PREFACE

The first full home-grown Indian novelist Arundhati Roy became a stupendous figure by providing her first novel *The God of Small Things* on the threshold of the world stage of English fiction whose expediency promulgated 'The Booker Prize 1997' to it. It became the best seller and won the admiration from the different cross sections of the reading public all over the world. In this novel the themes of love, spite, betrayal, hatred and guilt run like a spider’s web. Rajgopal Nidamboor of the *Sunday Observer* feels “The God of Small Things’ has it all: the echoes, calls and the cries of the Earth” and it is an extraordinary novel of “an uncoiling spring of human foreboding and inevitability.” The British reviewer Boyd Tonkin of the *Independent* has accepted that The God of Small Things is the result of the fine intelligence of Arundhati Roy. The peculiar responses of American reviewers show that it is a mixture of magic, mystery and sadness.

Roy herself answers in an interview reported to *The Times of India* by Sheila Mathrani and tells about ‘The God of Small Things’: “It is about the level of boundaries between parents and children, touchables and untouchables, life and death. And also about the transgressions of these boundaries and how one can break with these conventions, about leaving home and returning home—we all wish to
return home; also the fact that there are no guilty or innocent beings for we are all accomplices. It is about language and inability of children to understand the language of adults and power of language to evoke work.”

‘The God of Small Things’ evokes the child’s world through ‘the experiences of the twins’. It deals with the male-dominated patriarchal society which works against the progress of women folk. The curse of untouchability is also present in its ugly form in the novel. We find communist leaders who boast of their adherence to the principle of Marxism but in practice they are the least concerned with the spirit of Karl Marx. The novel represents all those people who are victimized by the forces of history, dead conventions, false pride and respectability, tyranny of the state and politics of opportunism and corrupt police administration. Apart from the variety of themes “The God of Small Things” presents powerful images, symbols, a proper style and narrative technique. Her other works The Greater Common Good (1998) and End of Imagination (1998) are related to human concerns and the better understanding of human spirit. ‘The rally for valley’ was the cause of ‘Narmada Bachao Andolan’ with Medha Patekar and Peace March against Pokharan Nuclear Explosion.

The present study, in brief, will highlight the different issues of human concerns with critical insight as presented by Arundhati Roy in her works. It will also look into the ‘socio-political trends’, values and issues and movements like feminism and Marxism which stand at
the back of Roy's works. Surprisingly, these aspects have not been looked into seriously in the works on Arundhati Roy so far.

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While I owe everything in my thesis to scholars, critics and well-wishers I alone am responsible for the errors of judgement and blemishes of style and presentation. Though I have tried my best to make my thesis 'error-free as possible but being a human being how could I get over my human limitations?

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