

SOCIALLY UNTOUCHED ISSUE BEING ADDRESSED AND PRODUCTIVE RESULTS EXPLORED IN D H LAWRENCE'S WORKS

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INTRODUCTION

David Herbert (D.H.) Lawrence is one of the most versatile, prolific, influential and greatest figures in the twentieth century literary canon. Best known for his novels, Lawrence is also an accomplished and prominent poet, short story writer, essayist, critic and travel writer. The controversial themes, namely the celebration of sexuality in an over-intellectualized world and his bitter relations with censors, sometimes eclipse and overshadow his work which is otherwise superb and matchless. His works are as good as an adept craftsman and profound thinker. He has credit to his name to bring the form and function of the newly developed genre called modern novel in the twentieth century literature. The novels he wrote, especially *The Rainbow*, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *Women in Love* and *Sons and Lovers* are admirably suited as a vehicle for the sociological studies which attracted most of the great artists of the period. The two World Wars and their after effects also overshadow his great works. The First World War opened the Pandora box of problems that led to unemployment. Finding themselves aimless, people put a question mark on the ethical, social and political problems. People lost self confidence and mutual trust. There was a let down in human values. The growth of the nation came to a standstill leaving the people in a fix. As a result people left everything on fate and luck. The low spirit of the age is perfectly reflected in his literature. Novels of this age mirror the perplexity and uncertainty of aim. Notwithstanding, the literature of this period makes an attempt to find new values in political thought and politics. His novels present his own interpretation of life. He is concerned with the basic problems of human existence, man's relationship with his fellows and with the universe beyond himself.

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He combines a violent hatred of the values of modern mechanized civilization with a love of the primitive and natural and a passionate belief in the importance of the development of each unique personality. Scorning the merely intellectual faculties, he places his trust in the experiences of the senses, which for him seem to gain in value as they become more violent. Man's primitive instincts and the impulses which spring from his unconscious mind are his safest guides in life "All I want is to answer to my blood, direct, without dribbling intervention of mind, or moral, or what not." His portrayal of these vital experiences, of which the most important appears to be the sexual relationship, indicate that he is deeply conscious of their religious nature, spiritual not animal, and this, as he himself claims, remains true ever of Lady Chatterley's Lover. Lawrence is then the prophet of the primitive instincts and passions, his own appeal is to the heart, rather than the head. He seeks to persuade, not by the reasoning faculty, but by the emotional impact of his writing.

Lawrence always hoped that the modern world might be cleansed and redeemed at least through some kind of social reform. Lawrence developed a number of theories about the laws of modern civilization that helped to justify his literary endeavours. He continually kept on suggesting the means to overcome the alienation caused by more and more people running after modern life. He suggested a fusion of man with woman, man with man, and man with nature that can bring people closer and it can be an effective remedy for all social ills. His theory of blood-brotherhood emphasized the regenerative powers of an authentic male friendship and valued physical but not sexual intimacy between men as it has been seen in wrestling scenes in *Women in Love*. He holds the world was responsible for the miseries, woes and frets of the people. Everyone is boiling with anger against society and class. People feared extending a helping hand to one another. On top of it, people found themselves insecure, timid and frightened. This was the ugly face of the world, everyone thought. This was what it was happening everywhere.

Lawrence advocates that people have stopped listening to their intuition and as a result they have fallen prey to such circumstances. They don't pay heed to their conscience. He gives the message that it is only sex that can save people from their fall through his novels, across the board. He depicts that love, nay physical love, is only the unifying or binding factor. This can keep people intact. The characters in his novels surrender before each other bodily and are never frightened what others will say. This is Lawrence's mini society or mini-class. If ambit of this unifying

factor magnifies, peace and tranquility can be earned, thereby bringing the unrest world to a resting position and people may enjoy the whole world the way two person of opposite sex enjoy their bounty company.

People knew their weaknesses but did not bother to face the reality. He thought that physical love, if promoted, can work miracles. He wanted to promote it and said that it must not be pooh-poohed so that peace can prevail everywhere and people can lead a happy life and didn't have a feeling of any grudge before it was time for them to make a departure from this world. Critics, some of them, underestimated his writing and labelled him as an obscene writer whereas his philosophy, if taken earnestly, can bear extraordinary results.

In *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, Connie and Hilda saw dark everywhere after their lovers were dead. They were in physical love. After some days again they found some new lovers and started enjoying love and life. Again when paralysis left Connie's husband physically of no use as far as sex was concerned, she turned to someone else who could satisfy her sexually. So, the people found themselves on cloud nine as long as they enjoyed each other's physical company. People turned dejected, disappointed and dismayed when they were kept aloof and making physical love for them was not feasible. There cropped up some crisis between opposite sexes when physical love stopped or failed to exist between them. For him, the replica of a bigger world comprises two lovers busy making love every time. Physical love was the key to a happy life. This world was full of fret, worries and concerns and only sex had the power to put an end to such a situation.

Lawrence became convinced that sexual repression was causing the deterioration of English civilization. In particular, he blamed Christianity for its regressive division of the self into spirit and flesh and its privileging of the spirit. He criticized modern sophisticated civilization that finally wanted to hold man's natural flair by hook or by crook. He advocated that there was a dire need to think about sex fully, completely and clearly for the revival of passionate life. It was a kind of literary mutiny against the so far written literature in a hush-hush manner because sex was considered a matter to be talked only behind curtains. The contemporary generation believed in materialism and progress never caring about what heavy price it demanded. The people were satisfied, content and happy with their lives. They thought that there would not be any let down in their materialism. They were sanguine that nothing could eclipse their happiness. However,

people were soon disillusioned with the blind commercialism, the altogether disregard of artistic values and the self satisfied complacency of the age. All old values including religious faith were overlooked.

Lawrence says that remedy to all problems is the free, fair and uninhibited treatment of the sex theme. He feels that sex is basic human instinct and sexual harmony is an essential condition for the attainment of happiness in life. For him, sex is a great spiritual passion that can pave a way for the realization of God. He goes further and says that men are quite satisfied with blood intimacy but women aspire for something higher. Men find their roots down to earth whereas women are over ambitious. He comes down heavily on modern sophisticated civilization that has compromised with the man's natural instincts. He admits himself that our great religion is a belief in the blood; one must not avoid flesh and think intellect is wiser than flesh.

Taking a dig at the traditional view of life and going beyond the apparent, the clear and tacit view, he penetrates deep into the real issues of life which so far has been adherently ignored. He blames the society for giving a cold and lethargic treatment to the sex problems. People never want to take pain to resolve their sex related problems. He takes a bold and daredevil step to decipher the sexual problems. Also, the opposite sex characters seem to be incomplete in its absence. The characters attain heavenly abode when they make sex. They forget everything and solely concentrate on it and even are lost. They feel pleasure and enjoy being in the company of their partner.

It is evidently proved that people intentionally overlook the bitter reality for the sake of socially being called a man of social values and morally correct. They hesitate to talk about this issue so as to have a not demanded and needed certificate from social arena. But Lawrence portrays it well and being a creative genius he transcends the bitterness of his personal experience, universalizes his sufferings for want of stable mature life and makes the always avoided topic a source of great understanding for the human beings to lead a stress free life.

In *Women in Love* he observes, through Birkin, that population has become emotionless, spends sleepless nights and is insensitive to their next to death existence. The remedy to this thing that he presents is to become sensitive and take the real issues by horn. He says that people, fearing their failure finally, don't want to talk about real and genuine issues. They turn blind eye to them and don't pay need to them.

CONCLUSION:

Lawrence is better understood with a scan below the surface. He prophesied that turning a blind eye to bodily desires has been the root cause of all evils. His works are appreciated by his contemporaries and others after he passed away, a move seen as an attempt to fob off criticism that his works were underscored throughout his life. He believes that industrialization and modernism has made the people complacent and there seems to be a vocal and visible sense of crisis in the present generation and nobody is willing to pay a heed to it. He advocates that the people need to respect their senses, especially the sexual sense. He asserts that we need to try and understand the nature of human desire in a society that is always busy thanks to industrialization where everyone gives due importance to luxuries than the comfort of the body and peace of mind which is feasible if due consideration is given to sexual problems and this is made an issue that can be talked frankly and openly. One must not forget that desires play a pivotal role in ones life.

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