

symbols the unmistakable sense of feltlife.”¹¹

Indian writers writing in English have been concerned about the clash of cultures at the level of people and at the level of ideas right from Sarath Kumar Ghose (1909) to Raja Rao, Bhabani Bhattacharya, E.M. forsters followed by Kamala Markandaya and many more. Markandaya not only studied the clash but also traced its origin to the beginning of the process of modernization without misrepresenting the Indian or the Western culture,

“Mrs. Markandaya born and bred in India, and settled in England is very sensitive to the clash of the East and the West and the tension born out of this clash.”¹²

The East West theme has been focused upon by Markandaya in a number of her novels, *Some Inner Fury*, *A Silence of Desire*, *Possession*, *The Nowhere Man*. The philosophy of endurance and stoicism is so deep rooted in Indian life that everywhere emphasis is on large-heartedness, generosity and contentment. In the depiction of personal and cultural life of India and also that of the West, Markandaya has been impartial. England failed to attract India’s sympathy because of being the political ruler. It is equally true that it was due to close contact with England and Western culture that certain social evils could be eradicated from India and an era of science and technology ushered in. Markandaya’s views on India and the West is to a large extent unbiased and balanced. She has no bitterness about the English rule and she also does not flatter the West uncritically. The West fails to understand the East. India, while keeping her cultural heritage intact can imbibe the best that the West has to offer.

References

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