

Attempt a character sketch of Raju, the hero of the novel 'The Guide'

OR,

"Raju never did anything; thing always happens to him". Discuss.

Introduction :-

Raju, the hero of regional novel 'The Guide' is a royal and one of the most interesting characters in indo-anglican novels. He is a great deceiver of society by passing for spiritual men. In 'The Guide' we observe that he does the role of a hermit and does his role partly for the sake of self-preservation and partly because it suits his personality.

Being born and brought up in a lower middle class family in a neglect corner of Malgudi he had learnt several things from his life. His knowledge had increased by reading newspapers, magazine and old books for sale. In his childhood, his father condemned him "day headed" and his mother addressed him "unmilitigated loafer". He was extremely efficient in judging human nature.

As a Successful pragmatic man :-

Raju is a very successful pragmatic man in the worldly sense, though he went to jail for a brief because of his covarise, jealousy and belongingness. He recognises his customers by their facial gestures. As a tourist guide, he shows them places of their interest. He shows them places of their interest. He has a lot of self-confidence mingled with a jolly temperament.

As a Passive (Dummy) Hero :-

His first role as the owner of the sweet stall on the railway platform is not so impressive as his second role as a guide. Rosie, the heroine of the novel appears in his life after deserting her husband Marco. He finds himself

Working as Rosie's business manager and publicity agent. In the fourth stage of his career he happens to become a convict. He is sent to jail for a voluntary act of forgery he never does anything. Nothing always happened to him. He doesn't want to become a religious man but circumstances compel him to adopt the path of a sadhu. He learns that the essence of sainthood lies in one's ability to narrate mysterious statements.

As a lover :-

Raju has spontaneous love for all. He seldom expresses bitterness in any actions. Marco doesn't care for Rosie's sentiments and even physical comfort. He is quite astonished at Marco's neglect of a beautiful creature of flesh and blood. His genuine sympathy for Rosie brings him very close to her. About his relationship with Rosie Raju says, "The only reality in my life and consciousness was Rosie. All my mental power were now turned to her with in my rich, and keep her smiling all the time neither of which was at all easy would willingly have kept at her side of the time as a sort of parasite but in that way easy".

As a kind-hearted man :-

Raju is a kind-hearted man. His kindness makes him Rosie's sweetheart and a forced sadhu for the villagers without malice and feelings of revenge. His attitudes are constructive. He never snatched Rosie away from Marco. She herself came to him and his good nature doesn't reject her. When Raju gets seriously involved in the forgery case, Rosie begins to lead an independent life. At last she goes out of Raju's influence to become an illustrious artist on her own strength and lead a fuller life devoted to her art.

As a great materialist :-

Raju is a great materialist because of his Craving for the riches through the performance of the Rasie. His natural reaction of the low economic life of a low middle class is obvious. He is a great Symbol of the new culture. He lives in falsehood and hypocrisy. His Conscience is dead but his passions are alive.

Conclusion :-

undoubtedly Raju a half puritan at heart. He has excepted the role of a saint for unconditional and free supply of food after his release from the jail. his sainthood is further Conformed by his fourteen day fast to bring rains to the famine Stricken villagers. It is an act of holy martyrdom for the villagers sake.