

The Motifs Of Quest For Identity And Alienation In Kiran Desai's Hullabaloo In The Guava Orchard-A Study

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ABSTRACT: *This present research investigation aims at exploring the themes of Quest for Identity and Alienation caused by the advent of globalization in the debut novel of Kiran Desai, "Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard." The major objective of this paper is to study the effects of Proliferation in the modern Indian society, lack of freedom, monotonous living, dull and tiresome people, boring society, and materialistic world that are mirrored in the novel. The minor aim of the present research article encompasses the problems faced by the immigrants in the host country : the misires in the relationship, cross-culture, assimilation, hybridity, the wit and allegory of the modern society and meta-fiction that are discussed by the novelist. The study also examines that Desai as a Diasporic novelist painted the personal and cultural inferences of imaginary Homeland SHAKHOT in northern India; its multiculturalism, and the difficulties faced by the various characters through the portrayal of Sampath, Chawla, Kulfi and her daughter. The process of the study adopts meticulous interpretation of the text, the relevant literary texts and articles related to it. The paper also intends to show that both the themes 'Quest for Identity, Freedom' and 'Alienation' are interlinked.*

KEYWORDS: *Diaspora, Alienation, Quest, Homeland, Multiculturalism, and Globalizati*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The contemporary Indian fiction has witnessed a good number of artistic and remarkable authors. The Indian writers in fifties, mostly, showed much interest in social realism. The women writers like Jhabvala, Nayanatara Sahgal, Kamla Markandaya and Anitha Desai marked their contribution to Indian fiction. The growth of women writers has been continued, and, one can notice various new voices. The best outstanding within them is Kiran Desai, the third recipient of Man Booker Prize after Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy. She was a true descendant of the time. She was born in 1971, moved to England at the age of 14, and, then to America. She was educated in all the three countries: India, England, and America. She writes about India and presents intrigues from Indian outlook. Desai became famous and got appreciated for herself as well as the original homeland. Her mother Anita Desai is also a Diaspora writer of first and second generation. Hence, it was easy for kiran to develop the

skill of writing. She left Columbia University for several years to write her debut novel “HULLABALOO IN THE GUAVA ORCHARD” which was published in 1998. The story of the novel is fresh and looks at the sluggish county town of SHAKHOT in Punjab, in northern India. The novel deals with the chief protagonist, SAMPANTH, is a weary, fanciful, who deserts his education and job, gets isolated from the family members and society in quest of freedom, and becomes a magical modern monkey Baba, in turn, his separation makes the other characters too to get alienated. The book was loved and appreciated by people, writers and critics. Desai took seven years to write her second novel, “THE INHERITANCE OF LOSS’ which was published in 2006. It was awarded the prominent Man Booker Prize in 2007 for her work. The novel, having set in the Himalayan village, talks of the living between East and West, and between the past and present. The novel enlightens the agony of expatriate and the uncertainties of post colonialism and its themes. Desai, in her novels, focuses on the political, social issues and the problems of modern existence. The novelists comes up with a dynamic, wonderful type of personalities. She uses unbroken, pure pictorial and, flowing language. Desai like her mother uses wit and humor in her novels and is very rich in sensory narration of her motherland landscape.

THE THEMES OF ALIENATION AND QUEST FOR FREEDOM:

The present study shows that, the Alienation and the Quest for Identity are the main themes in the novel. The Indian Diasporic writers often inclined to write about the post-colonial issues. The present text considers that the predominant hero : Sampath and, the other characters: his Father - Chawla, mother-Kulfi, and sister – Pinky, all are alienated from person to person. In fact all the characters in the novel are in search of freedom for their biddings. All of them automatically start getting disjointed from each other. The quest for freedom and mood of alienation in Sampath is openly understood right from the beginning: he has no sleep of snoring of his family members when they all sleep under one roof, he sings and walks, feels suffocated in living. He wants freedom and, be free from all the family members and becomes separated. It is equally marked among other characters also from the beginning: his mother, Kulfi, in search of freedom, is always imaginary, sits at the window and thinks of right dishes for her son and gets withdrawn from the family members; his father, Chawla, as well, discovers freedom in yoga and reading newspaper and gets disconnected; his dreamy sister, Pinky, in search of modern stylish dresses with western touch, interested in cinema monkey stories and her fondness for hero worship make herself isolated from others; his grandmother minds bringing milk and worries of Sampath’s sleep ,make her be parted. They all live in Quarantine and Solitude. They do not retort each other as they are worried of their own world. The hero of the novel, Sampath Chawla is an isolated and, pays a little attention to his life. He gets himself aloof from family members, friends, colleagues, and society. Sampath is an irresponsible bloke, who doesn’t pay attention to his family needs, neglected his studies, not worried of his future, careless in his job, and attracted to illusory stuffs. His father, Mr.Chawla, his mother, and, grandmother are all worried about his future. As a stereotypical opposite Indian father, Mr. Chawla wanted to see his son in a respectable position. But, he often scolds his son as he is separated from everything. His reaction towards his son is clearly evident when he lost his job, “What! You have lost your job!” „Hai,

Hai, this boy is nothing but trouble and misfortune “You are completely lacking in commonsense. Did you get water in your nose?

What they were going to do then ? You really took off underpants.”(Desai, HGO42)

The trait of alienation clearly evident in Sampath when his friends got jobs. As a responsible man, he should have taken it truly, but, he feels provoked as he wanted to escape from household tasks. Sampath doesn't think of his education, rather, he desires to occupy plentiful of his time in worldly belongings.

“In the tea stalls and singing to himself in the public gardens.” Desai, HGO23)

His father who works in a local bank manages to get him a central government postal job as a mail-sorter. But, sampath who likes to spend his time in idle things is not so serious of his job. He is very cool, crazy, entirely enclosed in human company. He employs his time in reading others letters and mails of the villagers of Shakhhot. The environment of the post office with a few rooms, and, less furniture is congested, signifies the influence of post colonialism is not liked by Sampath. He always tries to escape from work, when, the head of the post office

,D.P.S. asked him to look into his daughter “wedding bills, Sampath feels dizzy and leaves it. He wants to enjoy his freedom, but, is scolded by the postmaster for not completing the work.

Sampath's quest for freedom is apprehended at his master's daughter marriage. Sampath wanders as he wishes, looks in to drawers, attracted to expensive perfumes, dresses up in wedding clothes, becomes drunk, and gems, lights candle, looks into mirror, attracted by the beauty and imaginative stories, dances in front of the tent and jumps to the fountain. The people at the wedding make a shriek and fire at him. His father becomes furious at his behavior. Chawla thinks of another job for his son. Sampath feels that his life is trapped and hates the present situation. All these incidents make Sampath feel remorseful. The feeling of alienation gradually runs in his mind. He is disconnected from his colleagues Gupta and Joystna, friends, parents, and even from his sister Pinky. He develops an out look of separation from others.

“A never – ending flow of misery. It was a prison he had born into” (Desai, HGO 43)

It is at that time he looks at a Guava, and admires its beauty. The thought of Guava fills him with sweetness and his dream of freedom. It drives him out of home, reaches outskirts, races to a hill, finds a Guava tree and settles in the tree. His decision keeping himself alienated from society is a bold one. He feels very peaceful in the tree. His life in the tree is sweet and uncomplicated and he feels at home. He spends his time in loneliness. He has become a nomadic. As a post-colonial diasporic writer Desai presents the harsh realities of modern society that are caused by the Globalization. The result is that people have become materialistic. It is evident when they show their reaction at Sympathy when he gets alienated. The folk and, even his family member's city take it as Sampath has gone mad. On the other hand, allegorically, it can be taken

as the imprisonment in a harsh and capitalist society. They came to of his presence through local newspapers and tries to get him back to the society.

“Post-office clerk climbs tree” (Desai HGO67)

Sampath’s quest for freedom is, prominently, realized when he replies

“I am adopting a simple way of life. From now on I have no relatives” (Desai HGO 54),

Sampath enjoys his freedom when he starts telling the fortunes of the people that he came to know by reading of the mails at the post office. Having come to known the secrets of people, sampath treats himself as if he is a spiritual leader. Sampath wanted to play the trick on the fellow of his adjacent family, his brother –in –law, in his native place , and asks Mr. Singh Ji, if his ornaments were buried under the “ Tulsa pant?” (Desai, HGO 65).

The devotes thronged into orchard. Sympath had clear sense of his surroundings. He completely absorbs in the nature. At one instance, a lady, troubled about the bad company of her son sought his advices. Sampath responded in a remarkably friendly way

“Add lemons to milk and it will grow sour” (Deasi, HGO 74).

His mythical sentences were inspiring and they drew people

“Moth will go to the lantern” (Desai, HGO 76).

Sampath’s expatriate offers him a respected identity both in society and family.

He completely absorbs in the nature. The Languor monkeys comes orchard .Everybody is worried about the monkeys nuisance problem. The government officials also try to get rid of the problem by diverse plans. But, Sympath enjoys lives with them and becomes modern monkey baba.

As, he gets famous as a priest, all the family members get scattered causing separation among themselves. Mr. Chawla as a typical modern existing father makes use of the

condition and contemplates of different plans to mint money. The same attitude is seen in his mother, she always thinks of providing good food for him, in pursuit of it she goes into the forest in hunt of ingredients. Sampath, Chawla and Kulfi are betrothed in their quest for their identity. As the family members become worldly, his sister, Pinky, who lives in an imaginary world, gets alienated from her family members’. She leads immaterial and empty life. She has not beentaken out. Pinky, to seek the Identity, she shadows western culture in costume and hair style. She falls in love with an Ice cream boy and gets deserted. Pinky is seen as a character that lacks moral valor.

The characters in the novel Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard seem smothered, isolated, uncaring, separated and unpromising. When Sampath feels confronted at the novel's end, he gags on his cot, and then, like there markable Indian accomplishes his rope trick, he disappears into thin air. Kulfi retains on cooking and is bent upon completing her quest to find a monkey to put in her pot. The novelist is a present generation expatriate writer. she follows novel methods in her writings. She presents the themes of self identity and detachment with the warm hearted personalites in downtrodden society. Everyone in the novel ultimately alienated and separated even barred in the unreceptive and restricting milieu. Sampath, the protagonist of the

novel finds comfort in the Guava orchard. Estrangement brings him pleasure. He wishes to enjoy pressure free life. He desires to seepage from the static life and tasks. Desai describes how Sampath disappears at the end relishing his liberty.

“Still, them on keys travelled. bigger and bigger. Like a gust of wind that Comes out of no where, rustles through the trees and melts into nothing like a Ghost the crowds tood panting in the orchard....the m o n k e y ’ s c l i m b e d O n up into the wilderness, up to the shoulder of the highest mountain.

Here at the very summit wavered for a moment, bowedheads as if in a farewell and then They weregone.Without a trace.”(Desai, HGO208-209).

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