



Research Paper

## Struggle for Survival and Self Identity in the Select Novels of Khaled Hosseini

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**Abstract:**

*The present research postulation will endeavour to bring out human misery, Self-identity and Feminist perspective found in the two books of Khaled Hosseini, named- 'The Kite Runner' and "A Thousand Splendid Suns".*

*The present research work is a relative investigation of human anguish, the reflection of the self (author) and the issues of female characters in the select novels of Hosseini. The point is to draw out the human enduring conceived by normal man under a religious government and in contrast how ladies toil as contrasted to men in such a religious society which blossoms with male pettiness as well as legitimizes it by religion and sacred writing.*

*On deep analysis it is found that Khaled Hosseini - an - Afghan American novelists' self is reflected in the novels. As we find that both the novels are partially set in Afghan and has featured an Afghan as the Protagonist. Hailing from Afghanistan Hosseini tells the tales of his countrymen and girls, highlighting their struggles, ache and the troubles that are making their lives hell.*

*It is true when he says, "For me writing has always been the selfish, self serving act of telling myself a story". This article is an investigation of the torment and endurance of normal men and much more than that, of basic ladies and kids of Afghanistan and the Afghan diaspora abroad.*

**Keywords:** *Self-redemption, bondage, gender apartheid, frustration, infertility, illegitimacy.*

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### I. Introduction:

"A boy who won't stand up for himself becomes a man who can't stand up to anything", is well suited for the protagonist Amir in the story "The Kite runner" (33)

The Kite runner is the narrative of two Afghan young men. One of them is Amir, the child of an affluent man in Kabul and his companion Hassan. The Character Amir is the reflection of Hosseini himself and his perspective is projected throughout the novel. Amir finds that his very own common perspective is not reflected by the religious obsession that is doing rounds in Islamic Afghanistan. He forsakes his duty and flees for the large portion of his life, yet he awakens to it and after that returns to his local nation to compensate his prior deficiencies.

At the beginning of the novel Assef fears the intensity of Amir's dad Baba, appearing around them, the common first class was in power however the historic event of the collapse of monarch and to the rise and fall of the Taliban. As the 1973 overthrow conveys another ruler to the fore in Afghanistan. Assef's supremacist intensity, increments, demonstrating that things are not going to end up better, but rather they will turn out to be more terrible in future for Amir and the common disapproved people alongside him. It is characteristic of the ethnic savagery that is going to happen in the nation.

Amir begins feeling undermined in his very home, in his very own neighbourhood and in his own nation. The new changes that are going on surrounding him, tearing separated the main stream ethnic texture of his nation makes him feel risky. Thus does Baba - Amir's dad, who in the long run chooses to leave his own nation, the place of his introduction to the world. (The place of Birth).

Assef, the cruel person, sexually sick person and whose supremacist attitude deeply suited to the philosophy of the Taliban and henceforth gets an incredible status in their association. His gay inclinations are likewise met with while being in the Taliban. He assaults young men and further more young ladies.

“Aman who has no conscience, no goodness, doesnot suffer,” goes well with Assef.

The Taliban murders Hassan and his wife, on the scariest guise of betrayal, at the point when Amir returns to his local nation after numerous years, he finds that Assef, being an individual from the Taliban gets young men and young ladies from their halfway houses and assaults them.

Sadly, he finds that the child of Hassan, the youthful Sohrab, is the most recent casualty of the gay attacker inclinations of Assef. At the point when the Islamic -fundamentalists Taliban assumed control, they killed ethnic minorities with exemption for making an unadulterated Pashtun place that is known for Afghan Muslims. Thus the novel portrays betrayal and self-redemption of Amir. Amir constantly haunted by a childhood incident in which he betrayed the trust of his best friend, a Hazara boy Hassan and his redemption for his friend is the theme of the story.

“Like a compass needle that points north, a man’s accusing finger always finds a woman. Always, these words of Khaled Hosseini inspired to read. “A Thousand Splendid suns”.

“A Thousand Splendid Suns”, is an account of the struggles, sufferings of ladies and persecution of ladies in war affected Afghanistan. The characters of the novel especially ladies frequently keep up the expectation, even in extremely unfriendly conditions. They bear the persecution of men, society and religion but then go on with the expectation that one day their condition will be recovered.

Despite the fact their conditions express abuse, at the numerous critical points in the book, the characters like wise express expectation.

As the writer Hosseini in one of the interviews says,

‘In the novel “A Thousand Splendid Suns” is my modest tribute to the great courage, endurance and resilience of Afghanistan, as the novel leaves us with a compassion and empathy for Afghan women whose sufferings have been matched by very few groups in recent world history’.

‘A Thousand Splendid Suns’ projects the agonies and hardships of two ladies Mariam and Laila who incessantly tortured and ill-treated by their male counterpart Rasheed. Mariam is an ill-conceived youngster a ‘Harami’ , and in this way bears the shame, for all things considered her life. The novel opens with the sentence.

“Mariam was 5 Years old the first time she heard the word ‘harami’ ”. (I)

She realized the real meaning of the word ‘illegitimate child’ when she went to her fathers’house.

The author rightly says,

“She did not know what this word ‘harami’ meant nor was she old enough to appreciate the injustice, to see that, it is the creators of the harami who are culpable, not the harami”

She(Mariam), began to accept the illegitimacy when she understood that she would never have a legitimate claim to things other people had, things such as love, family home acceptance etc.

So it led her to marry Rasheed a male chauvinistic cruel man who she did not like but she learned to endure the shame and live a life of fate with Rasheed who turns out to be a cruel tank- top.

Another character Laila has a memorable childhood but incessant war and invasion of Russians, continuous bombings has toppled her life and dream. Death separated her from her mom, dad and her childhood pal Tariq whom she was madly in love with, but the merciless conditions of war separated them.

She realized that she was pregnant when she was informed that Tariq was dead. Marriage was a terrible offer for her as there was no option for Laila except to marry Rasheed when he offered to wed her because she really wanted to escape death, and to save herself and Tariq’s offspring from the religious fanatics Taliban.

She was continuously ill-treated and abused by Rasheed. His sexual abuse made her to bear a boy to Rasheed. Twice she made attempts to flee from Rasheed but the law of the land did not allow her and brought her back to the monster Rasheed.

These sufferings have made Mariam and Laila cooler, their rivalry vanished and another and daughter relationship grew between them. It’s apt to quote the author’s words here.

“I wanted to write another love story set in Afghanistan but this time a Mother/daughter tale and the inner lives of two struggling Afghan women” .

The lives of these two women visual is the real life of Afghan women who always lived in confinement, they rarely went to school beyond the age of twelve so there was rampant illiteracy in many areas of Afghanistan.

“For centuries women there have been told when they’ll marry, who they will Marry, and incidentally for how much” . So we can understand the wife was a struggle for women in Afghanistan.” Khaled Hosseini

The sufferings of both Maria and Laila came to an end by the end of Rasheed in the hands of Marian. Though it was against law, Rasheed never gets any sympathy from anyone on the other hand Mariam’s persecution brought tears in the eyes of readers, who sacrifices her life for Laila and her daughter Aziza.

It’s no wonder when the author remarks,

“Don’t think, however that our nation needs only men to serve it, women should also take their part”.

Gender apartheid has been forced on Afghanwomen and the author has brought it out by the character Rasheed. Rasheed represents all kinds of ill treatment against women.

“A society has no chance of success if its women are uneducated” Khaled Hosseini

The novel ends peacefully Afghan women have every right not only for their family but also to the society. Laila’s services to the orphanage is the best example, renovation of the orphanage by Laila, Tariq family is the best indication of Liberation of Afghanistan.

## II. CONCLUSION

Thus in ‘A thousand splendid suns’ Hosseini gives a forceful but nuanced portrait of a patriarchal despotism where women are agonizingly dependent on fathers, husbands and especially sons, the bearing of male children being their sole path of social status. His tale is a powerful, harrowing depiction of Afghanistan but also a lyrical evocation of the live sand enduring hopes of its resilient characters.

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