

Concerns of Humanism: In reference with Nissim Ezekiel's Writing

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Abstract

Ezekiel was born in December 1924 in Mumbai. The family lived in a small, Marathi-speaking community known as the “Bene Israel” which numbered some 20,000 inhabitants at that time. Unlike other communities around the world this was a peaceful place with no evidence of anti-Semitism to worry about. They were a relatively affluent family with his father being a professor of Botany at the Wilson College in Mumbai and his mother the Principal of the school that she, herself, had set up. Nissim was well educated and had a particular liking for the poetry of such as T S Eliot and Ezra Pound. He did not much care for verse in his own language and, as he grew up, his writing attracted controversy. It was seen as too close to the old colonial influences by many radicals in India. He attended Wilson College and, in 1947, he gained a first class honours degree in literature and immediately started teaching English Literature.

Nissim was a famous author and as other famous personalities provide opportunities to critics to express different opinions. The same condition is with Nissim's writings. There are various views on Nissim and his works by various persons.

Dr. Meeta Ajay Khanna in her article “Critical Tenants in Nissim Ezzikiel's Poetry: A Perspective in International Journal of English Language, Literature and Humanities “Ezekiel's poems are personal, modest, ironic, self deprecatory, urban and skeptical. He avoids emotional indulgence.”¹ For this she takes the help of William Walsh quotation, “Ezekiel's poetry more than that of any other of these writers seems to be generated from within and to have within it a natural capacity for development. It is intellectually complex, mobile in phrasing, fastidious in diction,

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¹ Dr Meeta Ajay Khanna, ” <http://ijellh.com/critical-tenets-nissim-ezekiels-poetry-perspective/>