



MAN CULTURE AND NATURE

A STUDY OF E. M. FORSTER

BY

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Preface

I have two reasons for choosing E.M. Forster as the subject of my thesis. The first reason is that I enjoy his works, and the more I read his works, the more I like the author. This admiration gives me an inclination to introduce him to other people. The second reason is that I believe he will contribute a great deal to the Thai people.

There are many similarities in Forster's ideas and the conceptions governing the life of Thai people. Forster has a deep respect for personal relationships and inner life. The Thai people are friendly, and they honour gratitude and loyalty as high virtues. They have very strong family tie, and they live for the inner life. Serenity and kindness are the goal of life for all Buddhists — for all the Thai people. But they lack some of Forster's ardent feelings. They are fond of people as Forster is. They easily forgive those who have wronged them. This habit may be taken for tolerance. But they lack the strong and persistent feelings against cruelty and falsity outside their immediate circle. They pay too little attention to the outer world. Sometimes they keep themselves out of the public affairs murmuring "Mai-pen-rai (Never mind)"; they are ignoring their responsibilities towards their country and their fellow-beings. Forster, who will appeal to the Thai people, will, I hope, bring them to a better adjustment in strengthening their sense of community.

This thesis will explain the nature of Forster's works, his

tendencies, his aims, and also my personal opinions of Forster as a social reformer and an asserter of the value of life. I am well aware that this is a hard work to accomplish without secretly realizing that one is desecrating the person whom one wants to introduce. Yet I must confess that this work is tempting and I cannot resist taking it up. I feel that my study of this writer will not stop with the end of this thesis.

The first part of this thesis deals with the characteristics of the writer with particular references drawn from all of his works.

The second part is a comparison of the writer with some of his contemporaries - Virginia Woolf, D.H. Lawrence, and Somerset Maugham.

The third part deals in detail with his two master-pieces -- A Passage to India, and Howards End.

The fourth part gives illustrations from his personal pronouncement expressed in writings other than his novels.

The fifth and the last part is a critical estimate of the importance of Forster to the present age.