

A Passage to England: Nirad C. Chaudhary

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Abstract – This paper deals with the notions of E. M. Forster's criticism how hegemony inhibits the formation of personal ties between local indigenous people and Anglo-Indian people. The narrator presents this idea at the beginning, when Mahmoud Ali and Hamidullah ask "whether or not an Englishman can have friends" (Forster, 1924. 33). On the final page, Forster addresses this hypothesis by saying, "No, not yet.... No, there isn't" (Forester 316). This means that, for strategic, hegemonic and prejudicial purposes, any efforts to develop friendships are impossible under the British occupation. In posing a variety of pitfalls, while individuals attempt to interact in colonial India, Forster's case against imperialism is very simple and compelling.

Keywords: Passage, Opportunity, Hegemony

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INTRODUCTION

Nirad Chaudhuri's *Passage to England* is the vibrant account of his fun exploration of his visit to England. He wrote it honestly, without any duty to construct. Nirad C. Chaudhuri was a writer and cultural analyst from Bengali, England. In 1975 he won the Sahitya Akademi Award. Second, Chaudhuri's response to further Foucault – more "Foucauldian" in the context of stressing the bidirectionality of influence in the relationship of Chaudhuri to Empire – is also a common reading of works such as *Autobiography* and *The English Passage*. This interpretation may belong to Bhabhaesque discernment of "productive ambivalence" in the reiteration by the colonizers of the colonizer's discourse (Bhabha 1997), which, by now had recognized a gesture of restoring the colonized subject agency, typically with some relation to the 'textual ability' subject to subvert the discourse placed on it or even re-appropriate it. The Englishman, who happily represents his fellow Calcuttians as oxen, is similarly glad to characterize the English he sees as ants. He demarcates and unravels in several ways the robust zone of his sovereignty in a European - and especially British - voice, which he is indebted to with so many problems. Careful and concentrated irreverence is one strategy; a good illustration is the tale by Chaudhuri about how a small child was offered a lamb. Causing his son's fascination with Christ's images, the father supplies a young ewe to the seven-year-old (N.C. Chaudhuri 2005.). Chaudhuri then goes on to speak in depth how they went from village to village, seeking to locate arum that matted with the ewe – with the "lamb of Christ." What starts with a predictable tale that stresses the precocious empathy of boy Chaudhuri for the Christianity becomes a manipulative and implicitly blasphemous

anecdote, which definitely offends a faithful west audience. Chaudhuri's action here of deliberate offence is a distancing, a tactic to establish a room, albeit vigorously interstitial, in which he maintains the freedom to mock and to scorn the fins and roots of his mature self that he praises elsewhere. His conviction that the British "never had a good response to the Bengali" (N. C. Chaudhuri 1974), his admission of Boers and Bonapartists, the English styling in his travelogue, and his startled definition of Indian English as "the overpowering odour of our wild reddog," are all part of this effort (N. C. Chaudhuri 2005.).

MAJOR WORKS

His 1951 masterpiece, *The Autobiography of an Anonymous Indian* (ISBN 0-201-15576-1), placing him on the short list of great Indian writers. He rendered uproar in the newly independent India because of the book's dedication, "To the memory of the British Empire in India, Which conferred subjecthood upon us, But withheld citizenship. To which yet every one of us threw out the challenge, "Civis Britannicus sum" Because all that was good and living within us was made, shaped and quickened by the same British rule." (N.C. Chaudhary 89)

The commitment, which was indeed mock-imperial rhetoric, furious for many Indians, particularly the political and administrative establishment. 'Wogs took the bait and read just commitment to the protest,' commented Khushwant Singh, a friend of Chaudhuri, publisher, historian and novelist. Chaudhuri was fired from the government, stripped of his pension, blacklisted as a writer in India, and pushed into a life of suffering. Moreover, he had to

give up his work as a legislator in All India Radio as the Indian Government promulgated a rule that banned the printing of memoirs for employees. Chaudhuri claimed he was mistaken later. "The dedication was really a condemnation of the British rulers for not treating us as equals" he wrote in the article regarding Granta. Usually he drew a comparison with Ancient Rome to explain just what he had tried to convey. "The book was an imitation of what Cicero said regarding Verres' actions, the Roman proconsul of Sicily who persecuted Sicilian Roman civilians and who cried in their misery "Civisromanus sum."

In 1955, the British Council and the BBC decided on sending Chaudhuri to England for eight weeks. Chaudhuri was called upon to contribute lectures to the BBC. Eight articles on British life were given, and then updated and edited in the *Passage to England*. E. M. Forster reviewed it in *The Times Literary Supplement*. His 1965 book *The Continent of Circe* was devoted to him.

A PASSAGE TO ENGLAND

The narrative of Robinson Crusoe appears to be a proper flight point for some Hull reflections about pioneer and post-frontier travels back to England. Crusoe's misfortunes start, obviously, when his "wandring tendency"! drives him to abandon his safe Yorkshire Puritan birthplaces and take transport in Hull in 1651. Overlooking his dad's "not kidding and magnificent guidance" (27), he leaves the wellbeing of the "center station of life" (28) for a profession as dealer swashbuckler consequently trading one type of Puritanism for another, the security of the stay-at-home common life for entrepreneur radical go-getting. It was, as I envision the peruse won't should be reminded, another of Hull's most acclaimed seventeenth-century abstract children who mirrored that if there were sufficiently world and time, it would not make any difference if his fancy woman invested her energy discovering rubies "by the Indian Ganges side," while he whined by "the tide of Humber." Such an erotics of room, blocking all chance of fulfillment, didn't obviously speak to Marvell and the sonnet proceeds to endeavor to deter his paramour from her "demureness" 'and, prior to leaving on the particulars of c my point, I should jump at the chance to argue that a comparative earnestness ought to advise contemporary scholarly investigations, that given the multi-social nature of all social orders today, we can't bear to bind ourselves to developments along equal lines that never meet.

In my undertaking to bring the Ganges side to Humber's tide, I'll be taking a gander at a specific part of diverse scholarly relations: anecdotal and non-anecdotal records of journeys to England by provincial and post-pioneer authors. In a manner all Anglophone messages by such journalists are entries to England, if simply because they take part in an exchange with English culture through their

utilization of a structure (or types) of the English language, yet I'd prefer to take a gander at messages that include real excursions to England, as a method of zeroing in on the sharp edge of this experience. ! Passages to England According to one translation, the general concept of a section to England extends a post-pilgrim experience. Various Commonwealth scholars have taken the view that distance from the "middle"- mental and even powerful distance-is the pith of the frontier quandary. The Tasmanian author C.J. Koch gives an amazing articulation of this feeling of distance in his novel *The Doubleman* (1985), where the storyteller alludes to Plato to portray the condition:

Tasmanians, I suppose, were rather like the prisoners in Plato's cave; to guess what the centre of the world was like-that centre we knew to be twelve thousand miles away-we must study shadows on the wall: Bitter Sweet at the Hobart Repertory; Kind Hearts and Coronets at the Avalon Cinema; the novels of A.J. Cronin and J.B. Priestley and Graham Greene; shadows, all shadows, clues to the other hemisphere we might someday discover. We were living, when I grew up, in the half-light of that Empire the ultimate end of whose bridge of boats was Hobart.'(322)

Mr. Chaudhary says London is at the same time historic and young. London is so broad and diverse that most people, visually and mentally as well, will get lost. He also visited Rome and Paris, where he tried to show every museum and sculpture. He researched statues, architecture, objects, opera, wine and conduct with considerable interest. He wrote about these things in contrast with the socioeconomic, political and cultural habits of India.

The British are also, as Mr Chaudhary interpreted, taciturn. You're not used to launch a discussion purely out of excitement or boredom. At another point, he contrasts what we (Indians) like to relax in the tropics, lose control of our appearance and actions, and thus establish discrepancies as we do not keep track, when the citizens of the West are bracing cold to work harder in uniform moldings. The English citizens do not inform the world how much money they have/earn. And in a contrast, he himself notes that our (Indian) religiosity includes all the facts, including the deceptive and abusive, of money production. But England looked to him in a moralistic way as a land with easy wealth. I can't be exactly how much it's real now. Spending is the British constructive impulse to conserve, and the correction is that the British have generally wanted a lot more charitable and this is 'life style.' Because money-making is a serious endeavor of Indian life, the primary motive of European people in life is towards that which Chaudhary observes 'respect.' As far as passion is involved, Hindus and western culture are opposing poles. I guess I'd have to learn all on it to see what is real now.

As he speaks about Shakespeare, he says Shakespeare is an entertainment in England (seeing Stratford-upon-Avon celebration and marketing) when he is in India. Another part of British life is that you love visiting country homes, libraries, theatres, parks, gardens and galleries, as Mr Chaudhary explains, so that you can glorify and stay in contact with your roots.

He also focused on European affairs. He says British politics have hit a stage of saturation at which they can no longer aim for some fundamental change—it is a condition of balance. The wealthy state has eradicated virtually all inequalities and liberated everyone. Their industrial worker urbanization scheme was even stronger than every colony here reserved for Indian civil servants. In politics, India still has to go a long way to achieve the harmony, which solves all sorts of inequality waiting at every corner of the world. Politics is therefore of considerable significance to India; as Mr Chaudhary said, "India is a pale world without politics, while England without politics is by far the most attractive part of Europe."

The English people have religion really strongly. The so-called upper class there was more religious than the average citizens, as Mr. Chaudhary perceived, although the case in India was just the reverse. Religion refers to people here and its irreligiosity to the upper classes. A wonderful thing he mentioned, as compared to religion—I saw a clip in which an Indian was adoring Trump—The first politician to taste such worship was Nehru, and in the present time you can observe who it is, I just wonder how plain Mr. Chaudhary thinks about.

It was therefore about *A Passage to England*. "I think it is the very first travelogue of Europe in contemporary times to be published by an Indian, such an Indian who was often haunted as "Anti-nationalist" and "Pro-British" by his peers, yet never falsely. He still spoke of himself as a cosmopolitan. Although he was born a novelist, it took him a while to show his genius. In 1970, he was given permanent living in London, where he lived until his death. He's been around for over 101 years. His last novel 'Three Horseman of the Modern Apocalypse' was released at 98 in 1997, and is still a record in today's field of fiction. Many people would avoid this book as an obsolete documentary, but it was a good chance for me. The order of Mr. Chaudhary over English is great. He uses classical poetry every now and again and also uses French and Latin, which certainly isn't for me, and I am unaware of them all. Often his sound is dismissive.

Just one travelogue was written by Nirad Chaudhuri, *A Passage to England* (1959). The title was in parody of Edward Morgan Forster's book *A Passage to India* (1924). Chaudhuri's book includes his five-week travel experiences of England. It is the first book by an Indian author to be listed on England's bestselling charts. One storey of the travelogue

brings fresh light to Indo-British problems. It is about Chaudhuri's response to the words of a British boy in the Kent Cathedral in Canterbury. The child called him an African, but in that remark Chaudhuri did not suspect any bigotry. Instead he corrected the boy as though the latter had done an innocent error:

As I got next to him he started to get up slowly on his knees, and as he went up his arm half seated, aimed his finger at me and shout in his sharp trible, "You're from Africa! 'This was the time for me to shout 'Color damage! 'And give a bitter letter to one of our journals, since the Hindu indignation is nothing more than that of a white man taking off for the Negro. But I yelled out No, India! 'The boy collapsed on the lawn and kept his eyes set.

A host of publications were written about Nirad Chaudhuri, other than the books mentioned above. Iyengar K. R. Srinivasa has published an essay titled *Three Prose Authors* (1972). He remarks that the power and vulnerability of Chaudhuri originated from the same root – the self-imposed academic isolation of the latter. The Chaudhuri from *The Autobiography of the Anonymous Indian* was according to Iyengar, an instrument to identify social hypocrisy. A transfer to England, he feels Iyengar, is a bond between the United Kingdom and India. Though Iyengar appreciates the erudition of Chavhuri, his final judgment is focused on his flair for writing and his bravery to believe: though all the caution was made, Nirad Chaudhuri remained the Grand Solitary, the master of a prose style that is always intrigued by spidery, a writer or thought. His real merit being that he is not too lazy to resist thinking his own way or too shy or reluctant to share his own opinions publicly. He primarily has the good man's ultimate confidence in an amoral (if not immoral) culture.

NATIONAL DESTINY: A PASSAGE TO ENGLAND

It cannot be believed that I have always been in England free from any questions and misgivings or did not question if all was sound. Indeed, I asked myself the most basic question, 'What was your national destiny? 'That must seem pompous, so I'm trying to clarify what I think. I saw a person who was functioning with energy and trust, who looked powerful and safe, who had a lot of food and other necessities of life, who also enjoyed the luxuries that I could never forge a sense of while I was living in India and who had no indication of being exhausted or discouraged. What led them all to as a nation? They had lost much of their money, their empire, and their status as the first world power. Were they going to regain their old position or to establish a new position of proudness, or were they moving down the road of dysfunctional regression after all their obvious recovery and prosperity? I put these questions to myself because of my respect

for the English people. I wanted to figure out why they did it themselves, too.

One day I asked an English friend if his citizens worried about the national destiny. I intended to be hard and logical, rather than optimistic and generally assured that things will perform the best. He responded instantly that there was no such feeling.

'In the moment, we are completely engulfed,' he said. He seemed to suggest that his citizens felt that it was plenty to the day, not the negative, but the positive of it.

But it wasn't the issue that left my mind. I thought about it again in Rome: my English friends asked me if I enjoyed what I saw in England. I thought about it. I said that I was really impressed, but I figured they were worried about the future. My hostess, to whom I spoke the formula for a little while regarding national destiny and said, "You know, Mr. Chaudhuri, we have had really bad days, we have come through but we knew hardly how to. We have healed quicker than we should have imagined imaginable. That's why I hope we appreciate the moment for a bit. I'm sure we're not even worried of the potential.' I felt positive.

The issue has come back to my mind, just not in the old way. I'm really unsure about the potential, and at this point I suppose nothing concrete about it can be told. But I have no critique of the English people's current mentality, and I retract any fault that was implied in my question. I think that you have every right to do so to make the most of your inexhaustible wealth of satisfaction and to display a courageous thoughtlessness towards your difficulty.

It is needless to ask more about them because they are worthwhile. For the English, an obstacle such as two is no longer a matter of moving forward. If you encounter a condition which is life and death for you in the future, it will not come of your own will but that of others and all that is required is stoical stamina. It's not going to be considered their best hour.

They had their toughest problems, because they are here and now. They are so brave that you don't think for them, and you go about your job and your entertainment as if nothing was wrong. I cannot claim that the citizens of England rose completely above their current problems because often they display an annoyance and attitude that is more intense than the national grumbling habit. Yet I am surprised and glad to see them as relaxed, carefree and homosexual as they are normally. And the most charming part is that they don't even have the skill to claim, 'It is important to cultivate our garden:

But I had little sense in England of all this or of the connection between their present condition and their historical civilization. I could just see their ultimate riches and power, and how open it was. This was a

huge pleasure for me and I told everyone that I had never been satisfied during my shorter stay in England, except in the privacy of my family life. It was the literal reality, and it stayed satisfaction.

It was bursting at first, and I became mindful that I was wearing my sleeve's joy. But there was sufficient cause for the cool meaning network to be swept away. My encounters in England were accompanied by no extraordinary leks in Paris and Rome, and eventually, the key subject, the foreground and the context in a good-composed picture all became as glad as Arc.

In the novel, I can't explain my sightseeing in Paris and Rome, but just to indicate the essence of my encounter in the last hours of my stay in Europe. After I dropped my luggage into the hotel space, I figured I was going to sit on the capital, which I saw on my arrival day at night. Then I ascended on the glorious steps and walked in Campiglio Michelangelo, the garden above Man- m-tine Jail, the park across the Tarpcian Rock, where the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus once stood. For a while even, I was seated at the foot of Marcus Aurelius' statue and in the church of Santa Maria in Aracoeli.

I remembered that Gibbon had sat somewhere about and dreamed of writing his wonderful biography while he thought about the remains of the Capitol. But what I could do at the moment was to recollect the event. I was so reluctant to moralize in the humanistic vein that I sensed the poetry of ruins romantically. It was the image that absorbed all my focus before my eyes.

Rome's iconic golden light lost its gold and became grey. The distance of the Via Cavour was magnificent with its stores, and Santa Maria Maggiore stood over it. Before me, the three arches of Maxentius Basilika appeared like the mouth of massive primitive caves formed by the Roman notion of order in symmetry. The remains of the Forum dropped beneath the deep shade of the Palatine's green mass.

But Rome has taken a more powerful way to view its ruins. Suddenly, unidentified light bulbs were turned on and the buildings started to glow like shadow characters. As it became darker and lighter, they became brighter and stronger until the arches of Severus and Titus, the Vespasian Temples and Saturn columns, the three shafts of the Temple of Castor and Pollux, and the freshly restored tiny Vesta Temple, shone like bits of architecture from the moon. The coliseum, which in the daytime seems so threateningly strong and gloomy, appeared to have shed its weight and become aerial.

I already saw in London Somerset House's façade and St Paul's Cathedral lit at night. In Paris the

floodlit Invalid Cathedral was a lovely view I saw every night through the window of my hotel. Yet I never find something more magnificent and moving than the Roman Forum phosphorescent ruins.

The joy of these encounters must have gone into my gestures, because when I arrived three hours later at Ciampino I found a fellow traveler, clearly an Englishman, who looked at myself with a fun grin. I questioned what oddity was having it do so in my presence or actions. The confusion in Baghdad was cleared up.

When we waited in the airport ball, he arrived. Advanced and presented himself as a company Englishman who had been residing in Calcutta for several years.

He responded that he had never seen a Bengali like me when I mentioned that I was a Bengali. Then turning to the air hostess, he observed, 'Isn't life bubbling?' I responded with the English way affectation, 'Ah, that's nothing. It was just at the detriment of your nation and France that I had a break!' Both of them chuckled. Yet pretending it was pointless. My pleasure came from even deeper sources. .

CONCLUSION

Nirad Chaudhuri was not surprised with the fact that several of his awful prophecies were dismissed. Indeed, this was more than mindful of the curse of the mythological Cassandra and Chaudhuri. Knowing that he did not have the ability to inflict his feelings on others, but rather to alert them, he was willing to rescue himself and his immediate relatives. At the beginning, we should note that Chaudhuri is not alone in his historic iconoclasm. His relentless attempts to demolish the major building of India's national revolution have in various degrees resonated with a few Indian historians.

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