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Calypso allusions in Naipaul's M

[John Thieme](#)

Abstract

V. S. Naipaul's detached and often disdainful attitude to emerging nations and their people has earned him many enemies in the Third World. . and his portrayal of them is often problematic since it involves a level of aloofness and scorn not always warranted. His comments on the 'wounded civilization' of India and the 'overpopulation' of Mauritius. Black West Indians are largely missing from Naipaul's work. When they do appear, in the form of characters like the black M.L.C. in 'The Mystic Masseur' (1957) or the faithful retainer in 'A House for Mr Biswas' (1961), they are usually given little more than a passing mention. In more recent novels black characters figure more prominently, but their role is still of limited length.

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