

भारतीय साहित्य विविध आयाम

डॉ. कोमल ठाकरे
डॉ. कपिल सिंघेल
डॉ. सुमित सिंह



Principal
Mahatma Gandhi Arts
Science & Late
N. P. Commerce College



उर्दू में माहीया निगारी-सम्त व-रफ्तार
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Principal
Mahatma Gandhi Arts,
Science & Late
N. P. Commerce College
Amravati Dist. Gadchiroli

A Critical Study of the major female protagonists in The Mystic Masseur and The Guide

□ Dr. Renuka L. Roy

S.K.Porwal College of Arts & Science & Commerce, Kamptee.

Abstract: R. K. Narayan's *The Guide* presents a spectacular account of Raju's journey from a newly released criminal from the jail to a holy man, a saint. Sir V.S.Naipaul's *The Mystic Masseur* recounts a similar life journey of a failed teacher, an unsuccessful writer's struggle to establish himself as a masseur (his ancestral profession) and then as a mystic, a faith healer. He earns his name as a holy Hindu mystic masseur, Pandit Ganesh. This paper aims at studying the role of two important female characters viz. Rosie in *The Guide* and Leela in *The Mystic Masseur* in shaping the destiny of the protagonist. Leela is an efficient householder. She cares for Ganesh's household. Leela is seen nagging most competently. Leela is endowed with sharp business acumen and worldly wisdom. Sometimes Ganesh is seen expressing his loathing for her calculative mind that reminded him of Ramlogan. Rosie is one of the major female characters of R.K.Narayan's *The Guide*. She is considered as one of the well known female characters of Narayan. Unlike Leela in Naipaul's *The Mystic Masseur*, Rosie is extremely complex as a character. The story revolves around developing relation between Rosie and Raju. Rosie has a versatile personality. She has a child like curious heart which harboured an undying love for dance.

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Agha Shahid Ali : A Ghazal Writer

□ Nomesh N. Meshram

Mahatma Gandhi College, Armori.

Abstract : There are a very few Indian poets like Rabindranath Tagore, Aurobindo Ghosh, Kamla Das, Sarojini Naidu, Toru Dutt who could earn name and fame at international level. A name must be surely added to this list of world famous Indian English poets is a Kashmiri poet who migrated to America, Agha Shahid Ali. He has won a worldwide recognition as a ghazal writer of extraordinary merit writing in English. He is specially owed respect by the literary world in general and poetry in particular for popularising a new canon of English ghazal. This paper attempts to examine Agha Shaid Ali's contribution to English ghazal.

The American poets were attracted by this unfamiliar poetic form and the thematic variety, unique structure and its everyouth charm the American poets found something new and challengeable and when the poet like Agha Shahid Ali acquainted these Americans with this minoritarian poetic form of Arabia / Persia, they got a new way for their poetic expression and food for their feeling and thoughts. Just as Shelley's genius is essentially lyrical, Keats' odes, Browning's dramatic monologues and Milton's epics, Agha Shahid Ali's genius is undoubtedly ghazal. His name will affirmatively be carved

with golden words in the history of English language for Shahid's benefaction of this poetic form to this language. Ali's popularity is seen in popularising this popular Arabic / Persian poetic form in English.

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