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**Q. 2. Write a précis of the following passage and also suggest a suitable title:**

**(20)**

Manto was a victim of some kind of social ambivalence that converged on self-righteousness, hypocrisy, and mental obtuseness. His detractors branded him as vulgar and obscene and implicated him into a long-drawn legal battle questioning the moral validity of his writings. Without being deterred by their negative tactics, he remained firm in his commitment to exploring the stark realities of life offensive to the conservative taste of some self-styled purists. In the line of Freud, he sought to unravel the mysteries of sex not in an abstract, non-earthly manner but in a palpable, fleshy permutation signifying his deep concern for the socially disabled and depressed classes of society, like petty wage-earners, pimps, and prostitutes.

For Manto, man is neither an angel nor a devil, but a mix of both. His middle and lower middle class characters think, feel and act like human beings. Without feigning virtuosity, he was able to strike a rapport with his readers on some of the most vital socio-moral issues concerning them. As a realist, he was fully conscious of the yawning gap between appearance and reality; in fact, nothing vexed him more than a demonstrable duality in human behaviour at different levels of the social hierarchy. He had an unjaundiced view of man's faults and follies. As a literary artist, he treated vulgarity discreetly --- without ever sounding vulgar in the process. Like Joyce, Lawrence, and Caldwell, in Manto's work too, men and women of the age find their own restlessness accurately mirrored. And like them, Manto was also 'raised above his own self by his sombre enthusiasm'.

## Determination To Debunk Dark Realities of Society:

Manto was obsessed with duality in human behaviours that led to moral social evils. He was extremely opposed by his opponents for his immoral and illegal writings. In spite of being criticized, he remained determined to expose the dark realities of the society. He devoted himself in finding ground realities regarding obscenity and was worried about the victimized and oppressed people of the society. According to Manto, no one is perfect, but a mixture of evils and virtues, among them middle class is more close to reality. Without compromising his writing art, he deeply connected to his readers regarding socio-moral concerns. He was fully aware of the realities of society but nothing was so painful to him except hierarchial <sup>social</sup> discrimination. He was unbiased, and decent in his writings. Whatever he wrote people found themselves deeply connected to it. Even his self was inferior to his ambition.