

Social Crises in the novels 'Troubles' and 'The siege of Krishnapur'

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Abstract :-

Colonial Crises was the most ambitious theme for the writers writing in the 20th century. The 20th century was the period of great changes in human life. The most important event was the decline of British Empire. Britain lost its grip on almost all the colonies and one after another these colonies achieved freedom from British Empire. Writer's like M.M.Key, John Master, E. M. Forster, Doris Lessing etc. Wrote about Colonial Crises. J. G. Farrell who was writing in the ending decades of the 20th century witnessed two world wars and empire crises which made ever-lasting effect on his sensitive mind. He wrote empire trilogy based on colonial crises. Both the colonizers and the colonized suffered from war and its crises. He wrote about 'hollowness and futility of empire system', psychological crisis and social crises like human waste, death, violence, killing etc. The present paper aims to explore social crises sketched by Farrell in his two historical novels 'Troubles' which is based on the historical event happened in Ireland that is the civil war and 'The siege of Krishnapur' based on The Indian mutiny of 1857.

James Gardon Farrell was a British novelist. He got Booker prize for his novel 'The siege of Krishnapur' and his Novel *Troubles* got posthumous Booker prize in 2010. Both the novels are based on empire crises.

The novel 'Troubles' was published in 1970. It is about Irish Civil war of 1919 to 1921, Ireland's struggle for independence. The novel describes social violence, torturous life of the people, brutal deeds of colonizers and its psychological effects.

The plot of the novel is centered on 'Majestic Hotel'. Major Brendan the central figure who is returned back from the world war is not welcomed by the family members even his finance Angela also. Nobody is interested in sharing his experiences about war. In the winter war continues. Violence killing, death, becomes common picture. Major reads in the newspaper the news of crises happened in Ireland, Africa, India and Afghanistan. Major loses Angela. He is troubled by the war. At the end of the novel we see him frustrated, depressed and experiences nothingness. While returning back to England he notices a large number of delicate little skeletons & piles of ash etc. For many years he continues to think about it painfully.

Farrell describes social crises like war and its effects hunger stricken people miseries of peasants, violence, physical assaults etc. He describes how common people were troubled for no fault in them. They were living in threatening condition. In Ireland bloodshed, murder had become common picture on the streets, gardens or anywhere in public places or in the houses. The novel describes crises happened in all over the world, these crises were between the colonizers and the colonized. In Chicago, Crises happened between British people and Negroes. The natives showed their long-last agitation against the colonizers. Major catches the incidents happened in Chicago:

"In Chicago the violence was naked, a direct expression of feeling, not of some remote and dubious patriotic heritage. White men dragged Negroes off Street-Cars. And Chicago was only a fragment of the competitions that Ireland had to face. The gruesome murders the rapes the humiliations of respectable ladies and gentleman..."

(Farrell : 103)

Farrell firmly believes that bravery, class system and national superiority are nothing but 'absurd' concepts, life is more than that.

Farrell's another novel from his Impair Trilogy is the Booker Prize winning novel 'The Siege of Krishnapur'. The plot of the novel is centered on

the Indian Mutiny of 1857. Farrell brings out attitude behavior and sufferings of the colonizers rather than the siege, the novel also focuses on war crises.

The collector Mr.Hopkins the representative of British empire is the central figure in the novel. When mutiny starts he becomes restless. He cannot control crisis situation killing violence; bloodshed becomes common picture in Krishnapur. Many Anglo-Indians are killed by the mutineers siege stopped and after few days people are caught by the disease of cholera. There is the dance of death everywhere and those who are survived cried for the loss of their dearest one. At the end of the novel, the collector returns back to England with heavy heart. There he experiences futility and nothingness. He realizes that man is shaped by other forces of which he has little knowledge. Really man is victim of system.

The novel comprises of physical assault, slaughtering, violence, effects of war, traumatic stress, diseases, exploitation etc. During the mutiny starvation struggle, become very common picture in Anglo-Indians colonies. In Krishnapur, Anglo-Indians shared food with animals. There were heaps of flesh and bones everywhere. There were death killing, crises and tears everywhere, Countless people died during the mutiny. The Collector himself dug pit for the dead one, many British officers and natives died of Cholera Dance of death was seen everywhere Death and sickness continued for some months Blindness swollen heads such diseases made their life miserable. Many Anglo Indians lost their loved one. At the end Hopkins is frustrated and experiences loss of his personality.

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