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The Fusion of West and East as Seen in Deep River and in Jackson's Dilemma

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Abstract

Both Shusaku Endo and Iris Murdoch pursued the themes of human nature, love and goodness in their works. Whether Murdoch admits it or not, Christianity was one of her themes, while it was the most important theme to Endo who had accepted Christianity in his childhood not by his own will but by his mother's and henceforth struggled with the friction between Western ways of thinking and Asian perceptions. Endo wrote how he came to terms with Western Christianity, "his unfitting garment" by describing Otsu who struggled with the same friction and reached the conclusion that God has many faces. Murdoch who had been accustomed to criticize Christianity described Jackson who had two aspects, Christ-like and Hindu-god-like, and Mildred, a healthy and well-balanced applicant for the priesthood. This can be taken as Murdoch's acceptance of Christianity. Both writers wrote about the necessity of the fusion of West and East, that is, the fusion of Christianity and Asian religions. Both of them thought love to be the core of religion.
