

## **Prem Chand's 'Deliverance'**

*A Critical Analysis*

**Anupama Sharma**

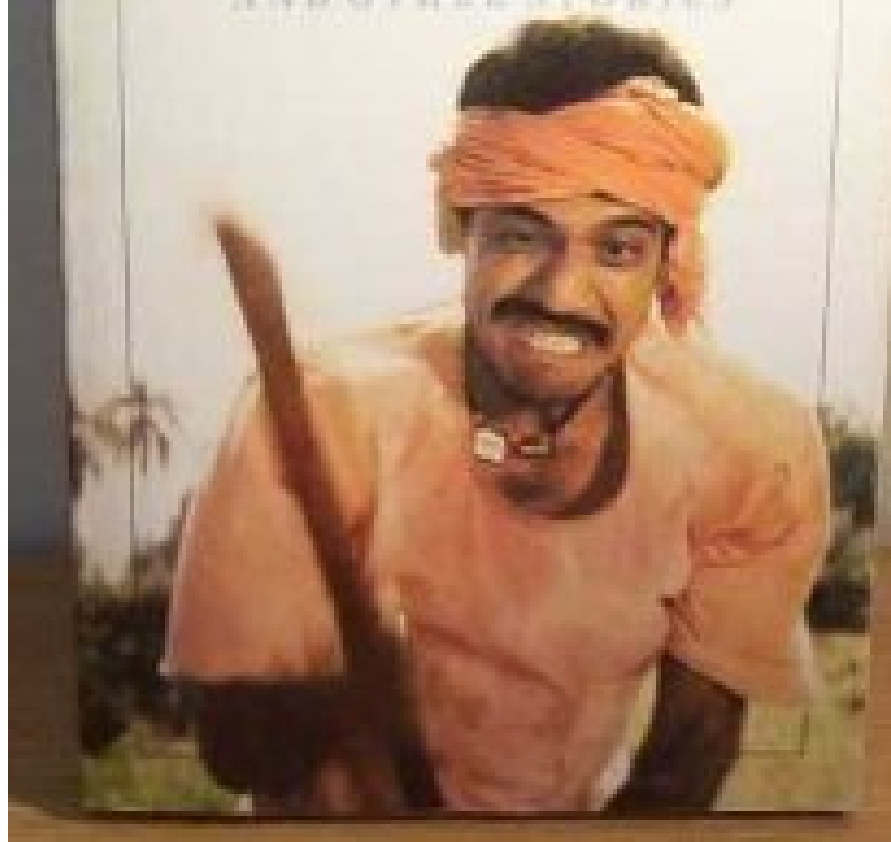
Assistant Professor  
Department of English  
Govt. College Seraj at Lambathach  
District Mandi (HP)



PREMCHAND

# DELIVERANCE

AND OTHER STORIES



# Life of Munshi Prem Chand

- Born on July 31, 1880 in the village Lamhi Varanasi in India
- One of the most celebrated writers of the Indian subcontinent
- Real name was Dhanpat Rai Srivastava
- Started his literary career as a freelancer in Urdu and wrote several short stories in the language.

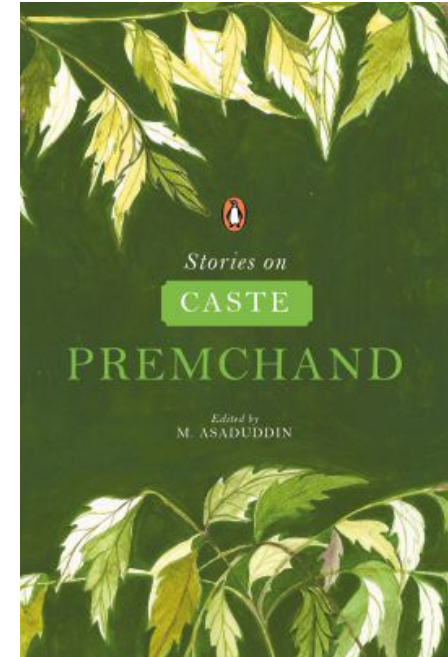
# Writing Style

- Credited with the introducing realism into the Hindi literature when it only consisted of the fantasy stories, fairy tales and religious work
- His novels mainly consisted messages on social evils like, dowry, poverty, communalism, colonialism and corruption and Zamindari
- He was the first writer of the twentieth century to bring reality in the literature

# Premchand's Notable Works

- Premchand authored over 300 short stories, novels and several number of essays, letters and plays
- Many of his works have been translated into English and Russian and some have been adopted into films as well
- His first novel *Godaan* is ranked amongst the finest novels of his era and remains so till this day
- His other notable novels are *Gaban*, *Kafan*, *Poos ki Rat*, *Idgah*, and *Bade Ghar ki Beti*, *Shatranj Ke Khiladi*, *Rangbhumi*, *Karmbhumi*, etc.

# 'Deliverance': A Critical Analysis



- The short story entitled 'Deliverance' by Premchand deals with the themes of untouchability and class discrimination.

# **‘Deliverance’ (*Sadgati*)**

- The story has been originally written under the Hindi title “Sadgati” which literally means a good death.
- But the title is quite ironic and through the story Premchand has been successful in criticizing and satirizing Hindu society and its prejudiced norms.

# Plot of the Story

- In the first section, we meet Dhuki, the main character of the short story
- He lives a hard life with his wife Jhuria and their only daughter. His daughter is to be betrothed.
- So Dukhi needs the help of the Brahman Pandit Ghasiram to fix an auspicious day for the betrothal of his daughter.
- But Dukhi and his wife are very anxious and meticulous about how they would receive the Pandit Ghasiram at their house.



# Plot of the Story

- The story is a vicious indictment of the [Indian caste system](#)
- A poor and low caste village shoemaker, Dukhi, goes to the village [Brahmin](#) Hindu priest to get the date of his daughter's marriage fixed, the Brahmin in turn asks for labour without pay in exchange
- The ensuing events turn the tables against the priest, who in the end has to forego the lofty traditions, including that of [untouchability](#), he held so dearly all his life as village priest.

# Irony in the Story

- In the story 'Deliverance', the author has employed irony very effectively.
- The first instance of irony (verbal) in the story is shown by Dukhi when he utters, being affected by the appearance of the Pandit: 'How godly a sight!' But later on, it proved to be contrary to what Dukhi said because the readers would see that Dukhi had to suffer a lot at the house of the Pandit.

# Irony in the Story

- The last instance of irony is portrayed in the ending section of the story.
- Dukhi was given the name by his parents to avert misfortune of life. But it results in the opposite as Duhki lived in extreme hardship and died pathetically. Even he could not have funeral rituals.
- Thus the author Premchand had used lots of irony in the story through which he reveals the hypocrisy of the Brahmins.

# Irony in the Story

- It is very difficult to miss the misery of Dukhi at the ending
- What Dukhi could not achieve in life he manages to do that in his death. Pandit Ghasiram, who considers the touch of Dukhi polluting, is forced to drag the dead body of Dukhi himself
- 
- And what comes as an even greater irony is the fact that Ghasiram disposes the dead body of Dukhi in the fields to be eaten by scavengers, after Dukhi had served him with devotion and loyalty

# Irony in the Story

- Instead of gratifying Dukhi for his selfless services, Pandit Ghasiram has ensured that Dukhi suffers in death as he was in life by giving him curse as he forced Pandit to touch his dead body
- Pandit Ghasiram performs the necessary purification rites and, perhaps resumes his normal life. But the price was a dog's death for Dukhi, left in the field to be devoured by scavengers

मुंशी प्रेमचंद रचित  
**सद्गति**



Thank You