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The Assertion of Existentialism in the Fiction of R.K.

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Abstract

The effectiveness of existentialism is judged the role of fate and chance, surrender and shock, and despair and uneasy calm in whatever man feels, thinks, and does. In my days the novelist says, "I practiced psychic contacts regularly for some years, almost every night. I found it possible to myself from my physical body (a process taught by Paul Brunton) and experience a strange sense of deliverance. And then and gradually the interest diminished when I began to feel satisfied that I had attained an understanding of life and death." This personal experience went a long way to shape and fashion Narayan's attitude to the problem of affirmation of existentialism. Walsh points out that "existentialism affirms itself by providing the weakness of life; what the novelist shows in his novels is within the power of existentialism." Narayan's creative genius is deeply rooted in the ancient Indian religion which attaches great importance to negation and its forces of alienation.

Keywords- Fiction, Existentialism, Assertion etc.

Introduction-

The story of Narayan's first novel is based on R.K. Narayan, *My Days* (New Delhi: Orient Paperbacks, 1986), p. 147. W. Walsh, *R. K. Narayan: A Critical Appreciation* (New Delhi: Allied, 1983), p. 183. Fate and chance. For instance, Mani fidgeted uneasily. He admitted that for a few minutes he wondered whether he was watching a real cat and a dog. They would get prizes if they did it on fairs. "It Swaminathan and Mani would be good enough to repeat the fun, he would be delighted and even ask his father to come and watch. This was rooting Swaminathan and Mani felt proud of them. They were in this state of mind when Rajan a lecture on friendship." Nevertheless, friendship ends. In enmity: this chance happening brings about early alienation.

He ought not to feed his miserable stomach with food which he had neither earned nor, by virtue of spiritual wealth, deserved. He sought an answer to the question with, deserved. He sought an answer to the question why he had come to this degradation, and so he found the answer in the words 'Malathi' and 'love', but it was only a matter of fate. Savitri sat on the last step with her feet in the dark moving water. "This is the end," she said to herself, and felt very strange so strange indeed did this statement sound to her that she asked herself: "Am I the same old Savitri or am I someone else. Perhaps this is just a dream." She couldn't. The bachelor of arts, p. 111. The dark room, p. 77. Have had the courage to walk through the streets at midnight. She was afraid to go even a hundred yards from the house unescorted: yes, afraid, a pair of everything.

Existentialism and Discussion-

“One definite thing in life is fear. How many nights has she slept on the bed on one side, growing numb by the unchanged position the answer to this question lies in fate and chance, for she is surrounded by unexpected troubles. Srinivas found domestic duties on extra burden. What a round of demands. This was the first time that he was in sole charge of his wife and son and he found that it gave him a peculiar view of them. “All along in the joint family home they had been looked after by others, and he had no occasion to view his wife as a role dependent. “But now he found that it was so with a vengeance. At every of domestic duty. “This is going to leave me time for attending to the paper.”He often reflected. He secretly admired those hundreds and hundreds of people who did so much in the world, in spite of a domestic life, even with many more make demands upon them. He felt that there was some technique of existence which he had not understood. If I go at it he would perhaps be able to manage things better.1Mr. Sampath, p .36 .2 Ibid.

In his despair Margayya tried to meet the priest, what if he had merely fooled him priests were capable of anything. If he stayed at home, it invariably resulted in some in his presence that either he or his wife felt impelled to chastise him and each vehemently protested when the other did it. Raju and Rosie are the victims of fate and chance. The moment they search their home, Rosie threw a smile at the superintendent and murmured ‘Good night ‘ and vanished 1The financial expert, p. 59 Into the house. She listened to him as if he had been addressing a stone pillar. At last she said, “I felt all along you were not doing eight things. This is karma. What can we do? She came out to the landing end told the officer, ‘what shall we do about it, sir? Is there no way out?’” Raju’s departure to the police lockup, and Rosie’s helpless stay in the house are designed by their fate and chance: nobody knew that they would fall from such a great height of popularity and prosperity. Sri Ram felt amazed at the hardihood and calmness of Bharati, she did not seem to possess any feeling. She spoke or it with such indifference that he was appalled at her calmness. It suited her very well- Groped. And of course, in his sick imagination he felt that probably Mahatmaji was also in favour of gorpada,1The guide, p. 216, 2 Ibid. He would naturally prefer to marry her to a grim and dry-as-dust worker like gorpada. But why could not she be plain with him? Why could she not be so plain? To these questions she answered in interrogative: what did he mean? Sriram felt tongue-tied, but he asked: “why should bapu not want us to marry?”. Sriram’s disappointment is based on the role of fate and chance in his life: Bharati met his unwanted, each other. It is fate and chance that Nataraj falls in the hands of vasu the taxidermist. Once Nataraj left everyone alone. If they wrangled and lost their heads and voices, it was their business and not his. “Even if heads had been broken, I don’t think I’d have interfered. I had resigned myself to anything, if I had cared for a peaceful existence, I should have rejected vasu on the first day.” Now it was like having a middle-aged man in one’s office and home with same uncertainties, possibilities, and potentialities. This man-cater softens, sniveled and purred, and tried to be agreeable only in the presence 1Waiting for the Mahatma, p. 92, 2 The Man-eater of Malgudi, p. 30 of an official. He brought in a khaki-clad cadaverous man one day, a forestry officer, seated him and introduced him, “This is my best friend on earth, Mr. Nataraj, he and I are more like brother’s than printer and customer or he did not want to be one.

Jagan did not know that in course of time his life and wealth would be in the hands of his son and his wife sometime their sister would trace them down here, and follow them doggedly, uttering sinister remarks; “you are killing the animal here. I’ll tell father; they are found dead every day in the tins. You will both go to hell.” Jagan, afraid of this blackmailer, would plead with her to leave them along, but his elder brother would say spoke to her talk. No one wanted to have her there. If she spoke to her father, he would her neck, and rear himself up menacingly and would run away screening in terror. The sister had married a wealthy village idiot, became a rustic and brought forth an ugly brood of children, and the brother had cut all contact after the division of their father’s estate. It was fate that brought grace in his house. Jagan’s son, mali, is 1The Men-sater of Malgudi, p. 30,2 The vendor of Sweets, p. 147.Said to have made Jagan’s life-miserable – Grace and mail changed his life.

Raman and daisy could nit bear with fate and chance. Drery days followed. Raman was depressed, panicky and bewildered.. They came closer, and after a short span of quarrel same life they parted to most in the real world of sublime souls.Fate and chance brought about many changes in the life of Raja. I was a man of the world, busy and active 1 The painter of signs, pp. 107-108, 2 I bid Slept and left very much in the manner of Siddhartha. They searched but gave up eventually, concluding that it was washed off in the Sarayu, which was in flood at that time. Fate and chance take a sweep towards deception. Dr. Rann was an expert in the art of deception. The talkative man realised that all along Rann must have lived a parallel secret life while creating the impression of living with the talkative man. The talkative man visited various airlines and the airport, and got the information that he had taken flight to Rome on the same,1Tiger for Malgudi, p. 139.2 I bid ., pp. 139-140. Day the talkative man left for Jaipur “An expert in his own field. The talkative man prayed to god that some day he may be caught at least for his pasaport frauds and made to spend the rest of his life in some hellish prison. Truly speaking, Rann was caught and his deception worked as a shade of fate and chance. The literary struggle went on for a week, and Nagaraj could not come to any clear- cut conclusion. He constantly pored over his notes, and wrote down in the belief that if one plunged in, the right passage would emerge.No sir, just inspiration that is churned out of a lot of mental struggle something that has to be dug out, and at the and it comes out like the spring at the bottom of a well.It was not 1 Talkative man, p. 119.2 The woild of Nagaraj, p. 128 Capability that Nagaraj wanted: in fact it was destiny that came in his attempts.You could as well take the notebooks back to the old room where at least white ants may relish may notes on Narada.Amman held that a woman can understand how fate and chance come in the way of the life of a woman. “To a woman her husband is everything. She can’t lose him. Remember in what condition bala had left home and what trials she must have done through to reach poona and how much misery she faced before she could reach him “Did not savitri conquer yama himself, and trap him into promising her a boon? After accepting the boon, she asked how it would be possible when he as the God of death was carrying a way her husband’s leaving his inart body in the forest and then yama had to yield back Satyavan’s life.” Ammani opines that fate and chance keep man conscious of the power that shapes the way of human life, and that which is not in man,s hands prepares the arrival of fate and chance.1 The world of Nagaraj, pp. 184-85.2 Grandmother’s Tale, pp. 65-66. 3 I did., p. 66.Even boys like Rajan and swami bear with shock and surrender before the forces of defeat. When swaminathan was loitering in the compound, he heard familiar voices behind. He turned round, and saw some shanker and the pes.

He gathered several facts about the girl. She came to the river chiefly for the sake of her little companion. "From her regularity he 1Swami and friends, p. 31.2 The bachelor of Arts, p. 64. Concluded that she was a person of very systematic habits. The fact that she played with her young companion should she had a loving disposition. Chandran was greatly shocked by Lakshmi's and therefore he surrendered himself before her physical and mental beauty. He felt that he was very much inferior to her: as much, shock and surrender overwhelmed him. Surrender and shock are different in the life of Savitri who finally intervened and said that she considered tending the garden the most agreeable part of the work. The old man spent plant, and had a comment to offer on every leaf. I am essentially the same person as far as you and my dear ones are concerned, but the only difference is that I am without the encumbrance of the physical body and everything is finer and quicker than on earth. "Between thought and fulfillment, there is no interval. Thought is fulfillment, motion and everything. That is the main difference to be realized must always be followed by effort directed towards conquering obstructions and inertia that is the nature of the material world. "1The dark room, p. 120.2The English teacher, p. 1563 I bid. Srinivas's eye fell on the sheet of paper on the table. He could not afford to leave it, he asked how he found his way there. It must have been difficult. "We arrived here at the station at two o'clock, and for over three years we went about searching for you, and then a student brought us here. Her voice shook, and she was on the point of crying once again. She gulped down a sob and said: "This little fellow, Ramu he was like an elder. I never knew he could take charge of me so well, "she looked proudly at her son. The coat he wore was too small for him, appearing to stop at his waist, his sleeves stopped four inches beyond the wrist, the collar frayed: he had neglected his family, and defeat rests with negligence. Margay's wife had no clear ideas of what she expected him to do, and he had no clear ideas of what he should do outside the house. He tried it for a few days. His previous clients only tried to avoid him, fearing that he might 1Mr. Sampath, p. 33.2I bid. Accost them for their old dues. He had no one to talk to, he went through the town like a lost soul, but although to begin with some people spoke to him, now nobody took any notice of him. He could not go down the market road for fear of being stopped by the optician. Next door they remarked; "what has come over that man? He is hardly to be seen outside. Is he hiding from creditors? Such questions are indicative of defeat. Both surrender and shock faced Bharati and Sriram when they found their desires futile. Sriram began to say something in reply, but could not find the words, saluted, remained silent and began to sob. The photographer patted his back and said, "what has happened now that you feel so bad about it? "There was inner cry. "Now, I mean. Now you are not chained or caged. 1The financial expert, p. 61.2 Waiting for the mahatma, p. 157. She is so far away, thousands of miles from me. " Sriram wailed. The thought of Noakhali was very disturbing. He did not have to employ a special runner to carry the mails. Why did he write to her? He did not want to see the letter addressed and dispatched properly. Raju surrendered before the will of the people, but it was a shock to him to go on a fast in to death. Lying on his mat he brooded. He felt sick of the whole thing. When the assembly was at its thickest, he could not stand up on a high pedestal and cry, Get out, all of you and leave me alone " He thought that it would not help they might enjoy it as a joke. He had his back to the wall, there was further retreat. His hopes were engulfed by his willing surrender and

unwanted shock.¹Waiting for the Mahatma, p.15,²The guide, p. 211.Natarejwas agitated when he read the card that he had received from Gopu; he resolved to suppress it and not let sita (his wife) see it. But she had been the one to receive it from the postman when Nagaraj was away at the soeingcentre. “She shed tears when she read it, but simply dropped it on the window sill and did not refer to it when Nagaraj come home leaving it to him to discover it.Smooth passage to heaven. “He suddenly felt touched by Gopu’s solicitude to send him heavenward smoothly, where `probably material for narada would be more directly accessible, or even the sage himself might materialize and guide him. Death has its good points. Many a time shock and surrender drive man into defeat. For instance, viswa felt proud of his son, especially at the beginning when he brought his salary home and handed over the cash, about four hundred rupees, ¹ The world of Nagaraj, p.171. ²Ibid p.172 In a net bag. Viswa carried it in after counting the amount, and called his daughter-in-law. “Laxshmi , come and take charge of this cash. Count it properly and spend it wisely. You must also build up savings. I want nothing of this. I have no use for this cash. I have my own.

This is all yours, keep in safely. “ Viswa was shocked at the behavior of his daughter-in-law but he surrendered before her dealings. When this practice was stopped, viswa was compelled to think to overcome it, hoping that next time swami would resume the courtesy of recognizing his presence when he brought home the salary. “Swami followed the new practice, and viswa reconciled to it. Swaminathen fell in such situations in which hope and peace were beyond his reach. The ¹Swami and friends, p. 173.²The bachelor of arts, p. 68.Father declined saying : “we don’t know anything about them , who they are, what they are, what they are worth, if the stars and the other thing about the girl are all right.” Raman comes to preparer his own miserable condition. He knew that all one’s dreams can never come true ramani turned to savitrians said, “savitri you are trying my patience. What madness is this? He tried to take her by the hand and lead her to had. “ He tried to take her by the hand and lead her to her bad. Don’t touch me. She creed, moving away from him. “You are dirty, you are impure.She said that it was all right, he could strike her. She was not afraid. He lowered his land and said to get away. She should not thing that he was going to stay there. They were responsible forb their position. They accepted food shelter, and comforts that he gave, and were what they were. Savitri said that she would not stay there at any cost and on any condition.¹ The bachelor of arts, p. 69.² The dark room, p. 60.³ I bid . , p. 75. Krishna’s wife , whom the news of arrival reached, picked herself up, her hair all over her face, swollen and tear drenched. The next morning he was jubilant. For the first time the temperature remained. What a joy. They were all jubilant. “A ray of sun was breaking through overcast sky. As soon as our doctor’s car drone up at our gate, I ran out to announce, doctor, the temperature had gone down.” It was a happy sing. At the same time it we a happy sight to see the patient sleep soundly. I bathed, changed and took the child upon my shoulder. “ what seems to be success at the incident is in fact defest: failure lies below the surface. I don’t care. What do I care what she or anyone says of thinks? It is enough for me she is there. Let her not notice me at all. Mr. editor must Help me. I will not do there accounts any more. I can’t I hate these ledgers. I was to work in¹ The English teacher, p. 109.² I bid. , p.110.The stidio now – in the art department, please speak to sampath . Otherwise, I don’t want this job at all. That will be enough for me. He sat down, and fatigued by his peroration. He added: “if you are not going to speak to

Sampath, I will. “he held the sketch in his hand. Srinivas greatly tried to take it back. But the other would not let it go; he gazed on it solemnly, pointed at a spot and said what amounts to defeat. He does not see any hope in near future. Margayya grew impatient with his lecture. “for the moment, if you want a good income, listen to me. “there was another reason why margayya Wanted to help, which was also not mentioned. He found Dr. pal hanging too much about his son,s establishment at lowly road margayya gave one of the house he had acquired1 Mr. sampath, p. 152,2 I bid. 3 The financial expert, p. 155.

Conclusion-

To his son for setting up a family independently, although margayya’s wife did not like the idea of living separated from him. But margays told her: “think for a moment, my dear guil, Brinda comes from an up-to-date family, and already shows her superior training. “ Is not defeat ?Both Bharat and Sriram are beset with despair and uneasy calm when he mahatma acted against their will. When the man with the watch appeared against their will. Sriram and Bharati also got up. The mahatma said, “You have already a home with thirty children. May you be their father and mother. “He went into an anti-chamber and came out after a minute bharati waited at the door for him . he passed her with her eyes on the floor. Bharati followed him out with Sriram railing behind her. At every sitting Susila urged Krishna on to look for her sandalwood casket and the fourteen letters. He couldn’t search very roughly because he found it impossible to enter her room and open her trunks. On a holiday afternoon he steeled himself to it. He opened the door and felt a pang at heart when he cast a look around at her trunks, her clothes and is there anyone in the world who can say his lot is differently” Her elected, as he sat down amidst her trunk’s His daughter was thrilled to see him there and cancelled .She had with her friend and joined him in his search Krishna went on searching box after box, but he did not find what he needed. By chance the desired thing did not spear before his eyes. Even if the thing was found. Krishna could go against the wish of his fate.

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