

Khushwant's Tendency of Portraying Love in the Serious Theme of Partition

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ABSTRACT

The famous novelist Khushwant Singh experienced a great massacre in his life which resulted into the partition of India in 1947 and this vicious event inspired him to write such a work that could describe the adversities of various people. The novel became his most well known novel. He was India's best known author and columnist. He was also the founder- editor of Yojana and editor of illustrated weekly of India. He authored classics such as Train to Pakistan; I shall not hear the Nightingale (retitled as The Lost Victory and Delhi). The current research paper speaks for the author's adroitness to convert such a disastrous event into a love story.

Keywords: Massacre, Partition, Disastrous, Adroitness, Love.

INTRODUCTION

Khushwant Singh's novel perfectly sets an example of partition novel yet there is a love story contained in the novel which gives the novel a very special lay down in the world of literature. The theme of partition in the novel is taken from a political poem named "Partition" which was written by W.H. Auden. The novel renders a historical event dealt with the partition of India. By the efforts of Cyril Radcliffe, a new nation emerged as Pakistan. Cyril Radcliffe, a British lawyer who was sent to India for partition and he had exactly five weeks to draw the borders between an independent India and the newly created Pakistan. During this horrendous event more than 1 billion people were killed and 80,000 women were raped in the riots of Hindus and that of Muslims. The novel doesn't depict the history of partition on the basis of geography and space but it also shows how the partition leads to disunion of people, language, culture and that of colour. This horrifying event generated an immense gap between two religions that cannot be covered even today. As the novel depicts itself,

"Muslim said Hindus had planned and started the killing.
According to the Hindus, the Muslims were to blame.
The fact is both sides killed. Both shot and stabbed and
speared and clubbed. Both tortured. Both raped."

The ongoing paper has respectable aim to show the theme of love in the novel Train to Pakistan.

DISCUSSION

The novel Train to Pakistan is a social document, partition novel and historical novel as well. It depicts the social condition of India before Pakistan and that of the time during partition. In this novel, Khushwant Singh tells about Muslims and Sikhs who lived together for 100 of years and were at good terms with each other. The story is based on the rampage of Hindu-Muslim in the year 1947 which went after the partition of India. It truly depicts the grim reality and harsh realities of Indian independence which we named as division. Although the novel is a partition novel but if we dissect the novel, it is covered with many hidden aspects. The novel is a perfect example of love story also in itself. We find here the love story of the daughter of Imam Bakhsh, Nooran Bakhsh and he gangster of the village Juggat Singh (Jugga). When there was difficulty in the village Mano Majra, Jugga and his beloved new drama making love with each other in the fields. Jugga is a number 10 Badmash in his village, and is very muscular man. To be in jail and being out of jail is his common identification in the village. He's a Sikh and loves a Muslim girl Nooran and she too loves Jugga. When Jugga is ordered by the police for not coming out of his house even after sunset and Jugga overhears a conversation about the restrictions on him for his beloved Nooran, Jugga becomes furious as he cannot live away without meeting Nooran.

He takes risks and goes out in the dark, even after his mother warns him not to do so and about the results of lawlessness but Jugga does not care at all about this and goes to meet his beloved Nooran. He makes a physical

relationship with Nooran. Nooran stops him from doing such sexual activities with her. She warns him that she will not come again to meet him if he keeps on doing all this to her. She calls him a badmash but later she further expresses her love for him and says that she won't stop meeting with him as Nooran too loves him deeply. On the other hand, Jugga's other side is that he is a 10 number Badmash of his village and knows very well what other people think of him but Jugga doesn't make any qualm about it. After getting the notice of evacuation from the higher authorities, Nooran thinks that she will find her lover at home when all Muslims are ordered and supposed to evacuate their native place. She goes to Jugga's house and meets his mother there. She tells Jugga's mother about her pregnancy through Jugga. His mother Promises her to arrange their marriage as soon as Jugga is released from jail.

As Jugga is captured by policemen on the behalf of a suspected dacoity in their village. When policemen forced him to tell about his involvement in murder and the enquires about his location at the time of murder, he keeps on denying that he is not involved in murder as he was making love with Nooran at that night but he doesn't tell this thing to the policemen as he does not bring disgrace to Nooran by telling about being together and their sexual intercourse in the last night. But when things are gone wrong and there is bloodshed all around and when Jugga is released finally, he hopes to find Nooran somewhere. First of all he just hopes that she will be hiding herself at some safe place or she would have come to his mother at least before leaving. When he doesn't find Nooran at his home and comes to know that she will be going by train tomorrow for forever, he decides to save Nooran. When he learns about the plan of massacre through train accident and Nooran will be a passenger in the train which is bound to Pakistan, he asks Bhai Meet Singh for a prayer. Then he reaches at the place where the plan of massacre was about to be happen. He puts his life in danger by cutting the rope. He finally succeeds in cutting the rope but in his good efforts he has to sacrifice his life as he falls down from the steel span of the bridge. He falls on the ground due to gunshots by Malli's gang. The train runs over the track peacefully and thus Jugga saved his beloved and his born to be child. Thus the novel is also a good example of a love story. Therefore when we dissect the novel into pieces, there are various aspects and perspectives and themes contained in the novel.

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