

**Write a precis of the following passage and also suggest a suitable title:**

**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 pretty 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 on some of the most vital socio-moral issues concerning them. As a realist, he was fully conscious of the yawning gap between appearances and reality; in fact, nothing vexed him more than a demonstrable duality in human behavior 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 James Joyce (*Ulysses*), D.H Lawrence (*Lady Chatterley's Lover*), and Erskine Caldwell (*God's Little Acre*), 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'.

## MANTO; THE WRITER OF STARK REALITIES OF LIFE

Manto was a critic of the hypocrisy of society and was committed, to explore

in his writings, the stark realities of human life.

He, like Freud, dealt the

mystery of sex not as abstract

but in a palpable fleshy

permutations, for which, he

was branded as vulgar by

the conservatives. However,

without sounding vulgar, he

showed concern for the

depressed classes of society,

including wage earners and

prostitutes, which created

his rapport with his readers

and like Joyce, Lawrence

and Cadwell's works, they

founded their own restlessness

accurately mirrored in his

in his writings

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writings.

(total words = 92)  
270