

JOYCE CARY : AN APOSTLE OF THE CREATIVE FREEDOM OF THE MIND

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That creative freedom plays an important part in shaping the contours of the novels of Joyce Cary becomes crystal clear after a perusal of some of the novels of Joyce Cary. It does bring out Cary's concept of freedom of the mind which lays a great deal of emphasis on creativeness. But his approach is different from that of the 19th century novelists in whose opinion 'absence of restraint' constitutes freedom. Cary does not embrace the Jamesian view either which states that freedom is an abstract quality very much inherent in the soul of the individual. He is of the view that freedom is actually the creative freedom of the mind as well as that of imagination. It is an undeniable fact that Cary had firm faith in the creative freedom of the mind; for in his opinion it was absolutely essential in this changeable world with a tilt towards chaos where man is doggedly followed by misfortunes of various kinds which instill in him a sense of insecurity. Consequently, he feels forced to be on his guards and so goes grappling with the complex problems of life.

As man is by nature free, so Cary believes that even a growing child, not to speak of a grown-up man, wants to be free. He requires freedom of mind and imagination. Everyone craves for security and so everyone creates something for himself as well as for the society in which he lives. Even a child does like that. Although he does not know how to talk or eat but he thinks and endeavours to create a solid universe for himself in his own imagination. He comprehends the significance of all the external object by his imagination and thus forms a general conception of life. As the child grows to be a boy, he arranges his idea according to his ambition and will. As a grown up man, he loves to create beauty. He creates a home and a great deal of possessions which are extremely dear to him because they are the principal parts of the world that he has created for his pleasure with great labour and pain. In this effort of his, he is helped by the creative freedom of his mind and his imagination.