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A Search for light

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Teachers' Council
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AMITAV GHOSH'S IN AN ANTIQUE LAND: A LITERARY TRAVEL

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Indian English writing and the novels of contemporary Indian diaspora has been a complex and ever widening area of studies for the projection and exploration of so many postcolonial, historical, ethnographic and trans-cultural or cross-cultural issues and debates. Amitav Ghosh is one of the most powerful and acclaimed voices in recent Indo-Anglican fiction and the novels of Indian diaspora for his insightful exploration of varied and complex areas of contemporary postcolonial studies and discourses. Each of his novels constitutes a textual as well as a symbolic journey into an untrodden or unheeded area of social, historical or humanistic discourse. Unlike other novelists of our contemporary Indian diaspora, Amitav Ghosh's works transport the readers into worlds and texts far away in time and space to review the subterranean layers of cross cultural, global and transnational transaction and exchange. His textual sojourn across the globe and into life and times of the lost or the bygone ages, no doubt widens the area of our contemporary socio-historical and anthropological discourse and the blurring of several restrictive divisions different discipline and discourses. In an interview with Neluka Silva and Alex Tickell Ghosh comments "travelling is always in some way connected with my fictional work. It's a very close link, I would say."(Brinda Bose, p.214). Amitav Ghosh's humanistic enquiry into history and