

The Theme of Friendship and Humanism in A Passage to India A Passage to India by Forster is a deep portrayal of different people. Friendship relates to Forster's humanistic philosophy--which says that friendship, interpersonal kindness, and respect can be the greatest forces for good in the world--but in the novel, friendship must always struggle with the divides and the imbalance in power enforced by the colonial system. Towards the middle of the novel, however, Aziz's growing friendships with both Mrs. Moore and Fielding seem to be an example of successful humanism, implying that if both parties can treat each other with respect and kindness, then even Englishmen and Indians can be friends, and British colonialism could become a beneficial system. Fielding feels sympathetic to Adela, while Aziz lets his suspicions harden into a hatred of all the English. Forster shows all the obstacles that stand in the way of meaningful friendships between Indians and the English, no matter an individual's best intentions. The English view the Indians as inferior, while the Indians (including Aziz) view the English as both cruel oppressors and foolish foreigners. After Aziz's trial, each man ends up returning to his own circle.