

The Character of Marco: A New Perspective

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R.K Narayan, an Indian novelist, short story writer is a prominent writer in Indian writing in English. Narayan has a nice imaginative skill and can weave the characters according to the situation. The reader feels as if the character is a real one. His characters in *Swami and his friends* (1935) shows his artistic skill in narrating the village, customs, sentiments, innocence of the people, where as *The Bachelor of Arts* (1937) exhibits love theme ,*The English Teacher* (1945) deals with tragedy story, who spends his remain life in the memory of beloved wife, who was dead. *Waiting for Mahatma* (1955) shows his patriotic heart ,and *The Guide*(1958)is a satire on present situations. It reveals how people of India gives high respect to saffron color , though the person has less human values. The present paper deals with the 'duty minded' character which is wrongly viewed by the eyes of 'Raju' the protagonist in his work. One can feel pity towards that character 'Marco' why because it was the name given by raju at railway station "I have, of course, no idea of the original Marco Polo's appearance, but I wanted to call this man Marco at first sight, and have not bother to associate him with any other name since."(R.K.N .10). This reveals that Marco is treated very,very low. He is an archiologist and doing research , wants to explore some unknown history, means not a easy task. Lot of concentration is needed that too is shown in a misguiding way 'he never gives response'(). Marco is a planed, well-organised person and likes to have full idea on what he wants to do "I was sort of scared of the man who acted as my examiner, ... 'what is the use of your calling yourself a guide if you do not know..?'"(63).he is a nice husband , gives freedom to wife and allows her to go and watch snake dance with raju(64). In page 65 raju coments that he knows every thing before hand shows Marco's desire ,love and passion for his work. In the same page the author describes how Raju decorates him self to flater Rosie . Here I was remained by the verse " swadharme nidhanam srayaha , para dharmo bhayavahaha" . this theme is observed all through this novel.The verses (62,63) in chapter 2 of *Gita* also confines that the person who blindly follows the earthly desires falls in trouble. The duty of a wife is to look over her husband, follow his orders. But the protagonist Rosie as coiled by loneliness she takes the shoulder of Raju to full fill her desires. Raju ,attracted by physic of Rosie , shows no interest in leaving her . In page199 " Three days later Marco's photograph appeared in the *Illustrated Weekly of Bombay*, on the middle page" shows how Marco work hard to achieve his goal.Then Rosie stats to think again , she weeps and shows her interest in Marco "After all,after all, he is my husband" (201), shows the immense love towards him . "He tolerated my company for nearly a month, even after knowing what I had done"(201), shows the generosity, kind

heart of Marco. And after the case and hearing and every thing over Marco left the place in a gentle manner Mani said "After the case, she got into the car and and went home, and he got into his and went to the railway station: they didn't meet".(230)

All these incidents in 'The Guide' elevates the high character of Marco, here I remained "yat bhavam tat bhavati" its only depends on the way one look at. Marco character is very near to *Vasu* of *The Man-Eater of Malgudi*. Marco is merely impractical to academics, very interested in books and carving than real people. "... All public affairs of life seemed imm=possible to him...(113)"

2) He is so broad minded and he unsuspectingly consigns Rosie to Raju's care while he studies the cave paintings for weeks on end.

3) He is at least consistent in his rejection- he does not try to win her back once she is rich and famous.

4) His book, *The Cultural History of South India*, attracted a good publisher and complimentary reviews.

5) Rosie compares Marco to Shakespeare's Othello- "I felt too hurt. I thought that Othello was kindlier to Desdemora"(152). Compared to Othello, who murders Desdemona merely because he suspects her fidelity, Marco, faced with Rosie damning confession, is immensely self-controlled- "you are here because I am not ruffian"(152). This supports Marco is presented in a positive light.

6) As with all the other characters and situations in the novel, Marco, too comes across to the reader filtered through Raju's perception, rather than as an independent character in his own right.

7) During the period of independence, this novel is set. It was not at all a normal thing to marry a *devadasi* voluntarily by a high caste, well-established man like Marco.

8) One cannot help suspecting that R.K Narayan was less interested in developing Marco. He used this character in developing the consistent of plot. Compared to Rosie and Raju, the character of Marco is not sufficiently explored to reader.