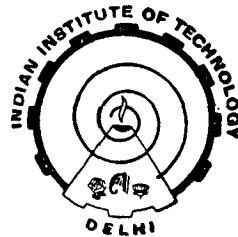


**RAJA RAO'S NOVELS :  
A TRANSMUTATION OF PHILOSOPHY**

by  
**S. Choudhury**

Thesis submitted  
in fulfilment of the requirements  
for the degree of  
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**



**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI**

INDIA


December, 1986

## Certificate

I am satisfied that the thesis presented by Miss S. Choudhury is worthy of consideration for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and is a record of the original bonafide research work carried out by her under my guidance and supervision and that the results contained in it have not been submitted in part or full to any other University or Institute for award of any degree/diploma.

I certify that she has pursued the prescribed course of research.

December 1986

  
(Dr. M.P. Jain)  
Professor and Head  
Department of Humanities and  
Social Sciences  
Indian Institute of Technology  
New Delhi-110016.

TO  
EVERY SEEKER

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*S. Choudhury*  
S. Choudhury

## Abstract

The novels of Raja Rao (1908- ) have attracted the attention of many scholars but critical attempts have generally been one-sided. Critics have either concentrated on a close scrutiny of formal aspects of his art or have examined his works in order to reconstruct the ideologies exemplified in them. Both approaches have led to valuable and illuminating results, but the writers of either persuasion have perpetuated the illusion that Raja Rao's 'art' and 'ideology' are best examined separately; that is the two principles, the one artistic and the other intellectual, must remain irrevocably apart. That Raja Rao successfully transmutes ideas into novels, and that this transmutation is itself a key to his 'art' have seldom been sufficiently emphasised.

The aim of this study is to show how Raja Rao blends 'form' and 'ideology' together to present a vision of life which is essentially supra-physical. His protagonists, who can be seen as the archetypal image of the universal man and who personify his vision, struggle through this everyday world to achieve transcendence. This struggle is in the form of a quest; the protagonists are on a 'pilgrimage'. In the course of their spiritual odyssey, they try to come to terms with many different ideologies and concepts to reach the state of TAT TVAM ASI, 'That Thou art' or to realize SHIVOHAM SHIVOHAM, 'I am Shiva' 'I am Shiva'.

The first chapter of the dissertation presents a critical review of the Raja Rao criticism to date and also states the hypothesis of the present study. The second chapter deals with the ideologies which make up Raja Rao's novels. The subsequent four chapters trace the progress of Raja Rao's 'pilgrims' together with the novelist's fusion of 'form' and 'structure' in each novel. The final chapter emphasises the fact that each of Raja Rao's novels is characterised by an artistic attempt to make it a suitable vehicle for his supra-physical vision of life.

## Contents

	Page
Acknowledgements	.. v
Abstract	.. vi
Chapter	
I Introduction: The Critical Background	.. 1
II Search for a Literary Identity	.. 37
III Through Gandhian Spiritualism	.. 68
IV From Leadbeater's Metaphysics to Marxism	.. 93
V Towards Tantric Advaita Vedanta	.. 116
VI Liberation from Truth and Illusion	.. 146
VII Conclusion: An Attempt at Creating a Fictional Form	.. 168
Select Bibliography	.. 202