A Beginner's Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism

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Mukesh Kumar Pandey

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This book is dedicated to my dearest son
Mr. ABHINAVA PANDEY

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Preface

Chapter 1st describes Plato and his philosophical ideas. It also describes Plato's theory of imitation. The chapter concentrates Plato's idea of reason, spirit and appetite. Plato says that reality is unchangeable. He rejects the imperfect art.

Chapter 2nd explains Aristotle's theory of imitation in terms of representation. For Aristotle, imitation is an act of pleasure. He differs from Plato in defining the theory of 'mimesis'. The chapter concentrates upon basic terms such as 'catharsis' 'hamartia' 'imitation' 'anagnorsis' and 'tragic flaw 'that are popularized by Aristotle.

Chapter 3rd aims to focus on Horace's *Ars Poetica*. It is accepted as a rhetorical work. He follows the Greek theory of imitation. The chapter focuses on the constitutive and stylistic features of poetry in Horace's *Ars Poetica*.

Chapter 4th defines the theory of sublime by Longinus. It also describes the five sources of sublimity. The chapter throws light on sublime piece of writing and its synthesis with literary analysis.

Chapter 5th attempts to analyze the superior explanation of Godly existence provided by St. Augustine in *City of God*. It also throws a wonderful and wide discussion on Christianity. The chapter focuses upon the basic elaboration of Christian principle developed by St. Augustine.

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Chapter 6th outlines the basic thought related to "*The Divine Comedy*" by Dante. It elaborates the views concerning human knowledge. The chapter focuses upon the mysterious thought. The discussion of hell and heaven is elaborated specifically.

Chapter 7th praises the theory of poetry by Sir Philip Sidney. It concentrates upon the art of poetry elaborated by Sidney in "An Apology for Poetry'.

Chapter 8th throws light on Dryden's description of 'An Essay on Dramatic Poesy'. It includes the dialogue of four people. The chapter figures Dryden is in the guise of Neander upholding the superiority of the English drama over the French.

Chapter 9th explains Alexander Pope's idea of what good critics should do. It also describes the good qualities of the poets. The chapter throws light on one's own artistic limits. The chapter appreciates the value and work of ancient Greece.

Chapter 10th elucidates Hegel's idea of phenomenology. His idea of phenomenology includes his philosophical spirit. The chapter aims to focus upon the theory of consciousness. The chapter also does the transformative study of consciousness into self-awareness.

Chapter 11th implies a strong discussion on the beauty of nature by William Wordsworth. It also makes a fruitful attempt to elaborate Wordsworth views on the genre of poetry. The chapter stresses upon the theory of poetry by Wordsworth. It also includes Wordsworth' style, subject- matter, images and symbols used by him.

Chapter 12th describes Coleridge's view of imagination. It also stresses upon his definition of poetry that is a living organism. The chapter includes Coleridge's *Biographia Literaria* in terms of philosophical insights. It describes the difference

between fancy and imagination developed by Coleridge.

Chapter 13th describes Arnold's views of poetry that is a criticism of life. His 'Study of Poetry' stresses upon the view that poetry is superior to history and philosophy. The chapter throws light on Arnold's touchstone method. It also explains the sublime passages from Homer, Dante, Shakespeare and Milton.

Chapter 14th centers upon the Marxist theory of political economy. It aims to focus upon the labor theory of value and class struggle. The chapter shall emphasis upon the dialectical method developed by Marx in terms of master/ slave narrative.

Chapter 15th explains Eliot's idea of tradition and its association with temporality. It also focuses on a strong discussion on the theory of impersonality. The chapter also interprets Eliot's idea based on the difference between poet's personality and his art.

Chapter 16th describes the emotive theory of I. A. Richards. It also explains the meaning of four terms such as sense, feeling, tone and intention. It includes the psychological approach of reading a work of art.

Chapter 17th presents accurate meanings of archetype and archetypal images. It is a recurring pattern. The chapter includes Northrop Frye, Jung and Lacan for the analysis of the archetypal criticism. The chapter includes Frye's classical book known as *Anatomy of Criticism* for the sake of archetypal analysis.

Chapter 18th stresses upon the basic concepts of psychoanalytic criticism. It included Freud who had developed the dynamic form of psychology. The chapter also highlights Freud's psychological attitudes that concern various concepts such as dream, desire, conscious and unconscious, fantasy and displacement. The chapter explains C. G. Jung's idea of psychoanalysis that is varied and based on his premises of collective

unconscious. The chapter also focuses on the psychoanalytic contribution of Jacques Lacan, the French Freud.

Chapter 19th points out a dynamic of female creativity in terms of their situation. It also presents dialectic of essential and inessential being. The chapter focuses upon the situation of women who are described as myth by many writers. It also explains women's role as mother and sister. The chapter throws light on the concept of marriage. It also reflects Simone de Beauvoir's thinking as a radical feminist. Her book *The Second Sex* is notable in this concern. The chapter concentrates upon the theme in which woman is presented as *Other*.

The last chapter of this book aims to focus upon the basic premises of poststructuralist thought. It describes Derrida's rejection of structuralism. It focuses upon the concept of deconstruction. The chapter throws light on the resistance to theory.

This book is a modest attempt to cover the emerging trends into the domain of literary theory and criticism. It attempts to revitalize the creative and critical insights that are elaborated and embodied by various theorists and critics on various levels in the realm of literary criticism and theory from time to time.

Mukesh Kumar Pandey

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Mukesh Kumar Pandey

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