

Betrayal and Guilt: A Thematic Analysis of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*

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Abstract- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini is a book that reflects the author's experiences in Afghanistan. Afghan-American author Hosseini shows the various ways in which the war has impacted Afghanistan. The development of Afghan society has been greatly influenced by universal themes like family reunion, discrimination, regret, childhood, guilt, womanhood, betrayal, religion, and redemption. In both the pre- and post-Taliban eras, these themes have contributed to a decrease in crime in Afghanistan, but they have also psychologically scarred the population. Hosseini exposes the terrible state of Afghans in general, and women and children in particular, who have spent many years living in fear and isolation, in his work. They have been irrationally isolated by society and kept within the limits of their homes, which has prevented them from receiving an education and other fundamental rights. The protagonist is searching for constant peace among Afghan citizens as well as wealth, love, and loyalty. According to him, this quest is the only way to ensure a new future and that all Afghans have the same rights as other people around the world. Also, in a society filled by mistrust, confusion, doubt, and betrayal, this article discusses positive human relations. It investigates the traditions and practises of the Pashtun and Hazara ethnic communities using historical, factual, real, and fictional information. The study looks at how Khaled Hosseini's literary identity as a protagonist writer has used discrimination as a theme. This study provides an in-depth study of how Hosseini's novels reflect on the social and political circumstances of Afghanistan by using the historical perspective method.

Indexed Terms- *Betrayal, Guilt, Discrimination, Redemption, Human relations*

I. INTRODUCTION

Khaled Hosseini, an American novelist born in Afghanistan, was watching CNN's evening news in 1999 when it was revealed that the Taliban had decided to restrict kite flying in Afghanistan. This knowledge prompted Hosseini to write *The Kite Runner*, a novel that combines tragic political events that occurred in Afghanistan between 1970 and 2001 to depict the harsh reality of Afghan culture. The book chronicles the passionate and painful narrative of two youngsters from different racial and social origins, Amir and Hassan. This demonstrates how actions made as a youngster may affect a person's adult life, notably in the Middle East and America. The kites the boys fly together represent their unexpected and dangerous bond in the touching narrative. The manner in which they sit and study their peculiar old way of life is a clear indication of the same.

The novel moves readers to a war-torn Afghanistan where universal themes like family, discrimination, guilt, childhood, guilt, womanhood, betrayal, religion, and redemption rule the story. The story considers how these themes affected crime prevention and the protagonist's permanent psychological scars as the author looks deeper into the pre and post-Taliban eras. Hosseini carefully paints a compelling portrait of a destroyed nation and the people who struggle to deal with its problems through touching and moving language. Hosseini involves readers in the difficult reality of the Afghan people through his literary works, whose lives have been destroyed by systemic oppression and unfair exclusion. He highlights the horrific situation of women and children who have spent countless years being confined to their homes and denied the most basic human freedoms. By highlighting the terrible effects of socio-political and economic instability on the most ineffective members of society, Hosseini raises awareness of the issue and

encourages ongoing discussion about the urgent need for change and reform in Afghanistan. The protagonist of this story aspires strongly to a state of plenty in both material possessions and the love and devotion of his fellow citizens, which would ultimately result in a genuine sense of peace among the people.

The protagonist moves forward as a sunlight of hope for the untold masses yearning for better lives in this lovely yet troubled country because he is adamant that the people who live in this rough landscape are just as deserving of fundamental human rights as any other inhabitants of our shared planet. Using an array of historical, true, and fictional information, this research article explores the traditions and customs of the Pashtun and Hazara ethnic communities. By doing this, it examines the complicated environment of interpersonal relationships in a culture that struggles with betrayal, confusion, mistrust, and doubt. This article examines the difficulties of cultivating positive social interactions between these two groups through an insightful and intellectually stimulating analysis, leaving light on the elements that encourage unity, understanding, and unity in a world split by cultural and ethnic differences.

One of the themes in Khaled Hosseini's novel *The Kite Runner* is betrayal. For instance, the author makes an effort to explain the personality of Amir, who comes from a successful Kabul-based Pashtun family. Despite the fact that Amir sometimes experiences emotional insecurity, which may have its roots in his Baba's grating attitude towards him, Amir has a sense of ethnic identity and superiority by the nature of his status. This is the reason he kept wishing his mother, who passed away giving birth, was still alive to give him the attention and care he needed. Hossein tries to demonstrate that Baba has indeed tried to provide for his loved son Amir in every way, but he does not acknowledge that and instead holds on to his old ways. Amir feels betrayed by Baba due to his guilt for the death of his mother, and is insecure as he believes he is not the kind of son Baba understands or wishes to have. This stems from Baba's statement that if he hadn't seen the doctor pull him out of his wife, he wouldn't believe him.

Amir and Hassan are close friends from different ethnic groups, but Amir is unable to recognize Hassan

as an equal. He is jealous of Baba's admiration for Hassan, leading to petty acts directed at him. Hassan defends Amir despite Amir's untoward snap, suggesting that Amir believes in Hassan's inferiority due to cultural identity. The statement "He's not my friend... He's my servant" by Amir suggests that he is betraying Hassan out of jealousy. He takes advantage of Hassan's ignorance and tries to make up for it by giving him material things, like worn-out shirts or damaged toys. Further, Amir did nothing to stop Assef from abusing Hassan sexually while he was abusing his friend. Instead, he believed blamed Hassan for allowing himself to be defiled and escaped right away to pick up his vanished kite as well as to avoid endangering his own safety or standing as a member of the Hazara community, according to Mahmood and Rashid. He later felt empty and uncomfortable and started avoiding Hassan after realizing that he had betrayed Hassan by not saving him. Hassan's continual presence brought Amir's awful conduct to mind and made it evident that he had purposefully deceived his close buddy. It appears that Amir not only violates his buddy Hassan, but also his own moral and emotional beliefs, which torments him day after day.

Amir and Baba are accused of betraying their longstanding Hazara friends, Ali and Hassan, by falsely accusing them of stealing money and a watch, which caused them to split up. The connection between Ali and Baba is similar to that of Hassan and Amir, with Rahim Khan disclosing that Baba was Hassan's biological father and engaging in sexual intercourse with Ali's wife Sanaubar. Amir, on the other hand, was uninterested in the orphans. Despite having a love-hate relationship with Baba, Amir attempted to mend his connection with him. There was a good opportunity to do so in the winter of 1975, and Amir was eager to compete in and win the Kite Fighting Tournament.

The complex dynamics of relationships are explored in *The Kite Runner*, particularly those involving the main characters Baba, Assef, Rahim, Hassan, and Amir. The relationships in the book are characterized by discrimination and betrayal because Amir betrays his Hazara friends in order to win his father's approval because he is in need for love and attention. The story expertly depicts the complex relationships between the characters, emphasizing the difficulties of

interpersonal relationships and the effects of betrayal and prejudice on those involved. *The Kite Runner* is a powerful portrayal of the human condition and the power of forgiveness; it is much more than just a story about relationships.

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