Introduction

Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888-1965) a critic as well as a poet is considered one of the well acknowledged representative figures of the twentieth century whose literary talent speaks of itself so boldly and vividly through his remarkable and distinguished poetry, that has no match. His literary career extended over a period of forty-five years. He dominated the English literary scene with a wide poetic authority and influence. He tried his hand at poetry, at drama, at criticism, both literary and social, and at journalism, and achieved eminent success in each of these fields. No other English poet of the 20th century has shown such versatility and originality; his greatness is not a recognized fact which no longer requires any assertion. F.R. Leavis remarks:

“Eliot’s genius is that of the great poet who has a profound and acute apprehension of the difficulties of his age”

T.S. Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He came to London during First World War and became a British Citizen in 1927. He was educated at Harvard, Paris and Oxford. He married an Englishwoman in 1915, settled in England and proclaimed himself ‘classicist in literature, royalist in politics and Anglo-catholic in religion’. He was a poet, dramatist and literary critic. The collected edition of his poems contains the following: Prufrock and Other Observations (1917), Poems (1920), The Waste Land (1922), Hollow Men (1925), Ash Wednesday (1930), Ariel Poems (1927-1930),
Choruses from The Rock (1934), Four Quarters (1935-1942). His important literary criticism is contained in Selected Essays (1932) and On Poetry and Poets (1957).

T.S. Eliot was invested with the Order of Merit (O.M.) in 1948 and the same year he was awarded the Noble Prize for Literature. The first edition of his published poems appeared in 1915. But it was The Waste Land (1922) that firmly established his reputation as a great poet. In his poetry, T.S. Eliot has dealt with a great variety of themes. The themes of the early phase of his poetry are urban which are satirical and ironical. Spiritual emptiness and barrenness, religious dogmas, decay of human values, moral degradation and above all the most prominent theme like degenerated morals, have been depicted successfully.

**Statement of the Problem**


In other words, today’s man has got degenerated, morally, spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically as well as mentally. And the root causes behind this degeneration in him are numerous like his lack of faith in religion, lack of inclination towards moral values, lack of mutual affection, lack of the sense of brotherhood, lack of kindness and sympathy towards his fellow beings, lack of the sense of belongingness and above all his irrepressible selfishness which can be called the illegitimate child of
his self reliance married to his too much rationality. He is becoming materialistic and to attain the worldly glories, he is ready to sacrifice all his morality and spirituality at the slightest temptations offered to him by the modern world.