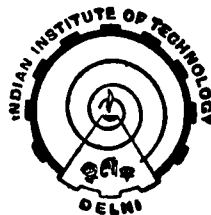


MARK TWAIN'S CONCEPT OF MAN

A Thesis Submitted
in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
For the Award of the Degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

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(INDIA)

1986

TO
MY
FATHER
AND
MOTHER
IN
HEAVEN

C E R T I F I C A T E

I am satisfied that the thesis presented by Mr. P. Eliah 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 him 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 institution for the award of any degree/diploma. I certify that he has pursued the prescribed course of research.

UN ARORA
30/7/86

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C L A R I F I C A T I O N

I have used British spelling throughout the dissertation except in quotations which have been reproduced as they were.

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P. Eliah
(P. ELIAH)

A B S T R A C T

Even during his life-time Mark Twain, who was a "King" and a much admired man, was also a subject of controversy, and in spite of his death, critics haven't had much respite. The continued interest in Mark Twain prompted Louis J. Budd to observe, in 1983, that "Mark Twain is all around us today," and this remark has not lost its validity yet.

However, no full-length study of Mark Twain's concept of man and his institutions has been attempted so far, though there are a few stray comments on the subject in almost all criticism on Mark Twain. This theme, which is in some ways a basic concern of Mark Twain, has somehow remained neglected. In this dissertation an attempt has been made to fill in this gap.

This dissertation makes an attempt to study Mark Twain's concept of man and his institutions, especially in view of Mark Twain's portrayal of man as genetically flawed in body, mind, and heart, and rendered helpless by extraneous forces over which he has no control. It also tries to identify and evaluate Mark Twain's suggested measures for the reform of man and his institutions.

More specifically, this dissertation consists of eight chapters. The first chapter constitutes a survey of the literature on Mark Twain, identification of the area explored and a definition of the research problem. While the second chapter summarizes and abstracts man's defects--physical, moral, mental and psychological--as comprehended by Mark Twain, defects as perceived by him in the religious, political and social institutions of man are examined in the third, fourth and fifth chapters respectively. The sixth chapter evaluates the measures suggested by Mark Twain for the evolution of a better man and a better world. While the penultimate chapter examines some salient features of Mark Twain's prose style which are relevant to his philosophy, the concluding chapter highlights the salient features of that philosophy.

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