Saul Bellow is one of the major American novelists of the modern era. As a Nobel Laureate he has been most celebrated and has commanded the attention of a large range of reviewers and critics. He has received Awards like National Book Award, Pulitzer Prize and two Guggenheim Fellowships and many honours. These achievements acknowledge him to be the most remarkable and eminent writer. Hence his works are accredited with all the expectations that a reader looks forward to in a major novelist.

The modern world is affected by innumerable troubles and turmoils. Ethics and ethical values seem to be deteriorating. This trend found in every social group has led to changes in the values of life and has shattered peace. Man lives gripped in fear, anxiety, doubts and war clouds. Peace, harmony and understanding can be established when importance is given to moral values that discern what is right and wrong. The realization of the noble nature in man or the self may enable any individual to know what is essential for a world of harmony. The individual prevailing with moral consciousness and noble nature expresses more cosmic concern.
The novels of Bellow may be classified into different groups. The first group of novels are known as victim novels. They are *Dangling Man* and *The Victim*. The protagonists of these novels are found to be the victims of the social forces of their society. They present a somber view of man. Their self is debilitated by the existing conditions in their social life. They see their atmosphere marked by urban strangeness, political disorder and receding faith. Hence they suffer and long to regain the vitality of their individual self. Their life and experience enable them to shape their self and they learn to accommodate themselves with the experience of reality.

Adventure and the idea of initiation seem to be the theme of Bellow’s second group of novels. Henderson of *Henderson the Rain King* is pictured as the protagonist who seeks wisdom through adventure. The novel is hero-centered and Henderson represents the need of relationship between self and society. Through the journey he undertakes he becomes aware of his innate potentials. *Herzog* belongs to the group of novels termed as survivor novels. The protagonist is more meditative. He transcends the immediate pressures of the environment and asks himself some fundamental questions about the nature of humanity. He reveals his longings through letters and through human consciousness which is in struggle with the political power and the social system.
The next group of novels *Humboldt’s Gift* and *The Dean’s December* are classified as transcendent novels. They are also transcendental in outlook. The novels delineate a clear comprehension of humanity and encompass the voice of moral liberation. The theme of these novels contains the question of individual existence which is enslaved by the enormous pressure of deteriorating values of modernism. The motif of the works seem to be the theory of self creation and self awakening. The protagonist of these novels, who seek the nature of their self, are prone to consciousness that expresses the need for moral values. Bellow’s novels serve as excellent treatise of his thoughts and ideas.

Bellow is an artist who is simple and truthful in his adherence to art. He attempts and seeks to relinquish what is false. He can be represented as a writer who hunts for truth under the wreckage of failed systems, false formulations, and as one who exhibits the struggle for survival of his heroes who attempt to assert their authentic self. He is the artist who is interested to present true impressions through art. Bellow displays through his novels a deep concern for man, for the real self and the consciousness in an individual. He attempts to expose certain truths related to the individual and modern society. The backdrop of his novels is the American culture in decay. This decay Bellow perceives in all American urban centres, mainly in two American cities - Chicago and
New York. The plot of the novels is set in these two cities. In these places he finds hollowness and emptiness of heart. The novelist exposes man’s absurdity, madness, eccentricity and involvement in sex. Bellow endeavors through his work to restrain the individual from becoming a part of biological rubbish or political dross owing to historical coercions. The protagonists of his novels show cosmic concern and perceive things as they are and also have a cosmic vision. He also protects his protagonists through his advocacy and transcendental intimations.

This research is a study of Bellow’s realism and it no doubt accelerates the reading and understanding of humanistic fiction. It is significant as an investigation into the life of his protagonists who represent the individuals of today. They are the Bellovian voice unfolding the message of the novelist, insisting the fact that man can exist with the awareness of the self and moral consciousness even in a world affected by various problems.

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