

A PASSAGE TO INDIA

EDWARD MORGAN FORSTER
(1 JANUARY 1879 – 7 JUNE 1970)

EDWARD MORGAN FORSTER

He was an English novelist, short story writer, essayist and librettist.

Many of his novels examine class difference and hypocrisy, including

A Room with a view (1908),
Howards End (1910) and
A Passage to India (1924) which brought him his greatest success.

He was nominated for the [Nobel prize in literature](#) in 16 different years

EDWARD MORGAN FORSTER

- Edward Morgan Forster was born in London in 1879, the son of an architect.
- He attended Tonbridge School, which he hated; he caricatured what he termed "public school behavior" in several of his novels.
- After graduation, he began to write short stories.
- In 1911 he went to India with G. Lowes Dickinson, his mentor at King's College.
- During World War 1, Forster was engaged in civilian war work in Alexandria.
- He returned to London after the war as a journalist.

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- In 1921 he again went to India, to work as secretary to the Maharajah of Dewas State Senior.
- He had begun work on *A Passage to India* before this time, but on reading his notes in India, he was discouraged and put them aside.
- The book was published in 1924, having been written upon his return to England.
- This was his last novel.
- It is considered to be his *magnum opus*, and it won for the author the Femina Vie Heureuse and the James Tait Black Memorial prizes in 1925.

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- In 1927 Forster delivered the William George Clark lectures at Trinity College, Cambridge.
- Titled *Aspects of the Novel*, the lectures were published in book form the same year.
- In 1946, Forster moved to King's College in Cambridge to live there as an honorary fellow.
- Mr. Forster's numerous awards included membership in the **Order of Companions of Honour**, a recognition bestowed in 1953 by **Queen Elizabeth II**.
- Forster died on June 7, 1970.

A PASSAGE TO INDIA

- A Passage to India* (1924) is a novel set against the backdrop of the **British Raj and the Indian independence movement** in the 1920s.
- It was selected as one of the 100 great works of 20th century English literature by the *Modern Library* and won the **1924 James Tait Black Memorial Prize** for fiction.
- Time magazine* included the novel in its "All Time 100 Novels" list.
- The novel is based on Forster's experiences in India, deriving the title from **Walt Whitman's 1870 poem "Passage to India" in *Leaves of Grass***.
- Divided the book into three parts.
- The first part, "Mosque," (Chapters 1-11)
- The second part, "Caves," (Chapters 12-32)
- The third part, "Temple," (Chapters 33-37)

A PASSAGE TO INDIA

- The story revolves around four characters: Dr. Aziz, his British friend Mr. Cyril Fielding, Mrs. Moore, and Miss Adela Quested.
- During a trip to the fictitious Marabar Caves, Adela thinks she finds herself alone with Dr. Aziz in one of the caves (when in fact he is in an entirely different cave), and subsequently panics and flees; it is assumed that Dr. Aziz has attempted to assault her.
- Aziz's trial, and its run-up and aftermath, bring to a boil the common racial tensions and prejudices between Indians and the British who rule India.
- This novel deals with human relationships, and the theme that determines its plot line is: "Is it possible for the Indian and the Englishman to be friends?"

CHARACTERS

- **Dr. Aziz** - An intelligent, emotional Indian doctor in Chandrapore at the Government Hospital.
- Aziz attempts to make friends with Adela Quested, Mrs. Moore, and Cyril Fielding.
- Later, Adela falsely accuses Aziz of attempted rape after an expedition to the Marabar Caves, but the charges are dropped after Adela's testimony at the trial.
- Aziz enjoys writing and reciting poetry.
- He has three children; his wife died several years before the beginning of the novel.

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