

Revisiting Lost Afghan in the works of Khaled Hosseini

Dr. Meena Gupta^{1*}

¹Assistant Professor, Govt. College for Women, Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir, India

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*Corresponding author: Dr. Meena Gupta

Assistant Professor, Govt. College for Women, Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir, India

Abstract

“For many people in the West, Afghanistan is synonymous with the Soviet War and the Taliban. I wanted to remind people that Afghans had managed to live in a peaceful anonymity for the decades that the history of Afghans in 20th century has been largely pacific and harmonious.” **Khaled Hosseini**: Afghanistan was a different country in the year 1960 than the one that is apparent to us today. It is history how Soviets invaded the Afghanistan and pulled them in war, following Taliban rule and US invasion in 2001. The once peaceful and cherished nation known as ‘graveyard of empires’ is a mirage today. History witness that since 11th century B.C, different empires and forces have tried to gain control over Afghanistan. This paper is a sincere effort to excavate the layers hidden beneath the facade of Afghanistan.

Keywords: Afghanistan, Taliban, War, Graveyard, Empires, Pacific, History.

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INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan, a land of Afghans wherein gardens had their lustre and the people had their charm, their authenticity is now a history. It seems a fairyland which was actually a powerful nation of Pathans. Before 1960, a different Afghanistan existed and what we have now is a piece of land with relinquished historical imprints that pierce a human heart to excavate the layers of its region, the invasion of Soviets, Taliban rule, US invasion in 2001, a country stands for new history. Khaled Hosseini an Afghan born American writer shouldered the responsibility to establish his reputation to bring the actual face of his homeland by reconnecting with the lost Afghan. Hosseini’s novels are evocations of once cherished and prosperous Afghanistan which was in the heart of people of the country.

The power of any nation lies in its people. They are the voice of God. Afghanistan’s power lies in its people. But with the invasion of foreign legion in the history many empires failed to establish their govt. Afghanistan is often called as Graveyard of Empires and Land of Warlords.

With so many invasions the country witnessed war, destruction, disintegration. British Defence Secretary Liam Fox drew huge criticism for referring to Afghanistan as “a broken 13th century country” during the last trip to country (Shackle 2010). There was a different ‘Afghan’ before 1960. It was a land where

people laughed, factories were being established in Kabul, burquas were optional. Even Afghan women had the freedom to do whatever of her choice in career. This Afghan changed into a piece of land ruled by terror forces after 1970 and a new Afghan is a history.

Khaled Hosseini has infringed the history of and portrayed the effect of war in Afghanistan. Born in Kabul, he has tried to open the layers beneath his homeland through the minute portrayal of his characters. He survived at the time of Govt., the presentation of Republic period, and the early years of Daud Khan’s run the show. In discussion with Razestha Sethna of Newslines, he acknowledged the phantom of War, landmines and starvations (Azad, 2004). His novels are foundations on which the true story of youth of Afghanistan is centred. He mirrors the standards, Culture, custom, rituals of his country in his fiction. His novels are microcosm of Afghan culture.

The Kite Runner

The kite Runner is not a novel but a true and real voice of Afghanistan people. It delineates the background picture of Afghanistan from 1970 to 2002. Through kite Runner writer has exposed the reality of his once homeland.

“Kabul was a thriving city and by the standards of a conservative religious country, it was quite liberal. I am just so grateful to have lived in Afghanistan in that era. I have been able to see the final

few years of peace and stability in Afghanistan before the Soviets invaded and triggered this entire domino of events”.

The kite Runner delineates saga of evolution of Amir, a pivotal character, who is from Afghanistan and his struggle to overcome the impact of war in his childhood days. War has internalized into the consciousness of Afghanistan people. Though people may not directly deal with war but it will stretch its hands and include the people in its circumference. Amir depicts the story of Afghanistan from the fall of Afghanistans anarchy through Soviet invasion, the departure of refugees to Pakistan and the United States and the emergence and Power of Taliban regime. In Jacksons wards (12), the kite Runner “Paints a sometimes painful and sometimes poetic picture of life in Afghanistan from the fall of monarchy in the 1970s through the Soviet invasion and into the era of the rise of the Taliban”.

Amir lived a very peaceful life before the start of war and how his friendship blossomed with Hassan. This friendship is a treasure for Amir. He revealed his friendship is a source of happiness for him. Then suddenly everything changed.

Afghanistan of war is equally if not more horrific during the war itself. In the words of Amir. “The country sinks in quick sand and they make it impossible for one to repair and damage.”

A Thousand Splendid Suns

A Thousands suns is undoubtedly an epic of Khaled Hosseini that evokes the power of emotions. In the words of writer, “They were different earlier, men and women used to be treated equally, they were having education, doing jobs and having all the liberty that any human being could have, just like Hosseinis mother who herself used to teach Farsi and History in school of Kabul”.

Khaled is devastated to see his loved city in the ashes of hatred of Talibans. The plight of women is heart Wrenching. The impact of war in the minds of women can be analysed through the lives of Mariam and Laila in the novel. Both are churned by the cruel hands of destiny when they got married to the same man, with their lives these is a contrast with the political changes of 1970s to 2003 a king dethroned, a socialist infusion, a common war, a religious ‘Taliban autocracy, an attack by America & North Atlantic Treaty organization (NATO) Powers.

These words are the evocations of a beautiful era that Afghani people cherished particularly privileged women has as they were free to read, study, educate and empower themselves. How the women rights here trampled with the slinked feet of Talibans.

And the Mountains Echoed

“Khalid Hosseini gives ua a vivid and engaging story that reminds us how long his people have been struggling to triumph over the forces of violence forces that continue to threaten them even today.”

The impact of Soviet war with turbulence in the country is the prominent theme of the novel. Majaheedens, the warlords trampled the country with their terrorist intentions. Adel father stands as the authentic example of warlords who are wealthy and how they dominate with their power on Afghans.

Talibans tyrannical rule is show caused by Nabis character, a servant who lives with his employees in the novel. He gives a direct account of an aged man who is being terrorized by the terrors of terrorists at his home. Kabul was already devastated during the civil war but it was worsened after Talibans invasion, particularly for women.

Abdul Majeed Dar asserts that Hosseinis narratives “are written against a history that has not been told in fiction before” delineating the cultural richness and splendor of a country heading towards destructing.

CONCLUSION

Through his novels Hosseinis believes that future works of fiction on Afghanistan will be free from the themes of war and depression he hopefully indicates coming peace to his country in fictional way.

Rebeca Stuhr writes of Hosseinis work, “He blend aspects of Afghanistan’s history, a cultural and everyday life into the action of his tales”. Through the narratives of his characters there is exposition of Kabul which was actually lavished with exotic beauty, culture and ethnic tradition.

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