

ANXIETY AND GUILT IN KHALED HOSSEINIS SELECTED NOVELS

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Abstract

Afghan American Literature is a significant contribution made by its Afghan American writers. The author Khaled Hosseini born in Afghanistan and settled in American. After settled in America, he started publishing various novels. His writings are excellent and so he called as the Afghan American writer. He is man with a mission, to redeem his country of all its ills, to make it beautiful. He does this by writing beautiful novels with breathtaking canvas, spreading across Afghanistan and the Afghan people, Afghan women, children and men, their pain and the problems that are making their lives hell highlighting their sufferings, stories of his countrymen and women, those who are caught in the web of religion, politics and terrorism. Afghanistan, the native country of Khaled Hosseini and where his two novels are set has a tumultuous history. *The Kite Runner* is the story of brotherhood relationship. *The Thousand Splendid Suns* is the story of sisterhood relationship. Anxiety and Guilt is the similar themes in both of the novels.

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Anxiety and guilt are normal human emotions. Anxiety is the anticipation of feeling guilty afterwards help to protect us from regrettable decisions. However, feelings of anxiety and guilt are not always rational or helpful and the two emotions are often connected or cyclical. Some people experience these emotions to a degree that interferes with their daily lives. A mental health professional can make a diagnosis and recommend a course of treatment.

In the novel *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini describes the lives of afghans. He mainly concentrate on the Superior Pashtans who always dominates Hazaras and considered them as the slaves. Through the main characters Amir and Hassan he clearly describes the condition of Afghans. Amir is the main character because of his dominant appearance from the beginning to the end of the story by showing his suffering towards Anxiety and Guilt, he experienced about.

Amir lacks in courage when facing a dangerous or unpleasant situation. It is described by baba's dialogue with Rahim Khan. Baba told Rahim Khan that Amir never fought back to the boys in their neighbourhood who tried to annoy him. Since, Amir just dropped his head. Yet there is no person who likes to be annoyed by another people. Amir knew Hassan was trapped by

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Assef and his gang in an alley. The only thing Amir could do was seeing Hassan behind one part of the alley. Yet he knew that Hassan needed his help. Amir's cowardliness can be seen in this situation.

I watched Hassan get raped, I said to no one. Baba stirred in his sleep. Kaka Howayoun grunted. A part of me was hoping someone would wake up and hear, so I wouldn't have to live with this lie anymore. But no one woke up and in the silence that followed, I understood the nature of my new curse: I was going to get away with it. (*The Kite Runner* p.76)

Amir's general description as a coward person also appears, after a betrayal he did towards Hassan. Amir could not live happily since a feeling of guilt and shame always disturbed him. Amir's reaction such does not look at those words, yet the words Amir carved on the pomegranate tree represents Amir and Hassan's close friendship. It shows Amir's effort to avoid an unpleasant view he saw. Amir's lack of courage make him to recognize how close his friendship with Hassan and how shameful he is, toward himself by betraying his loyal friend and servant. "I'd carved on the tree trunk with Ali's kitchen knife, Amir and Hassan: The Sultan of Kabul... I couldn't stand looking at them now." (Bloom p.80)

Hearing from Rahim Khan that Hassan was Amir's half illegitimate brother, makes Amir shows his anxiety that indicates him as an anxious person. In this situation Amir's worry and uncomfortable feeling can be seen. Amir thinks whether he is the cause of Hassan's death or not. The dilemma Amir got by thinking whether he can be said as the cause of Hassan's death. But he thought of safeguard his son Sohrab in the hands of Assef. So that, a feeling of a burned face Amir get, can be seen as a big uncomfortable feeling that appears within Amir himself which Amir tries to handle. When he found Sohrab did suicide trial.

Amir was really shocked. He fell on his own knees and screamed, To save the life of Sohrab. Amir's act of falling down on his knees and screaming, shows that Amir worry and uncomfortable feeling toward what he sees on that time. "Sohrab!.. I knocked on the bathroom door, I pushed the door open... suddenly. I was on my knees, screaming." (*The Kite Runner* p.252)

Atlast, He finds Redemption by safeguarding the life of Sohrab. And he took him to America. Khaled Hosseini clearly uses prejudice as a tool to tell the story of Anxiety and Guilt through the novel *The Kite Runner*

In the novel, *The Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini portrays the lives of Mariam and Laila, reality of women in Afghanistan. The protagonist and strong women of the novel; born a generation apart, both are brought together in war-torn Afghanistan due to unfortunate circumstances. Mariam is a young girl living alone with her unmarried woman in Herat. This status in Afghanistan and establishing a life long struggle with self-worth. Nana mother of Mariam, frequently refers to Mariam as a Harami, which Mariam learns, with age, is an unwanted thing.

Nana is arranged to marry a boy from Shindad, when she is fifteen. A week before the wedding date, she has a seizure which is described to be a 'Jinn', an evil spirit, where her suitor's family immediately cancelled the wedding. The suitor's family is a typical example of Afghanimen finding wives who are healthy for only fertility reasons. Such a circumstances forced her to take up housekeeping at Jalil's house to earn a living. This brief stint as a maid led to a secret courtship between Jalil and Nana out of which was Mariam born, the unwanted child.

Mariam is betrayed by her father, he forced her to marry Rasheed. Rasheed is also a widower, who is desperately in need of a soul mate.

So he marries Mariam. In the beginning he is very much affectionate to her. Rasheed gives her enough time and space to adjust to this sudden change in her life. She finds it easier to accept his presence in her life and lets him into her heart. When Mariam becomes pregnant, she starts to show more positive traits, as she feels as if being a mother will bring happiness into her life. Her dreams are shattered, however, when she has a miscarriage. “Traacherous daughters did not deserve to be mothers and this was just punishment.” (*The Thousand Splendid Suns* p.63)

This quote exemplifies the stress that still plagues Mariam, and that the containment of her new life has not given her an opportunity to grow away the grief and guilt she faces. After four years of marriage, Mariam officially becomes afraid of Rasheed and does not make attempts to stand up to him. Rasheed shows brutality and cruelty towards Mariam throughout the narration. Rasheed always proclaims his masculinity and control over her.

Laila is the second protagonist in the novel, *The Thousand Splendid Suns*. Laila’s attitude is very unique. Laila is also taught about life and common matters by her parents. As the war progresses the whole Afghan is destroyed. Laila loses her parents, her home, her belongings and moreover she is completely wounded. Rasheed and Mariam take control of her needs and treats her. But Rasheed’s intentions are to acquire Laila and in order to do so he employs foul play. Laila’s high hopes for the future are trampled when she enters the threshold of Rasheed’s house, yet she is determined and hopes to escape and transfers her will to fight to Mariam.

Together they endure and even try toward off the physical and emotional abuses of Rasheed. Stuck in the same abusive marriage as Mariam, both are forced to unite to survive. Mariam becomes Aziza’s second mother and the bond gives them freedom from pain not only physically but emotionally by trusting each other. Mariam, who never shows any sign of rebellion against Rasheed and his barbarous beating, gained courage to fight back and ultimately kill Rasheed with the love and respect that she received from Laila and her children.

He’s going to kill her, she thought. He really means to. And Mariam could not, would not, allow that to happen. He’d taken so much from her in twenty seven years of marriage. She would not watch him take Laila too. (*The Thousand Splendid Suns* p.340)

In my research work, I have chosen the novels *The Kite Runner* and *The Thousand Splendid Suns* is a great, Complicated ,perfect novels. This novels explains the struggles and problems, difficulties and pains of the Afghan Americans. But it mainly focuses on the betrayal which is the main cause of psychological problem. For research scoping future. The Researchers can use their own perspective to speak against the society and violence, slavery, gender and racial discrimination. This novel gives the clear idea to overcome the male domination and control.

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