



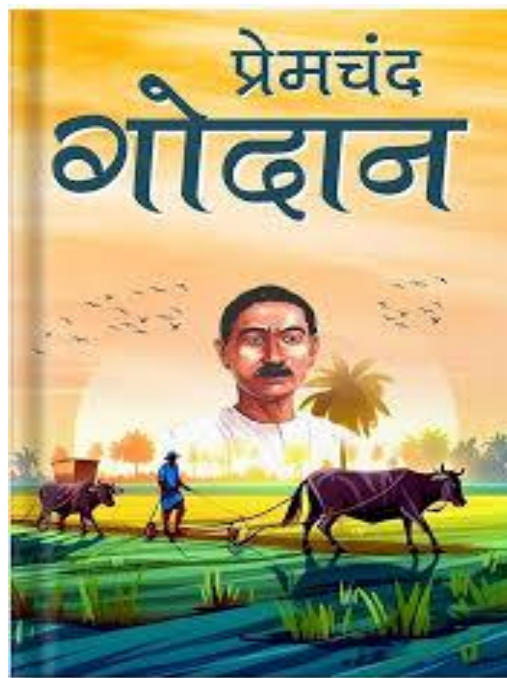
Delhi Public School Howrah

BOOK REVIEW

Name of the book: Godan

Name of the author: Premchand Munshi

Book reviewed by: Kriteeka Shaw, XII B, [Batch 2024-25]



The roots of India lie beyond our village and their rich varied culture.

The pillars of our heritage are somewhere hidden and withering in our folk tales and the non luminated stories of rural people.

'Godan' by our own beloved Premchand is gesture of Indian rural life. At its core it's a socio - economical novel which primarily revolves around the life of Hori Mahato, a poor peasant who aspires to own a cow, which is considered a symbol of prosperity and piousness in his community.

The story encircled around the loop of caste system. Premchand highlights the plight of the lower castes and their struggles. It explores the conflict between traditional values and modern aspirations, how religious and moral obligations are used to control and exploit the poor.

The protagonist, Hori Mahato is a poor farmer with unwavering faith in traditional values, who is willing to sacrifice everything for his family and his dream.

His wife Dhanya is a devoted wife supporting him through all the hardships.

The antagonist of the story, Raj Sahab is the representative of the traditional oppressive zamindari system.

It pictures realistic portrayal of rural life and its deep empathy for the struggles of the landless farmers. The writing is marked by its simplicity and carries profound social and political commentary. The novel is also noted for its rich character development and its ability to evoke emotional responses from readers.

Unlike other novels which includes romanticism of poverty, Premchand insights on the plight of the pre-medieval era of poverty.

He avoids ornamental language and instead opts for a straightforward narrative that allows the story and its characters to take center stage.

Being one of the feminine critics, I somehow felt that Premchand portrays women like Dhanya with sympathy and their roles are largely confined to the domestic sphere. The novel doesn't challenge the gender norms of the time. The female characters, despite their resilience, often revolve to their roles as caregivers and supporters of their husbands and sons.

It's a must read to stimulate the empathy for our peasants and to understand the dilemma of these innocent beings and how the landlord system and casteism is injecting venom into the society.

It's a masterpiece of Indian literary work due to its contribution of social realism and this is why it is being adapted into various languages and television series.