

Research Article

**Lossing “Nawab Rai” and getting “Munshi Premchand”**

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**Abstract:** When Dhanpat Rai Shrivastava started writing the story while in the government service as the school inspector, at the time Dhanpat Rai used to write his works in Urdu under the name “Nawab Rai”. One day when British Government seized his first collection of short stories ‘**Soje Watan**’ which was published in the year 1908. “**Soje Watan**” means “**Desh ka Matam**” after that he had to drop the name of Nawab Rai. Later he started writing under the penname of “Munshi Premchand”.

Premchand's real name was Dhanpat Rai Srivastava. He was a successful writer, patriotic citizen, skilled orator, responsible editor and sensitive writer. In the first half of the twentieth century, when there were no technical facilities to work in Hindi, yet there was no one other than him who could do so much work.

He was the epitome of simplicity, courtesy and generosity. While in his heart there was a generous feeling for friends, in his heart there was an infinite ocean of sympathy for the poor and the victims. Premchand was a man of high order. He had a good love for village life.

Ajaib Rai and Anandi Devi named their son Dhanpat Rai on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1880. His mother died when he was 8 years old after that it was very hard for him to maintain his concentration on studies, But he completed his education and after completing his education he started writing short stories. The main characteristics feature of his writing was that he accurately describes the problem of rural peasant classes. He also avoided the difficult language by not using highly Sanskritised Hindi and Spanish language.

We can understand his Journey from the works mentioned below:

In “**Soje Watan**” there are five stories which give a soulful depiction of the martyrdom of the Patriots and freedom fighters. Reading Premchand’s novels is like you are reading what’s in the author’s mind. “**Karambhoomi**” masterfully discusses untouchability, education, lagaan (Crop tax) Female upliftment and British rule in India.

The novel “**Rangbhoomi**” is one such work of mass struggle with bureaucracy and capitalism. The insistence on truth, loyalty and non-violence, the mediocrity present in rural life and the frightening picture of the plight of women are depicted here.

The book “**Nirmala**” depicts the misery of a young girl who has to suffer because of dowry. She has to marry and live with a man who is twice her age. She has no choice but to follow his destiny.

**Godan** was published in 1936, one of Munshi Premchand's major works **Godan**, meaning “**gift of a cow**”, is a novel that takes you through a beautiful love-hate relationship. In order to settle the case of cow's death, Hori takes some loan from a sage and bribes the police.

**Gaban** is a novel of Premchand dealing with a special concern. This topic is the effect of wife's attachment to jewellery on husband's life. The real depiction of the middle class wandering in the darkness of values crumbling in embezzlement. This novel explores the reality of life more deeply, breaks the illusion.

If it is said that as long as Hindi literature remains in the country and the world, the name of Munshi Premchand will remain immortal, then there will be no exaggeration.

The reason for Munshi ji's fame is his ability to 'beat time' in his stories and novels. Many of his stories like **Bade Bhai Saheb** in 1910, **Idgah** in 1933, **Kafan** were written in 1936, but all these are still alive today. Even after reading all these stories, it does not seem that these stories were written 80 to 90 years ago.

## Lossing “Nawab Rai” and getting “Munshi Premchand”

Premchand's works are the largest and most extensive class of works in India. He created literature in many genres like novel, story, drama, review, article, editorial, memoir etc., but mainly he is a storyteller. But later on he went on to create a classic novel like **Godan** which is considered a modern classic. Due to such excellent use of his pen, the world of literature got a new name and that name was “**Munshi Premchand**”. Premchand developed a tradition of story and novel which guided the literature of the whole century.

### References:

1. [thewire.in](http://thewire.in)