

## The Mystic Masseur

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the mystic masseur v s naipaul s first published novel is the story of the rise and rise of ganesh from failed primary school teacher and struggling masseur to author revered mystic and mbe a journey equally memorable for its hilarity as its bewildering success an unforgettable cast of characters witness this meteoric ascent ganesh s father in law ramlogan whose shop gave the impression that every morning someone went over everything in it scales ramlogan and all with a greased rag his aunt the great belcher with her troubling wind his wife leela and her fondness for putting a punctuation mark after every word soon ganesh s small hut is filled with books 1 500 as his wife will attest and his trousers and shirt disappear to be replaced by more suitable attire for a proper mystic as the woman who couldn t eat and lover boy the man who fell in love with his bicycle line up to be cured it looks like the mystic masseur is surely destined for greatness in one of the author s finest comic creations we see the immense sensitivity humour and endlessly inventive imagination that have become the hallmarks of v s naipaul s genius

the nobel prize winner s first novel traces the unlikely career of ganesh ramsumair a failed schoolteacher and impecunious village masseur who in time becomes a revered mystic and the most beloved politician in 1940s trinidad copyright libri gmbh all rights reserved

the plethora of commentary from highly respected voices in a broad cross section of academic disciplines which v s naipaul s death on 11 august 2018 elicited ranged so widely both cognitively and emotionally that if a student of literature unfamiliar with the naipaulian era read it all they would have failed to make sense of the divergences allegations included that he was a cruel man a scarred man the darkest dungeons of colonialism incarnate self punishing self loathing world loathing full of nastiness and fury a

ventriloquist for the nastiest clichés European colonialism had devised to rule the world with arrogance and confidence and so on on the other hand writers referred to Naipaul as a brilliant writer's writer one who holds a mirror of imagination unto society to capture a certain view of reality and one who has turned the genre of the travelogue into an art form debates aside many of us appreciate the value of Naipaul's writing to the deepest possible comprehension of the imperial impulse and the myriad reasons it manifested as colonialism the first Naipaul world epic is the first in a series of critical collections that aim to demonstrate this value at the same time the series seeks to help the new student through the quagmire of divergent opinions his personality and writing have generated

the mystic masseur tells the story of Ganesh and his journey from failed primary school teacher and masseur to author revered mystic and MBE Miguel Street a very early novel won the Somerset Maugham Award on its appearance in 1959

bien qu'il se refuse à l'admettre le thème de l'identité est au cœur de l'œuvre de V. S. Naipaul tant dans ses récits de voyage que dans ses ouvrages de fiction le masseur mystique premier roman qu'il a publié est un exemple flagrant de l'attitude de cet auteur iconoclaste sous des dehors d'épopée contant la vie du masseur et mystique Ganesh Ramsumair ce texte est en fait une véritable étude sur l'impossibilité d'accomplissement personnel dans l'île de Trinidad le présent ouvrage tente d'étudier par quels processus complexes le personnage de Ganesh Ramsumair passe pour élaborer sa personnalité quelle est la part de son héritage culturel dans la constitution de cette identité comment l'absence de modèle empêche toute identification comment enfin un environnement stérile condamne l'homme à la stérilité tant physique que spirituelle

V. S. Naipaul is one of the most celebrated names in English fiction today in his fiction Naipaul presents a subtle and sensitive account of the poignant experiences of the colonized people on the other hand his commitment to truth makes him conscious and critical of the shortcomings of traditional cultures as well this added to his pessimist vision of the world makes him a highly controversial writer

the present study gives a comprehensive account of the major works of naipaul by enquiring into the postcolonial themes of alienation mimicry search for an authentic selfhood power and freedom that emerge from their reading the study provides fresh insights by raising questions about naipaul s treatment of women and african characters in his fiction

at the end of v s naipaul s satire on hindu life in trinidad the mystic masseur the protagonist ganesh ramsumair caps his rise to fame as a colonial politician by transforming himself into an english gentleman g ramsay muir and heading off to england in naipaul s novel ganesh s wife leela plays a very secondary indeed recessive role though there are occasional clues that she has a clearer grasp of reality than her husband in the hidden spaces of naipaul s novel j vijay maharaj creates a quite different kind of story for leela who decides that when her husband abandons trinidad for england she is too much attached to her life on the island to follow him all this is relayed to the author by leela in her later years in a series of tape recordings which form the basis for the novel this is much more than a necessary rewriting of the male centredness of vs naipaul s perspective though maharaj creates an inventive and often richly humorous counter narrative within that novel s plotlines as well as a dynamic afterlife for leela after naipaul s novel ends maharaj creates for leela an utterly convincing and compelling voice earthy shrewd and in love with life

v s naipaul is a reader friendly introduction to the writing of one of the most influential contemporary authors and the 2001 nobel laureate in literature bruce king provides a novel by novel analysis of the fiction with attention to structure significance and naipaul s development as a writer while setting the texts in their autobiographical philosophical social political colonial and postcolonial contexts king shows how naipaul modified western and indian literary traditions for the west indies and then the wider world to become an international writer whose subject matter includes the caribbean england india africa the united states argentina and contemporary islam thoroughly revised and updated the second edition of v s naipaul now includes an expanded introduction and discussion of his most recent novels a way in the world and half a life his nobel lecture naipaul s writings on islam and a survey of

the main criticism by other writers and postcolonial theorists

in 1962 jamaica and trinidad and tobago became independent countries barbados followed in 1966 in the years leading up to these events the history of the british west indies was written largely by the british the colonial power who focused on the process of decolonization and the key local players involved after independence local scholars also focused on the role of political leaders in the newly independent countries to date scholars have paid little attention to the impact of these events on the local populations of these islands decolonization and the other the case of the british west indies explores the local perspectives on and reactions to events by using west indian literature to supplement the historical record beginning in the 1930s when local demands for political participation increased through the process of decolonization and into the early years of independence west indian writers used their life experiences to document local reaction west indian literature first appeared in 1950 when british publishers became interested in island authors and their novels by using the novels to supplement the historical record we can gain a better understanding of the process of decolonization and the early years of independence in the british west indies

the caribbean is an exotic but not too distant land full of rich cultural traditions the literature of the caribbean reflects the social political and cultural concerns of the region and is a valuable tool for learning about the area and its people this book includes chapters on roughly a dozen contemporary caribbean writers along with plot summaries these sections discuss major themes and give close attention to how caribbean culture figures in the writer s texts to help students conduct further research each chapter cites works for further reading

the present thirteenth volume of studies in literature in english contains seventeen well researched essays covering a wide range of authors and subjects across space and time starting with the good old shakespeare the essays cover a number of british canonical authors including coleridge shelley and golding across the atlantic eminent american authors like henry james arthur miller and saul

bellow are given fresh look rohinton mistry from canada hermann hesse a german nobel laureate and bertolt brecht of epic theatre fame from germany v s naipaul the nobel laureate originally from india and pirandello the italian nobel laureate are all treated with fine critical insight it is hoped that students scholars and general readers of english literature will find this anthology both useful and enjoyable even more than the earlier volumes of studies in literature in english

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