

PREFACE

I think it is necessary to explain why only three novels, viz., He Who Rides a Tiger (1954), Seasons of Jupiter (1958) and The Guide (1958) have been chosen for this study. It is only in these three novels that the ascetic figures as a central character. Also in view of the scope, jurisdiction and limitation of the dissertation, only three novels that represent the theme of asceticism are chosen.

Such a topic of sociological importance is likely to tend to be more of a sociological study rather than an aesthetical one. To steer clear of this possibility every care will be taken to make the present study an aesthetical assessment.

Now a word about the strategy adopted in the dissertation : I found that it was profitable to study the ideal of asceticism by making, for the sake of convenience, the following thematic categories :

- 1) The three major novels in which the ascetic figures as the protagonist and ii) Novels in which the ascetic figures only as an ancillary character and the theme of asceticism is only marginal. This is, of course, for providing a wider perspective on the topic of my study.

Finally a word about the layout of the dissertation : Chapter-I attempts a brief historical survey and a theoretical discussion of the ideal of asceticism with reference to the

Indo-Anglian novel. Chapter-II gives a brief survey of the novels in which the ascetic occurs as an ancillary or minor character, with a view to gaining a proper perspective on the entire theme of asceticism as it occurs in the Indo-Anglian novels. Chapter-III is devoted to a detailed explication of the ideal of asceticism with reference to the three major novels chosen for the study. Lastly, chapter-IV presents a few conclusions on the aesthetic as well as sociological assessment of the theme under consideration.