

EXPLORING INDIANNESS IN THE WORKS OF NIRMAL VERMA

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Nirmal Verma has been a prominent signature in hindi literature. A storywriter, an author, an essayist Nirmal Verma was also a significant thinker of his times. He has enriched the stories in hindi literature with modern human sensitivities and contemporary language and art.

Nirmal Verma has authored five novels vis. 'Parinde', 'Laal Teen Ki Chat', 'Ek Chithde Sukh', 'Raat Ka Reporter', and 'Antim Aranya'. The critics of hindi literature have often criticized Nirmal Verma's novels for their lack of Indianness, but his last two novels- 'Raat Ka Reporter' and 'Antim Aranya' are authored with a background, atmosphere and a view of life which is entirely Indian.

Post Independence the biggest challenge faced by the Indian democracy was the time of Emergency. This emergency formed the background of Nirmal Verma's 'Raat ka Reporter'. In this novel he has traced the terror surrounding the common man and the democratic institutions during emergency times. Through the protagonist Rishi in the novel, Nirmal Verma has pointed towards the escapist nature of the intellectuals. Infact this is the only novel in hindi literature which expresses the crisis of emergency falling upon the Indian society and democracy and also stikes hard upon the disruption of Indian politics.

Indian wisdom and thought consider death as a natural process. Hindu scriptures regard death as a perfection of life and also accounts to accept death in a calm way. Nirmal Verma's novel 'Antim Aranya' is a legend of accepting death as a natural process of a perfection of life. Nirmal Verma meets the eternal questions of the purpose of life and inevitability of death in this novel composed in the shadow of death.

Apart from his novels Nirmal Verma in his stories and essays rediscovers that Indianness which for ages had been the basis of Indian culture and which has become oblivious in our longings for European modernism.