



Karmabhumi

Munshi Premchand , Lalit M. Srivastava (Translator)

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Greatly influenced by Gandhi's satyagraha movement, Karmabhumi is set in the Uttar Pradesh of the 1930s. By the beginning of the 20th century, Islam and Hinduism had coexisted in India for over a thousand years, and barring the occasional outbursts of violence, the two religious communities had lived together peacefully and shared strong social bonds except marriage. English education, however, drove a wedge between these two communities. It is against this backdrop that Premchand wrote Karmabhumi.

Karmabhumi Details

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Author : Munshi Premchand , Lalit M. Srivastava (Translator)

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From Reader Review Karmabhumi for online ebook

Sais Shishir says

Maybe not very entertaining with its story-line, but great work portraying a revolution against aristocracy in British Raj; and situation of religion in Brahman infested Hindu society. Besides, Premchand has penned family, relation, and love in his typical interesting way.

Manish Punia says

I read stories by Munshi Premchand ji in textbooks in schools. Writing of munshi premchand ji are so deep you don't not read that you feel them. There was one story in school time "budi kaki", After reading that I used to cry.

After a long time I read one book written by munshi premchand ji, karmabhumi. After starting that I could not stop myself, i completed in 3 days. While reading this book I cried many times. It felt like I was not just reading any book, I was living in book.

The way munshi ji described relationship in family, principles of people. It was amazing. The things covered in karmabhumi I can't even summarize them. This book made me to change my point of view my relationship with everyone. Love is described in such a beautiful way, that relationship seems pure, quite deep and divine. That we see very rarely in this world

Ankit Saroch says

This is the first hindi novel I have read, and the first in works of much acclaimed Munshi Premchand(except for abridged stories in school curriculum). The novel very well portrays many facets of the pre-colonial Indian society in the northern state on the bank of river Ganges. The novel picks up pace in the middle and ends on a very high. The use of hindi language is very well and taking into consideration the knowledge of hindi in today's generation, its not very hard.

Finishing with a quote from the novel, which I liked and remembered:

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Abhinav says

I am not much of an avid reader, but this book has entered into one of my favorites.

The flaws

- The plot isn't very coherent. It shifts randomly and certain parts became a chore to read.
- Even the character changes are rather random, which takes the reader out of the story.

The good

- All characters are given focus. The character development, and the way all the character lines congregate towards the end is brilliant! The ending is sensational, and brought a tear to my eye.
 - The social commentary about issues like inter-faith marriage, the rich-poor divide, oppression of the untouchables etc. is rather enlightening.
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????? ?????? says

3.5/5

Deepak Pitaliya says

Except for Sukhda almost all characters are inconsistent. Too much of idealism makes story very boring. Story moves here and there or rather there is no plot. Totally disappointed.

Manish Patel says

This book doesn't need a review to judge its magnificence. From page one, it keeps the reader hooked up and builds a story that makes one believe oneself to be a part of it. It is story of life of an idealist who wants to weed out the evils that have hold back the country and during this journey he is married to a woman who is egregiously opposite in character. The woman wants her husband should take the responsibilities of house before working for the society and the country.

Karmabhoomi or field of action is in which the character and destinies of individuals are formed and revealed through their actions; here this field of action is "Human Life". This story intertwined with several other stories make the novel marvelous.

On a personal note, I think Hindi is dying day by day. I have seen mothers not allowing their children to speak Hindi lest their children will get less fluent in English. Since when a language has become a barrier. Language is just a medium of expressing our ideas.

Rahul says

Book Compatible with all time and virtues. Amazing creation with Gandhian Thoughts and the Philosophy of Karma.

Ashish Bihani says

Godan stands tall among the novels of Premchand and it is the one that is closest to my heart. But Karmabhumi is equally relevant in today's scenario. I've seen my fellow young men discard Gandhi's beliefs by accusing them of being impractical. But this novel picks the ideals of peace and ahimsa (which were there long before Gandhi used them) from the rubble of retaliation and restores it on the throne of

originality and tangibility. Unlike godan, it does not cover all states of thought and does not trace personal philosophical metamorphoses. But that is because it focuses on something much, much important. On human nature, on trust and altruistic notions.

Abhishek Behera says

Something was happening in the plot but I was clueless as to why is it happening. Disappointed for the first time by Premchand. I left the book in the middle; didn't finish.

Gorab Jain says

Read this in my struggle towards getting a better grip on my mother-tongue.

I love Premchand's books for their simplicity of language and characters. This book was a big shocker. The writing did not feel like Premchand Ji's at all. None of the characters were simple. Your love and hate towards the characters will surely go vice-versa by the end.

More than 50% through, I couldn't figure what the main plot is about!

Interesting to see a revolutionary plot in a pre-independence India which is not about freedom struggle or related revolutions.

At times, the content was so heavy that I couldn't continue and needed a lighter read in between.

There are a lot of idealistic thoughts even valid till date. And that's the thing about Premchand - evergreen! However could not enjoy this one as much as I wanted to, in spite of reading in a group.

Virat hooda says

Read the full review at True wonderer

Every Indian in one way or the other has read at least one of Munshi Premchand's stories, for me it was in School, his stories were part of the curriculum, just like Shakespeare is for the Europeans i imagine. My favorite among them were "Heera and Moti" the story of two Bulls and "Panch Parmeshwar" ,both of these short stories were absolutely marvelous.My first serious Premchand novel was "Godaan" (NO, not Goddamn, its GODAAN), which to this day remains my favorite Hindi novel.

And though "Karmabhoomi" can't replace 'Godaan' from it's place which it doesn't need to, it stands apart in a class of its own. The novel has very complicated characters, and though the 'Realistic', 'Day to day social life and norms' and 'Authentic' feel which is Premchand's signature aspects in writing are present, the 'simplicity' is absent.This is truly a magna carta of Indian literature, not because of its size but due to the wide range of issues social ,Religious and the Human psyche conundrums covered in the book. Again , this was written in 1930's,to write about these topics (like Untouchability, Hypocritical religious practices, Inter faith love interests,Women empowerment,corruption among the ruling classes) than would be like living in a kerosene soaked house and attempting to cook.That too under British Raj, oh so many times i wondered why has the author not named names when time came to the assign responsibility for the pain caused to the people specially the farmers, but of course he didn't name names, they would never have allowed it to be published.So, Premchand had cleverly used other tools at his disposal, linking greed, hypocritical laws and lawmakers and pointed in the general direction.

