

IDENTITY CRISIS IN V.S. NAIPAUL'S NOVEL "A HOUSE FOR Mr. BISWAS"

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ABSTRACT:-

Naipaul's works consist mainly of novels and about stories. A House for Mr. Biswas tells the story of its protagonist. Mr. Biswas From birth to death, each section dealing with different phases of Mr. Biswas life. Here Naipaul has a more subjective approach towards the problem of identity crisis than the objective one a reader finds in his travelogues, especially in india. Mr. Biswas seemed Fated from his very birth to be a victim of circumstances & harbinger of evil & what is worse to become unwittingly the cause of dis-integration of his family when his father gets drowned in trying to rescue him. Poverty and disperation haunted his life throughout Biswas inability to truly love shama stems from his ungrateful attitude towards her whole family. But Mr. Biswas refuse to give up his ambition of owing a house & so builds another during the Port of Spain phase of his life. The failure of less of identity with the loss of past, the threatening vividness of the future not to speak of the faceless present can only is dissipated by the vision of brightly it house. All that can be obstructed from Mr. Biswas experience is contained in the meaning that the house metaphor harvests in the source of Novel.

Keywords:- Protagonist, Identity Crisis Ungrateful attitude.

Introduction:-

V.S. Naipaul Trinidadian born English Novelist, short story writer, essayist, Journalist & nonfiction writer. _

V.S. Naipaul's award of the Nobel prize for literature at the end of 2001 was long awaited. It was the only true culmination of a career dedicated solely to the world of letter. It was a coveted moment V.S. Naipaul; a 63 Year old man delivered the Nobel Lecture & gave the world an insight into himself, as a man & as a writer.

Naipaul's essay & nonfiction have been influenced heavily by his travel & his interest in colonial & post colonial societies. Naipaul's fictional works explore such themes as alienation, culture displacement, the effect of poverty sexual & political violence, & insidious nature of religion

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fanaticism' critics generally agree that his finest work is autobiographical Novel. A House for Mr. Biswas like Mr. Biswas, Naipaul's father was a Trinidadian Journalist of Hindu extraction who frequently clashed with his wife's large, powerful Brahmin family & with the Indian community in Trinidad, yet managed to instill his abilities, Journalist aptitude in his son. The Novel was praised for its humorous tone, vivid characterization & underlying pathos.

The circumstances behind Mr. Biswas quest:-

Certain universal implication can be detected in Biswas personal Struggle. "Biswas is every man wavering between Identity and non-identity & claiming his acquaintance with the rest of them.... As an adult he is trapped into marriage with shama, daughter of the wealthy tulsis family & his subsequent life alternates between period of dependence on the Tulsis & attempt to escape their clutches in order to regain his identity the Tulsis who are, keen on absorbing him and are ready to encourage him to surrender his identity in a way challenged Biswas to make something of himself so that he can oppose them. In fact his first real sense of himself arises from the need to oppose the Tulsis. Mr. Biswas uses the word, 'tough to insult the Tulsis Especially, Seth & makes a virtue out of hairless hands as a sign of intellectual superiority.

So very early in the book, the reader is given a hint as to the Rebellious nature of Biswas. This eagerness to assert his individuality is quite firm. The Means he adopts often seem absurd & comic. This probably may be to the inner awareness of Biswas as to his own limitation & the truth that a Revolt of a weak man like him could but be a comic one. But the will to affirm one's identity and selfhood is him could but be a comic one. But the will to affirm one's identity and selfhood is unmistakably found in Biswas. Finally he is duped into paying too heavy a price for an ill made house at St. James. The ending of the Novel, like that of no longer than, at ease is ambiguous in that though he has been cheated and the expense & worry eventually kills him. However he has Succeeded in his desire to "lay claim one's portion of the earth¹"

Out of the quest:-

Mr. Biswas life is a story of the battle against his hostile environment & his wandering from place to place does not solve his problem of identity by the time he gets to Sikkim street where he constructs his house, his fear grows deeper & heavier & in his search for independence and selfhood, his energies, both physical & mental are almost exhausted. Soon after his entry into his house, he falls seriously ill & was put on half pay by the sentinel & after sometime sacks him. Mr. Biswas though dies unemployed & unable to pay off the mortgage can be said to have found happiness in his last days since he has achieved a certain degree of freedom from human complicity by evolving an identity & Continuity in the world for himself.

Mr. Biswas as Everyman:-

Biswas's struggle to assert himself in his mediocre world is not without touches of

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heroism. Indeed, he is at times, petty, cowardly and contemptible, and part of the triumph of A House for Mr. Biswas is that Naipaul has been able to present a hero." in all his littleness & still preserves a sense of the man's inner dignity²". It is in this sense he comes very close to represent the fate of an average man with the mediocre abilities but a strong will to preserve his identity however comic or absurd it may be, he thus becomes an everyman describing the modern man's fate in a rootless society.

Conclusion:-

In all these situations the protagonist is alienated and becomes an exile in his writings. Naipaul has explored the vast potentials and dimensions of this theme of exile and alienation. The quest for identity, search for a home appears to be within reach. But it remains an illusion. Reality is a painstaking endeavor, though it may be futile. In between certainty and illusion lies the vast area of human predicament in exile³. It is this area which Naipaul tries to explore. The pathos of exile & futility of the search for identity appear as irreconcilable existential problems of the modern world.

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