarding the Art of Fiction: Notes on craft for young writers.

"Fiction does not spring into the world fully grown like Athena. It is the process of writing and rewriting that makes a fiction original, if not refound". Anand started writing fiction, he has decided he would prefer the familiar to the fancied, that he would avoid the highways of romance and sophistication but explore the bylanes of the outcastes and the peasants, the sepoys and the working people. Walter Besant says : "The daily life of the world is not dramatic it is monotonous ; the novelist makes it dramatic by his silences, his supressions, and his exaggerations".

As a writer of fiction, Anand's notable marks are vitality and a keen sense of actuality. He is a veritable Dickens for describing the inequities and idiosyncrasies in the current human situation with candour as well as accuracy. Regarding Anand's early novels, at least it can be said that, they come fresh from contact with the flesh and blood of everyday existence. He

has no laborious psychological or ideological preoccupations, and he is content to let his characters live and speak and act. In his work there are no merely sentimental portraits, and generally he presents his characters with a lively curiosity and also a deep compassion. Some of his English characters, no doubt are no more than caricatures, but then there are others whose words ring true and whose actions seem natural. Henry James says regarding Art of Fiction that, "Art lives upon discussion, upon experiment, upon curiosity, upon variety of attempt, upon the exchange of views and the comparison of standpoints". David Lodge says in *The Art of Fiction: Illustrated from classic and Modern Texts*. "In fiction, especially in texts that are framed by a storytelling situation, aporia is a favourite device of narrators to arouse curiosity in their audience, or to emphasize the extraordinary nature of the story they are telling. It is often combined with another figure of rhetoric, aposiopesis the incomplete sentence or unfinished utterance usually indicated on the page by a trail of dots..."

Conclusion:

Indian novel in English was affected by socio-political upheavals during the 1930's onwards. The writers such as Mulk Raj Anand, R.K.Narayan and Raja Rao attempted to explore the contemporary Indian society from their specific views without distorting the reality., William Blake says , 'Do What you will ,this worlds a fiction and is made up of contradiction'. Anand uses his art of fiction for the depiction of social evils and amelioration of the wretched. The artist is an important member of society. Hence, a creative artist must play a vital role in destroying the superior elements of contemporary civilization and in reconstructing the future society.

Works Cited:

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