Appendix

INTERVIEW WITH ARUNDHATI ROY

(The researcher had an interview with Arundhati Roy during the sidelines of a book release function on 20 July 2011)

The concept of hybridity is highly relevant to The God of Small Things—whether it is the ‘Half-Hindu hybrid’ twins or the jam-jelly constituency. Can hybridity be taken as a positive trait?

I don’t think there’s any such thing as purity. There are only degrees of hybridity. And I think the discourse on purity is quite violent and artificial but there are many kinds of hybridities, whether it is sexual or caste or many other kinds of relationships… Those are the kinds which are interesting for me as a writer.

How central is the voice of the natural world to The God of Small Things?

That is the religion of The God of Small Things and the religion of the person who wrote it.

Is it right to say that your works of non-fiction are ‘monologues’ as compared to the multi-voiced discourse of The God of Small Things?

I don’t think so. I mean, if you look at the arguments against the big dams, or if you look at the whole battle that is fought in the buster today is about saving that world of, that The God of Small Things is about. You know that the argument against the dams... is about the fish and the water and the plains and hills and trees; So is the argument against the nuclear bombs. I mean the world of The God of Small Things is at the centre of that ferocity. It is that you are really expressing a clear dispel of who wants to destroy...it is
neither the nuclear issue, nor the issue of privatization of the river or air and water; nor the issue of the Narmada Dam. …all this leftist fight which is being called Maoist …is all about the imagination that is being destroyed.

**Speaking about Maoists, it was mentioned somewhere that you have referred to the Maoists as ‘Gandhians with Guns’.**

If you read my essay, what I was saying was that they don’t waste anything. As far as consumption is concerned they are more Gandhian than any Gandhian.