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VS Naipaul, Fiery Novelist and Nobel Laureate (Download PDF)

(January 5, 2019)

Indian origin writer & famous British novelist Sir V. S. Naipaul died in London on 12th Aug. 2018. He was 85 years old. Naipaul was known as 'Sir Videya' among fans. He has written insensitivity on imp. issues like colonialism, idealism, religion & politics.

SIR VIDIADHAR SURAJPRASAD NAIPAUL (1932-2018)

LIFE POINTS

1932: Born in Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago, to family of migrants from India. He would later go on to call his country of birth "unimportant, uncreative, cynical... a dot on the map"

1957: First novel *The Mystic Masseur* published

1961: His most famous work, *A House for Mr. Biswas* is published

1962: Visits India, where he writes *An Area of Darkness*

1966: Receives an invitation from Little Brown and Company to write a book on Port-of-Spain. Comes up with *The Loss of El Dorado* (1969)

1979: *A Bend in the River*, set in

Central Africa, marks the beginning of his exploration of native traditions

1984: Covers the Republican National Convention in Dallas and writes 'Among the Republicans' for *New York Review of Books*

1998: Publishes *Beyond Belief: Islamic Excursions Among the Converted Peoples*, a portrayal of the Islamic faith in the lives of ordinary people in Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Malaysia

2001: Awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Called a "modern philosopher" by the committee

Remembering Sir Vidia

Acclaimed as a great writer of English prose by most but also considered narcissistic and bigoted by many, V.S. Naipaul emerged as a writer in the early 1950s, producing a literary output of around 30 books

COMMENTS AND CONTROVERSIES

The Trinidadian-British writer had once said that "If a writer doesn't generate hostility, he is dead"

Africa has no future
INTERVIEW WITH NEW YORK TIMES, 1979

The trouble with people like me writing about societies where there is no intellectual life is that if you write about it, people are angry... Now India has improved, the books have been accepted... Forty years ago in India people were living in ritual. This is one of the things I have helped India with
CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL, 2001

I don't think so... I read a piece of writing and within a paragraph or two I know whether it is by a woman or not. I think [it is] unequal to me
INTERVIEW TO ROYAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, 2011, when asked if any woman writer was his literary match



Image of Sir Videya

Nobel Prize Awarded

- Sir V. S. Naipaul was awarded Booker Prize in 1971 & Nobel Prize for literature in 2001.
- He got title of knighthood for literary contribution in 1990.
- He was only other writer of Indian or Indian origin to receive Nobel literature of literature after Rabindranath Tagore.
- 'The Times' gave Naipaul 7th in list of 50 great British authors in 2008.

Some of Famous Books Written by Him

- His 1st novel 'The Mystic Maasar' was published in 1951.

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- ‘A House for Mr. Biswas’, published in 1961, is his most famous & popular book. Naipaul became famous all over world just at age of 31 by this novel. They are also called ‘**Master of English**’.
- ‘The Mimic Men’ (year 1967)
- ‘In a Free State’ (1971)
- ‘Guerrillas’ (year 1975)
- ‘A Bend In the River’ (year 1979)
- ‘A Way in World’ (1994)
- ‘The Inigma of Arivalval’ (1987)
- ‘Beyond Belief: Islamic Execution among Converted Peoples’ (1998)
- ‘Half a Life’ (2001)
- ‘The Writer and the World’ 2002)
- ‘Literary Auctions (2003)
- ‘The Knowledge Magic Seeds’ (2004)

About V. S. Naipaul

- V. S. Naipaul’s full name was Vidyadhar Suraj Prasad Naipaul.
- V. S. Naipaul was born on 17th Aug. , 1932 in Indian Hindu family in Trinidad.
- After 18 years of schooling he went to Oxford to study. He settled in England after studying at University College, Oxford.
- They have great fame in the writing world.
- Naipaul came to India many times & his last visit was for Jaipur Literature Festival in January 2015.
- He made many trips to many countries of the world. Many books, travelogues & essays are written.
- Naipaul 1st married Patricia N. Hale in 1955, but Patricia died in 1996, & in same year, Naipaul married Pakistani journalist Nadira Alvi.
- He took more than 3 years to write his most famous novel ‘A House for Mr. Biswas’.
- Naipaul wrote books like ‘N Area of Darkness’ & ‘A Wounded Civilization’ on subjects like India’s history, culture & civilization.

About Nobel Prize:

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- Nobel Foundation was started in memory of Sweden's scientist Alfred Nobel in 1901.
- Its aim is to financially run Nobel Prizes.
- It is world's highest award in field of peace, literature, physics, chemistry, medical science & economics.
- In this award, amount of 1.4 million dollars is given w/citation.
- Nobel Prize in Economics was started from 1968.
- Nobel Foundation has team of 5 people whose head is decided by King of Council of Sweden, other 4 member rewards are determined by trustee's trustee (trustees).

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