

Role of Religion and Partition in Khuswant Singh's Novel Train to Pakistan

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Abstract

Train to Pakistan is a novel written by famous Indian Writer Khushwant Singh speaks about the partition during the Independence of India in 1947. Dividing sub-continent along the sectarian line. The northern part of India predominantly Muslim people become republic of Pakistan because of the partition. Brotherhood between Indians and Muslims were stated to destroy. Many Muslims people went side of Pakistan only few people of Muslims are stay holed India. Many people were killed during the Partition both a side due to the religious problem. Hindus are became more strongest religion in India during the Independence. India is a county became county of Hindu. Economically, land scope, and population in these Hindus are became more powerful then Muslim. 15 million people were displaced their home, government rules and government sector were changed. Hindus and Muslims were living together since long but they filed in inculcate the feelings emotions and love with in a single night neighbor are changed into neighbor county peoples this makes the black day to both a religions people. In India many writes were speaks about this incident eg. *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie, *Tamas* by Bhisham Sahani, *Shadow Lines* by Amitav Ghosh, *Ice Candy Man* by Bapsi Sidhwaect...

Keywords: Train, Theme, partition, Religion, India and Pakistan.

About the Author

Khushwant Singh, born on 2nd February 1915 and died in 20th March 2014. He was an Indian author, lawyer, diplomat, journalist and politician. His experience in the 1947 Partition of India stimulate him to write *Train to Pakistan* in 1956. Film adaptation in 1998 which became his most well-known novel.

Education and Career: Born in Punjab, educated in Modern School, New Delhi, St. Stephen's College, and graduated from Government College, Lahore. He studied at King's College London and was awarded an LL'B. from University of London. He was called to the bar at the London Inner Temple. After working as a lawyer in Lahore High Court for eight years, he joined in the Indian Foreign Service upon the Independence of India from British Empire in 1947. He was appointed as a journalist in the All India Radio in 1951, and then moved to the Department of Mass Communications of UNESCO at Paris in 1956. These last two careers inspire him to pursue a literary career. He was best known for his acute secularism, humor, sarcasm and an abiding love of poetry in his literary career.

He serves as the editor of several literary and news magazines and also two newspapers, through the 1970s and 1980s. Between 1980

and 1986 he serves as Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha, the Parliament of India. Khushwant Singh was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1974. He returned the award in 1984 in protest against Operation Blue Star in which the Indian Army raided Amritsar. Last in 2007, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award in India.

Train to Pakistan also have a title as “Mano Majra” it is a imaginary place used by the writer kushwant Singh. Like our very famous Indian novelist R.K. Narayan’s imaginary town “Malgudi and British great and foremost novelist Thomas Hardy’s fictional town Wessex. Writer gives as a detailed image of the love and affection of Hindu, Sikhs and Muslims who were lived together for past hundreds of year. Mano Majra is a town were these three religious peoples were livings with good relationship. The partition of Indian and Pakistan makes a great trouble between these religious people. Unfortunate and bloody religious clashed created the civil war between peoples. Many rapes , murder, injustices laws were get raised more during partition period. This novel discuss the Tragic tale, events in-between the religious. 15 millions of peoples were died in both the side of Hindu and Muslim during the partition. In this story only one Hindu family lives in the village of Mano Majara. Sikhs and Muslim treated that family very equal. In 1947 India got Independence before British giving the Independence they made an agreement which speaks about the partition of two religious and two country Indian and Pakistan. After this partition over a night everything were changed. “even knows that the British have left the country is divided into two parts India and Pakistan”.

In this novel train is the main symbol used by the writer. The first and happiest sign that is changing in the Mano Majra is the train incident. All people enjoys by seeing the train according to then this train is a clock which keeps their bond more and more strong day by day and year by year. This is disrupts the sense of the normalcy in village. The second arrival of the train is more and more darkest and unseen able sign because one day train carries full of death bodies. This fantasy train is changed as a host train after the arrival of death bodies. Many peoples were died in the train because of the fight between the two religious people. With in a single night everything’s were came to an end brotherly hood changed as a foes neighbor house became a border line. It created the tragic historical event in 1947 Indian history.

Writer says, that he had believed that we are all Indians here many peace loving nonviolent and affectionate were concerned with our matters of the spirit in rest of the world was involved in the pursuit of the material things. 1947 year is compared to the Autumn season because it makes a dry and hot among the religious people. This novel speaks about the more component and more relevant idea. Khushwant Singh recreated a tiny village in India state of Punjab countryside and its people in that fateful summer and autumn when the flood of refugees and the inter communal bloodletting from Bengal to North part of West Frontier at least touches them to the bond. Many common people and rural people were lived Muslims and Hindus are equal in the country. Many Muslim people were lived in the village of Mano Majra those Muslim families were shifted to Pakistan unwillingly. Muslim families and neighbors do not had a chance to say Good bye.

Conclusion

Khushwant Singh points out the vivid image of the separation of three religion between Hindu ,Muslim and Sikhs in the Autumn of 1947. This novel short portrays the issues behind the Independence of India and Pakistan and its Partition is using it as to explore the other problem which then emerge as the large image of the devastation and bloody birth of nation. And migration of Muslim to Pakistan. This novel Train to Pakistan is the speaking picture of partition of India and Pakistan.

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