

Literary Prospects of Dr B. R. Ambedkar's *Waiting for a Visa*

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Untouchable the novel written by Mulk Raj Anand is a book that has gone on to frame our idea about the lives of untouchables in the first half of the twentieth century. This novel is considered a definitive book as far as understanding the plight of the untouchables of that time is concerned. But we forget one important thing that Mulk Raj Anand was not an untouchable himself and whatever he wrote in his novel was perceived rather than experienced by himself. The torments of Bakha are more the matter of perception than experience. His anger, his frustration and his desire to react is all what the writer feels through his imagination. What actually Bakha wanted and what exactly he felt is never revealed to the reader. That discrepancy between what Bakha actually might have felt and what the reader was provided to read can be addressed by referring to an account given by an untouchable himself living and writing at the same time in history.

Dr Ambedkar in his *Waiting for a Visa* presents an account of himself and his fellow untouchables. This book is more focussed on the reality of the day than mere serving of literary diet added with exaggerated taste of pain and humiliation. The literary decoration may be missing in this account but that is well compensated by first-hand experience.