

In "To the Lighthouse," Virginia Woolf crafts a rich tapestry of human experience, exploring themes of identity, connection, and the passage of time with profound insight and poetic beauty. Through the lens of the Ramsay family and their guests, Woolf invites readers into the inner worlds of her characters, illuminating the complexities of human consciousness and the enduring quest for meaning and connection in a world marked by uncertainty and impermanence. At the heart of the novel is the Ramsay family, whose dynamics serve as a microcosm of the broader human experience. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay embody the tension between intellect and emotion, tradition and progress, as they navigate the complexities of marriage, parenthood, and the passage of time. Through their interactions with their children and guests, Woolf explores the nuances of human relationships, from moments of intimacy and connection to moments of discord and misunderstanding. "To the Lighthouse" stands as a testament to Virginia Woolf's unparalleled talent as a writer and observer of the human condition.

LIST USED LITERATURE

1. "Mrs. Dalloway" by Virginia Woolf
2. "The Sound and the Fury" by William Faulkner
3. "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger
4. "Beloved" by Toni Morrison
5. "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald

THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGION AND MORALITY ON THE CHARACTERS' DECISIONS AND ACTIONS IN "OF HUMAN BONDAGE"

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Abstract. *The aim of this article is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the influence exerted by religion and morality on the characters' behavior within "Of Human Bondage." By exploring the characters' interactions with these themes, the paper seeks to deepen our understanding of the novel's overarching themes and the complexities of human psychology depicted therein.*

Key words. *William Somerset Maugham, literature, novel, talent, inspiration, creativity.*

Introduction: "Of Human Bondage" is a semi-autobiographical novel written by W. Somerset Maugham, first published in 1915. Set in England at the turn of the 20th century, the novel follows the life of Philip Carey, a young orphan with a clubfoot, as he navigates through various stages of his life, grappling with themes of identity, love, ambition, and self-discovery. At the heart of "Of Human Bondage" is Philip Carey's journey of self-discovery and identity formation. Struggling with his physical disability and feelings of inadequacy, Philip embarks on a quest to find his place in the world and to understand his own desires and aspirations. Through his experiences, he grapples with questions of self-worth, acceptance, and authenticity.

The novel explores the complexities of human relationships, particularly in the realm of love. Philip's romantic entanglements with various women, including Mildred Rogers, highlight the tumultuous nature of love and the vulnerability that comes with opening oneself up to another person. Through these relationships, Maugham delves into themes of desire, obsession, rejection, and the search for emotional fulfillment.

Biographical and contextual background of William Somerset Maug'am's journey

W. Somerset Maugham was born on January 25, 1874, in Paris, France, to British parents. His father was a solicitor and his mother died when he was just eight years old. Maugham was raised by his uncle, a clergyman, after his father's death when he was ten. This early loss and subsequent upbringing undoubtedly influenced Maugham's worldview and his portrayal of characters grappling with loneliness, loss, and the search for meaning. William Somerset Maugham was an

English novelist, playwright, and short-story writer whose work is characterized by a clear unadorned style, cosmopolitan settings, and a shrewd understanding of human nature. Maugham's novels after *Liza of Lambeth* include *Of Human Bondage* (1915), *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919), *The Painted Veil* (1925), *Cakes and Ale* (1930) and *The Razor's Edge* (1944). His short stories were published in collections such as *The Casuarina Tree* (1926) and *The Mixture as Before* (1940); many of them have been adapted for radio, cinema and television. More recent assessments generally rank *Of Human Bondage* – a book with a large autobiographical element – as a masterpiece, and his short stories are widely held in high critical regard. He died at the age of 91.

"*Of Human Bondage*," published in 1915, is set in late 19th and early 20th-century England, a time of significant social and cultural change. The novel follows Philip Carey from his childhood through his early adulthood as he struggles to find his place in the world and grapples with questions of identity, love, and ambition. Philip's journey is deeply intertwined with the societal norms and expectations of the time, as well as the broader historical context in which he lives.

At the heart of Philip's journey is his search for identity and purpose. Born with a clubfoot, Philip faces physical and emotional challenges from a young age. His disability sets him apart from his peers and subjects him to ridicule and discrimination, shaping his self-image and his relationships with others.

The characters' decisions and actions in "Human of bondage"

Characters like Philip encounter prejudice and discrimination in various forms throughout the novel, facing ostracism and ridicule from those who deem them inferior or unworthy. Similarly, Mildred's treatment of Philip reflects the internalized prejudices and biases that can perpetuate cycles of discrimination and marginalization. Characters' responses to prejudice are often influenced by their own moral values and beliefs, with some challenging societal norms and advocating for justice, while others passively accept or even perpetuate discriminatory attitudes. The novel examines how characters' moral values shape

their responses to social problems and their sense of social responsibility. Philip, despite his own struggles, demonstrates a sense of empathy and compassion towards those in need, often sacrificing his own comfort to help others. His altruism reflects a deep-seated commitment to justice and fairness, rooted in his moral upbringing and personal convictions. Conversely, characters like Mildred prioritize their own self-interest and material gain over the well-being of others, demonstrating a lack of moral integrity and social conscience.

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NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES AND STYLISTIC INNOVATIONS IN MURDOCH'S NOVELS

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***Abstract.** In the vast ocean of English literature, Iris Murdoch stands as a beacon of literary innovation and narrative prowess. Renowned for her intricate plotting, richly drawn characters, and philosophical depth, Murdoch's novels are masterpieces of storytelling that continue to captivate readers with their complexity and beauty. Central to Murdoch's literary legacy are her narrative*