



PERSECUTION AND RACIAL SUPERIORITY: A CRITICAL STUDY OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE NOVEL THE KITE RUNNER

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ABSTRACT - Homosexuality is a complex phenomenon that is controversial and a taboo to discuss globally and in Afghanistan specifically. The present study aims to analyze the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseini critically, to uncover the sexual realities and motives of Aseef who is a classic bully in the novel. The present paper intends to unveil homosexuality in Afghanistan among young generation which is fundamentally treated as a shame topic to talk. This paper gives reasons for Aseef's oppressed homosexual feelings and sentiments which enables him to keep his racial superiority by examining the rape scene analytically. The paper unravels Aseef's homosexual desires as a youth and later his sexual advancements and assaults being a Taliban Leader, on young kids in an orphanage. The actions of the characters of the novel are investigated critically to justify that Afghani characters in the story are showing their willing ignorance towards Homosexuality. The study also concludes homosexuality as a strong desire to maintain racial superiority over the males and young boys of Hazara community.

Key words: homosexuality, Khalid Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*, rape and ignorance.

I. INTRODUCTION

Khalid Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1965 (Winkler 2007, p. 3). He spent his early years in France, where his father was an ambassador in the 1970s. Hosseini along with his family went to Paris in the year 1976, then they had immigrated in the year 1980 to the United States as refugees with political shelter from danger or hardship. Hosseini's parents, an earlier ambassador and a facilitator, settled in San Jose, California, where they survived on welfare until his parent, laboring uneven employment, run to self-sufficiently hold up the family. A biology degree was received by Hosseini in the year 1988 from Santa Clara University and he had got a degree in medical from the University of California, San Diego in 1993. As of 2005, he is working as performing doctor, specializing in internal medicine in Northern California. (Bookrags, p.1)

Truth be told, in an August 2014 Times meet, the Nobel Peace peruse. What's more, read it they do; the novel is instructed (and tested) in study halls the nation over and the world. What's more, as Afghanistan figures noticeably in world news — the Taliban still throws a shadow on the nation's dependability, as United States troops haul out — the book gives a window into Afghanistan as a spot of war, however of respect, guiltlessness and "Hosseini's ability to reach the core of experiences of love and loss places him in the company of such fine chroniclers of the new America as Chang-rae Lee. "The Kite Runner (Hosseini, 2003) is one of the best books I've ever read, but the film version, while very faithful, acts like a Coles Notes for those with really short attention spans, or a "Densification" of the source material". (Foster, 2012) The Kite Runner (Hosseini, 2003) is the tale of stressed family connections between a father and a child, and between two siblings, how they manage blame and pardoning, and how they climate the political and social changes of Afghanistan from the 1970s to 2001. The Kite Runner (Hosseini, 2003) opens in 2001. The grown-up storyteller, Amir, lives in San Francisco and is examining his past, considering a childhood companion whom he has sold out. The activity of the story at that point goes in reverse so as to the storyteller's initial life in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he is the single offspring of an advantaged shipper. Amir's dearest companion is his mate and hireling Hassan, a poor unskilled kid who is an individual from the Hazara ethnic minority. The Kite Runner (Hosseini, 2003), a transitioning novel, manages the topics of character, faithfulness, mental fortitude, and misleading. As the hero Amir develops to adulthood, he should grapple with his past wrongs and conform to another culture subsequent to leaving Afghanistan for the

United States. The epic sets the relational show of the characters against the setting of the cutting edge history of Afghanistan, drawing the political and financial cost of the insecurity of different systems in Afghanistan; from the finish of the government to the Soviet-upheld administration of the 1980s to the fundamentalist Taliban legislature of the 1990s. The activity closes not long after the fall of the Taliban and implies the ascent of Hamid Karzai as pioneer of another Afghan government in the wake of the occasions of September 11, 2001. The Kite Runner (Hosseini, 2003) is a first novel of uncommon liberality, genuineness and empathy" – Guardian. "Remarkable ... phenomenal. It is amazing to such an extent that for quite a while in the wake of all that I read appeared to be flat" – Isabel Allende.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The word homosexual was taken in Anglo-European and American culture. Before that period, certain sexual acts—in general speaking, all types of no procreative sex—were prohibited by church or state, but they weren't viewed as proves of a determined sexual identity. The notion that one could be a homosexual came along with the notion, advanced by the medical professions, that such an identity was a type of pathology. This is why many gay men today favor to call to themselves as gay: the word homosexual is linked, for many, with the belief that homosexuality is a medical or psychological disorder. (Tyson, 2006) Homosexuality is a complex marvel which has been a subject of interest for hundreds of years. Research accentuation has been set on the reasons for homosexuality and along these lines, different hypotheses have been estimated and advocated to be liable for causing a gay direction (Blasius and Phelan, 1997). There are individuals who have sexual sentiments towards individuals of a similar sex however don't follow up on these emotions. There are additionally the individuals who have sex with individuals of a similar sex yet feel that their sexual emotions are progressively coordinated to individuals of the contrary sex. The cultural meaning of homosexuality is stereotyped also, conveys with it negative meanings. There are individuals who are not explicitly are progressively woman like are regularly thought to be gay, while ladies who are manly are additionally once in a while marked as lesbians. In this way, characterizing homosexuality dominantly lies on the people, their conduct, sexual sentiments and most significantly, how they characterize themselves (Tripp, 1977). Gay is accordingly a term used to portray or allude to an individual who is sincerely and explicitly pulled in to somebody of a similar sex and characterizes oneself as gay (Germond and De Gruchy, 1997; Tripp, 1977). Homosexuality and heterosexuality are products of social, not biological, forces. (Tyson, 2006)

In African culture, homosexuality is a shame mark. As it were, being known as a gay is to be debased, upbraided, degrade and to be treated as various (Edwards, 1994; Murray and Roscoe, 1998). Edwards (1994) states that homosexuality has existed from the beginning of time, in a wide range of social orders, among every single social class and individuals, yet their mentality to it changes. As per Murray and Roscoe (1998) many black South Africans accept that homosexuality isn't African; yet was brought by the colonizers, thus it is disregarded. Homosexuality is named as one of the improprieties accused on the impacts of expansionism. For a model, when the late Simon Nkoli's (a political and gay rights extremist) mother discovered that he was gay, she promptly lamented sending him to a white school (Murray and Roscoe, 1998).

Herdt (1997) fights that there are those homosexual people who embrace two positions, by attempting to marry and adjust to society's dismissal for homosexuality, and at a similar time attempting to live as homosexual people. They may experience an undermined hetero marriage and companionship, and extramarital homosexual relations on the side. In any case, such a position is hard to keep up and brings about the improvement of a negative sexual personality. A positive sexual character is a basic segment of sexual wellbeing (Yorburg, 1974). Consequently Atkinson and Hackett (1998) noted, "mental issues experienced by gay individuals are significantly impacted by the antagonistic and critical cultural dispositions" (p 119). In any case, as per Ponce (1978), it is normal in the gay network that a few people may have gay emotions and take part in gay acts and still keep up a hetero personality for quite a while. The homosexual network gives consent for a time of change in which the person's personality may not have gotten up to speed with their sentiments and conduct. Simultaneously, one isn't expected to delay excessively long in the transitional stage. On the off chance that an individual keeps on affirming a character that is seen as incongruent with emotions and conduct, repercussions may follow. The individual might be blamed for inauthenticity and disgrace avoidance. Sadly, there are still a few people who live in circumstances where reality essentially requests that their sexual direction be kept a well-monitored mystery (Ponce, 1978). There are those individuals who, as yet "living in the storage room", use marriage

as a shelter or an escape from their gay emotions. All the more regularly in societies that oppose homosexuality, individuals attempt to oblige and mix in, to discover what fulfillment they can through undermined hetero connections of marriage and fellowship and extramarital same-sexual orientation relations (Herdt, 1997). Nonetheless, they at some point or another understand that they can't flee from their homosexual sentiments. In such cases turning out turns into a significantly increasingly entangled procedure in light of the fact that there are more individuals legitimately included; the life partner and some of the time youngsters too (Gochros, 1989).

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on qualitative research method which includes textual analysis and textual lines as instrument to analyze the data as secondary type. Qualitative research method helps the researcher to analyze the data in a great depth which will ultimately enhance the critical aspects of inquiring each and every individual with variable but specific lens. It also focuses on the mentality and attitude of individuals and their works that result in distinctive and important features.

IV. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The writer composes a reasonable, fiery exposition. Characters develop and plots create with the fluctuation of life, part to section. This may appear glaringly evident, however numerous books need such spine to them together. Scenes are brief yet ground-breaking, versatile to the "get, put down" pace of pursuers' lives. Hosseini is equipped for what pundits call "restless" composing. This used to be thought of as not being hesitant to take a risk. The outcome is that the pursuer is never certain what will occur straightaway." (The Buffalo News)

The Kite Runner (Hosseini, 2003) is a novel which describes the homosexuality as destructive element. The colonialism is so loud and ubiquitous in the novel that is portrayed as the main factor that triggers the plot of the novel to deal with major events and incidents that take place in the life of Hassan and his family. And homosexuality goes under the carpet of colonialism. Hassan is one of the main characters in the novel The Kite Runner (Hosseini, 2003) and who is father of a son named as Sohrab.

Hassan's rape: as portrayed a homosexual relationship

The setting of the novel is in Afghanistan in which Hosseini has demonstrated homosexual relationship in the raping scene of Hassan which is itself contentious to comment. The homosexual desires which are overshadowed owing to the overarching and ever resonating theme of colonialism and racial dominion. Aseef is availing an opportunity to take pivotal advantage by raping Hassan in the street of Kabul in order to satisfy his evil soul. "Blocking Hassan's way out of the alley were three boys, the same three from that day on the hill, the day after Daoud Khan's coup, when Hassan had saved us with his slingshot" (Hosseini, 2003). Hosseini has depicted same sex relationship in the novel in which male gender is in sexual intercourse with another person of same sex."Assef knelt behind Hassan, put his hands on Hassan's hips and lifted his bare buttocks. He kept one hand on Hassan's back and undid his own belt buckle with his free hand". "He unzipped his jeans. Dropped his underwear". "He positioned himself behind Hassan". (Hosseini, 2003) the raping scene summons a question to arise if Aseef is only in search of taking control over his enemies then why has he made a decision to rape Hassan instead of beating him up. It stipulates Assef's oppressed homosexuality which is forcing him to fulfill his sexual desires by homosexual intercourse.

Sohrab: dragged from orphanage

Asif is illustrated as classic bully who is not only raping Hassan in young age but when he has become leader of Taliban, he is abusing Sohrab the son of Hassan. Hosseini has marvelously described homosexuality as a complex topic "his head was shaved, his eyes darkened with mascara, and his cheeks glowed with unnatural red" (Hosseini, 2003) that is acting like an abstract force which is dealing with colonialism and racial dominion to run the plot and it completely changes the dynamics of the relationships. Similar case is with Sohrab who has been dragged from orphanage so that Aseef can use him for sexual satisfaction and to get racial dominion. The Taliban entertain themselves sexually and mentally by looking at the boy and "one of the guards pressed a button and Pashtu music filled the room" (Hosseini, 2003). Hosseini has exhibited homosexuality in the characters of Aseef and Sohrab in his nation Afghanistan as a factor that is not only

for the mental content but it is dealing with physical needs of a man who is ready to make himself relaxed by having sexual intercourse with same gender...He plucked a red grape. Put it, lovingly, in Sohrab's mouth." He kissed the side of Sohrab's neck. The boy flinched a little, closed his eyes again" (Hosseini, 2003). Aseef is face of many people who are hiding their homosexual feelings and sentiments behind the curtain of revenge and control over their foes.

Ignorance towards Homosexuality

Hosseini the author of *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini, 2003) has successfully portrayed homosexual interaction. Hassan's Tragedy is providing a fair understanding about sexual feelings for same sex. *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini, 2003) brings about the most disputed subject of homosexuality among young characters of the novel. Subsequently the young generation of Afghanistan is growing in a cultural and social circle which is not ready to accept the topic of homosexuality. The main antagonist of the plot Aseef who is trying to control people of his nation by using brute force in order to get a complete dominance over his foes. The theme of homosexuality in the novel is somehow controversial as there is lack of calling Aseef as a person who has feelings for the same gender. At the same time the novel reflects that the protagonist Amir is ignoring the rape scene. "I watched Hassan get raped," I said to no one. (Hosseini, 2003) Whenever Amir is asked about the strange health of Hassan he ignores to reply truthfully as he answers "I didn't say anything." (Hosseini, 2003) Amir is an eye witness of the rape but he is pretending that he knows nothing about the scene. He simply stands and watches Aseef is raping Hassan. He is afraid of taking action against the rape. This is indicating psychology of Afghani people who are scared of speaking truth and rescuing the people who are targets of individuals like Aseef. Amir is not only a character who is silent about homosexuality but Hassan himself is silent. "He began to say something and his voice cracked. He closed his mouth, opened it, and closed it again." (Hosseini, 2003) The characters of Amir and Hassan are revealing intolerance of Afghani audience about homosexuality. The witness of homosexual rape and the victim both are not merely characters but both are representing a collective response of Afghanistan as a nation as whole on homosexuality. "I bit on my fist. Shut my eyes" (Hosseini, 2003). The act representing homosexuality in *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini, 2003) is not fully discouraging, but is showing ignorance towards homosexual feelings.

V. FINDINGS/RESULTS

The current study gives account for rape scene that explores Aseef's oppressed homosexuality. This rape scene has totally changed the dynamics of relationship between Amir and Hassan. It is also revealed that Aseef has not only a purpose to control over his enemies but he has feelings for the same gender and he has simply blocked way of Hassan to satisfy his sexual needs. Furthermore, it is found that Sohrab is being dragged from the orphanage and Aseef as leader of Taliban has again repeated his actions by showing his sexual emotions for the boy. Therefore, homosexuality is the driving force in the character of Aseef which enables him to maintain his racial dominion over Hassan and Sohrab both.

Critical analysis of *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini, 2003) results that the exhibition of homosexuality is not directly mentioned as a subject which is recognized by Afghani people until the rape of Hassan as when one the friends of Aseef is being asked about the action of Aseef that what would he do the next Walidad replies I don't know (Hosseini, 2003). This brings forth ignorance of Hosseini's nation on serious subject of homosexuality. Amir and Hassan are the major characters of the book and both are avoiding to talk on the incident that has happened in alley of Kabul. By the help of these characters the researcher has analyzed the silence of whole country on homosexuality. The sentiments for the same gender are unveiled in the present research in order to analyze the novel as a disputed story.

This attempt of analyzing the novel by keeping an eye on homosexuality as a controversial topic to talk in Afghanistan has proved that both the witness and the victim are equally sharing their part to give the message that how homosexuality is being treated in Afghanistan.

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