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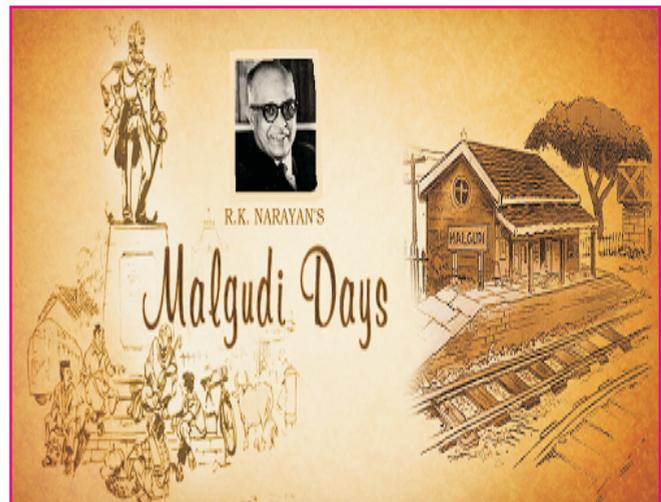
R. K. NARAYAN'S NOVELS: EMPHASIZING INDIAN CULTURE AND VALUES BY CREATING MALGUDI, AN IMAGINARY SOUTH INDIAN TOWN

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ABSTRACT

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami, popularly known as R.K. Narayan is a creative Indian writer in English. He received English education and developed the art of writing in English from the beginning of his literary career up to the end. He was best known for his Fiction, Mythology and non-fiction, which are very popular in India and abroad. Most of his novels represent 'Malgudi', a Fictional South Indian town. The characters presented in his works feel quite protected in the setting of Malgudi. Narayan through his writings always tries to focus on the Indian Language and Literature depicting Indian



Society under the Colonial rule. R.K. Narayan uses clean and good English, in a natural and simple tone, which encourages readers to dwell on easily his writings.

KEY WORDS: Creative Indian Writer, Fiction, Mythology, Non-Fiction, Malgudi, Colonial rule.

INTRODUCTION :

R. K. Narayan his full name is Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami, was a prolific Indian writer. He was well known for his invented stories which were set in an imaginary south Indian town called Malgudi. Narayan is an important author of early Indian literature in English, along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao, who represented Indian Culture and Tradition. Everyday Indian life was replicated in the form of characters in R. K. Narayan's novels. His novels reflect Indian towns and cities, their traditions and especially the life style adopted by the South Indians of that region. R.K. Narayan was a successful writer in expressing his feelings in the right perspective through his characters.

He was perfect in creating a small Indian fictional town with all his efforts, which was very close to his imagination and feelings. This invention has created a sense of togetherness among the readers with their inner thoughts, feelings and mannerisms.

Significance of 'Malgudi' in R.K. Narayan's Novels and Short Stories

Malgudi is a fictitious semi-urban town in southern India, invented by Narayan by R.K. Narayan in his

novels and short stories. He created the town in September 1930, on Vijayadashami day, an auspicious occasion to start new things and thus chosen for him by his grandmother. While Narayan was crossing a railway station, slowly the name Malgudi came to his mind. He then allowed it to form an outline with events in a variety of stories, becoming a reference point for the future. Through the characters created in the Fictional Town, he attracted the readers which were realistic and experimental. It was not a fictional town in India, but a village with the characters each with their own peculiarity and attitudes, making the situation as familiar to the reader, making him involve as if they were happening in and around their own backyard.

Especially, through the invention of 'Malgudi' in his novels, Narayan made an effort of educating the world about Indian Values, Traditions and Cultures. He always tried to represent the Indian Phenomenon in the simplest way by making the ordinary reader reach to the expectation of the theme with which the novel is published. The characters in various novels pass various stages of development, reflecting the importance. The invented town provides a vista of men and women with different roles leading their lives facing hardships representing their way of survival.

R.K. Narayan introduced the town of Malgudi in his first novel "Swami and his Friends". Malgudi is neither a village nor a city, but it is a town of unpretentious size which grows in time and place. Narayan tries to represent Malgudi with a different outlook in different novels based on the context and characters. Each character, whether minor or major, finds its own importance in his writings. Sometimes, the characters are not named but instead they are identified by the stupendous quality they have in themselves. Narayan represents the crowded streets, bulging houses of India, temples busy with devotees, noisy shops and cafes, traditions and cultures etc. specifying the Indian Culture in a realistic way.

Narayan tries to depict the characters and the manners of the people with regard to their individual traits and habits on the source of the characters. In the town of Malgudi, directly or indirectly Narayan tried his best to reach the audience without changing the content of his novels, through the invention of Malgudi. On the whole, Malgudi depicts the manners of the characters with a realistic approach.

CONCLUSION:

R.K. Narayan was regarded as one of the India's greatest writers of the twentieth century. He represents Indian Tradition and Culture in the best way possible through the novels. As an Indian Writer, his short fictions were considered the best in India. He made his best efforts in educating the world about the Indian values, Traditions and Cultures in the simplest way through the invention of characters in the made-up village called 'Malgudi'.

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