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To
Dr. A. Chandhuri
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Editorial.....

Ideas govern the world. They belong to men of sense & sensibility. People of these variety are very few. They are the philosophers, ideologists, physicists & the poets. All of them, particularly the poets, are chiefly concerned with the human predicaments. Human beings, as the social anthropologists define, are the most helpless creatures on the earth. Earth being an isthmus, the human beings are destined to be blessed with the virtues of heaven & the vices of hell.

As such, the human actions are deemed to be influenced by these dual traits; there is neither escape nor exceptions. One who is born to this earth inherits this duality of human character that makes his social life eventful.

These events that happen around us is the human society as reflected in the pages of poetry, drama, novels, essays & letters. It is, therefore, rightly said that 'Literature is the mirror of society' that deals with human predicaments, full of events & incidents.

In the works of major creators, they are presented in a camouflage as if it doesn't have any personal / individual touch; it runs underneath like an under-current. And these major writers, poets and essayists are widely read & praised by the readers.

'ROCK PEBBLES has been wisely & widely propagated to present these immortal creations of regional & universal temper so as to make and reflect this universe as a global village as does a smart phone now-a-days.

Editor

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Exploring Spatial Dimensions in Conrad: A Critical Analysis of His Fiction

Anuradha Chaudhuri

Search for space is a continuous process in Conradian fiction. As Joseph Conrad's early life was not a happy one, an irrational and hostile universe is portrayed in his fiction written against colonial backdrop where he has been very much pre-occupied with such themes as exile, loneliness, alienation, and issues pertaining to man's existence in the world. Writing in an alien language was another fact that accentuated his sense of frustration and solitude. The necessity of struggle in human life is something which is very much important in Conrad canon particularly from the spatial point of view.

Conrad's constant concern with the problem of space, himself being a British émigré, gets reflected in his fictions pre-occupied with the problems of moral failure, desertion, betrayal, utter helplessness etc. which actually sprang from his own sense of having betrayed his motherland. The real space lived through in Poland has turned out to be an imagined one whereas an imagined space supposed to have been appropriated has finally become a real one with his decision of taking British citizenship.

If Conrad's imagination was fed with Renaissance ideology of the vastness and beauty of this world, he was also aware of the reality of the shrinking of the same

world into a tightly-networked place, known, familiar and within human reach. The explosion of global space is followed by its diminution. His fiction records such changes in spatial realities.

The colonized space with its wealth, landscape and its people are laid bare to the colonial masters. The author very often shows his threatened whiteman failing to make meaning out of the abundant chaos of the 'other land/bodyscape'. For Conrad, East and West meet together at a certain space under specific situations which again gives rise to multiple other sets of relationships. During the whole period of imperialism, followed by colonialism and neo-colonialism as well, there was not only the process of creation of another living space, hence 'settlement' but also a more deliberate, mercenary expansion of European power into non-European spaces. In many of Conrad's novels, even in the novels under study-*An Outcast of the Islands* and *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, it is found that the native inheritance overpowers the white supremacy. The colonizers while trying to possess the colonial space, a lived space, loose at least temporarily the inherited space in their own nation, more secured and familiar and get disappointed at the loss of their imagined