

Altered Perception of Parent Child Relationships in the Works of Khalid Hussein

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Abstract- Hussein uses relationships between fathers, mother, sons and daughters which was with pain and longing. Relying on children to cover up their shattered lives infecting them and the influence of which would span several decades.

Keywords- Parent; Child; Relationships; Khalid Hussein

The Kite Runner starts with the relationship between two boys, which is later shown as animosity from the side of one and selfless dedication by the other. Similar to the country of Afghanistan where the modern people believed they could take all they could but when the country they took for granted was under siege they had no choice but to flee. Only then did they realize that all they loved and held dear was lost from them forever.

Similarly the two protagonists of A Thousand Splendid Suns, the first to be introduced being Mariam, who was dedicated to her mother and loved her father. The mother who had her own version whereas her father who presented a contrary version which was more pleasing than the agonising tales narrated by her mother. Mariam chose to keep both parents happy with her acceptance of both, neither denying or agreeing and never allowing even the reader to understand what she considered the truth.

She understood at an early age to be meek and then often apologised to her mother, for having caused her pain. And her mother constantly telling her that she could not bear to let her go. In order to make sure that Mariam wouldn't leave her side, Nana (Mariam's mother) did not let her go to school but to only have a religious education. At fifteen she saw the true side of her father and lost both her father and her mother on the same day. Her father fell from her grace while her mother committed suicide. Nana was clinging to her for her life when she realized that her daughter had left her and her world to enter into her father's more attractive world which to Nana's understanding would be more appealing. The one time Mariam crossed from the world created solely for her and Mariam into her father's she thought she had lost from her so much so that she felt she had no other reason to live for and so ended her life. Mariam was Nana's world, her loss was the loss of the world.

Mariam had never taken any decisions in her life but choose to follow and obey, but the two times that she did her life was changed forever. The first time when she went away longing to meet her father crossing from her obscure yet secure world into her father's where she realized only too late how unwanted she really was. To

the time when she decided to kill her husband not for her own sake though.

Children both visible and invisible whose names are only mentioned like the little boy Yunus, Rasheed's first son. Who had drowned because there was no one to save him, his father was lost in drunken stupor after his wife's death. Born and unborn children all play their part for their family. When Mariam was expecting her first child, she had a very intimate and happy relationship with her husband. But once she lost the child everything changed forever, and she was subject to beatings for no reason by her husband. If she would have had a child all the more a male child her life would have been far easier.

Similar to the other protagonist Laila, who losses both her parents on the same day in shelling in Kabul, she miraculously survives. She had a loving relationship based on complete trust with her father whereas her mother was in mourning for her sons and Laila was a nonentity for her. Unlike Mariam Laila had always made independent choices. It could be attributed to her education and of handling responsibilities. She took care of her house, her mother and her father. But above all to her father's trust in her, that he too totally depended on her.

It can also be viewed as relationship between country and person. The urge to return and remember the lessons taught. To allow life to complete full circle. Laila's mother Fariba's only desire to live and wait for her Mujahedeen sons to return.

Laila's daughter Aziza the bond between Mariam and Laila who suffers silently the ordeal of separation because the family was too poor to feed her. The things she witnessed made her develop a stutter which she expresses in the telling statement about tectonic plates that on the surface there is only a slight tremor whereas under them was great turmoil. The little boy Zilmai who was the cynosure of the eyes of his father Rasheed. Who had no idea when his father would return. But accepts his absence.

Instead of children relying upon the grown-ups it was vice versa, where the grown ups relied completely upon

the little children, so much so that without them they could not exist.

In the Kite Runner Sohrab serves as a bond for Amir to Hussain and his way of finding redemption and of saving a boy while it was he who was being saved and freed of decades of guilt and anguish. Hussain serves as the link between Amir to his father. Where Amir acknowledges Hussain with the ideal son, unlike his own.

CONCLUSION

Husseni uses relationships between fathers, mother, sons and daughters which was with pain and longing. Relying on children to cover up their shattered lives infecting them and the influence of which would span several decades. Ironically it is the children who are illegitimate like Hussain from the 'Kite Runner' and Mariam and Aziza from 'A Thousand Spenidid Suns' who rise above all legitimate characters with their self sacrifice.

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