

ALIENATION AND SPIRITUAL VACUUM: A GLIMPSE INTO “*THE ROAD TO MECCA*” FROM MODERNISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

This study has been taken up to bring out alienation and spiritual bankruptcy of our modernized society in general and westerners in particular by applying modern critical theory on literary text that has been written particular in this context. Muhammad Assad’s “*The road to Mecca*” has been selected as a source of data for this purpose. The peculiarity of this book is that it is a memoir written by the one who himself was of western origin, Muhammad Assad. It is an elaborate discussion on western people’s spiritual emptiness that has spread alienation in their lives. The present study applies a critical literary theory, *Modernism*, on this book in order to identify that modern man is entrapped in alienation that has four layers; alienation from God; from Nature; from society and from his own true self. Spiritual emptiness has become part of their being, and alienation haunts them and drags them into a constant state of emotional insecurity and restlessness. For this quantitative research, secondary resources like different journals, newspapers, books and articles are utilized to collect the data. This study will help the readers to get the deep understanding of this remarkable book. It will also provide them an example of application of critical literary theory of Modernism on a literary text. It invites other researchers to come up with new perspectives and explore the hidden layers of meanings intended or unintended by the author in this book.

Keywords: Modernism, Alienation, Spiritual Vacuum, Western People, Road to Mecca.