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SOCIAL BOYCOTT AND UNTOUCHABILITY IN ARUNDHATI ROY'S THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS

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ABSTRACT

In the present novel Arundhati Roy has dealt with the problem of untouchability intriguing the Indian society in her booker winner novel, The God of Small Things. She is surprised and shocked at the uncivilized treatment faced by the lower strata of society, even in this postcolonial age. In this regard, she says that:

"Fifty years after independence, India is still struggling with the legacy of colonialism, still flinching from the cultural insult (and). We are still caught up in the business of 'disproving' the white world's definition of us." (Roy 13)

The novel confronts between the Big Man and the Small Man. Baby Kochamma, Pappaachi, Mammachi, Chacko are big men are termed as 'Laltain'. On the other hand Ammu, Velutha, Rahel, Estha are small men who are classified as 'Mombattis'. It is to be noted that both Laltain and Mombattis provide us brightness and help enlighten another lamp. The laltain is well nourished and protected. It can overcome the impediments of life in a smooth and sturdy manner whereas 'Mombatti' is a deprived class which has no support, cooperation or no helping hand to uplift them from their current status. A mere gust of wind can blow them. Through the Laltain and Mombatti example, Roy successfully arouses pity for the deserted and oppressed class. The rich can do anything, can avail anything and the weaker sections are denied to the basic rights and amenities.