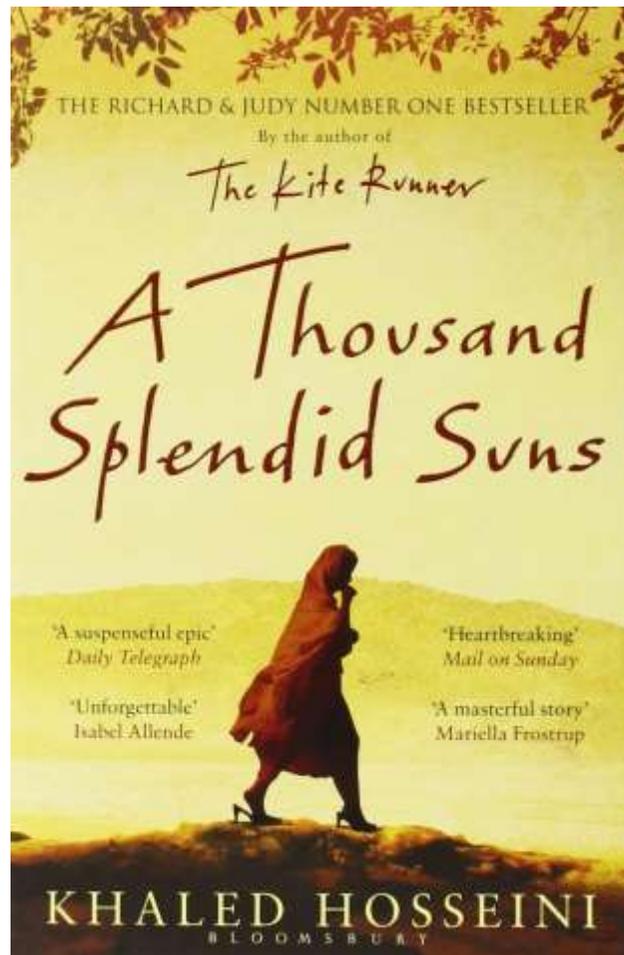


A Study on Human Relations in the Novels of Khaled Hosseini and Atiq Rahimi

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Abstract

As the purpose of literature is mirroring human life and experience, authors try their level best in creating convincing and relatable characters with the readers. As realism dominates literature, modern literature too shows the multiplicity of human

characters. The present study highlights the human relations in the novels of Khaled Hosseini and Atiq Rahimi.

Longing To Be Happy with Kith and Kin

All species are given certain life skills to flourish on earth. Human beings are very much in need of interpersonal skills to have happy and content life on earth. When they lack those skills they find vacuum in their life. As Mother Teresa says, “We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our homes to remedy this kind of poverty”.

The longing to be happy with one’s own kith and kin is the crux of the novels of Hosseini and Rahimi. Being Afghan born diaspora writers they have in their novels themes of diaspora literature. In all circumstances the characters don’t lose their faith on love and humanity. That adds beauty to the novels.

Self-reliant and Open-minded Characters

The novelists never fail to give hope to their characters as hope is the anchor of human life. The characters find rejuvenation in other human beings. Most of the characters are self-reliant and open-minded.

Man-Nature Relationship

Human beings have close association with animate and inanimate objects of earth. Man-nature relationship is one of the open topics of literature for discussion. Human beings cherish trust relationships. Even in blood relationships there should be some level of trust on each other.

Celebrate Friendship

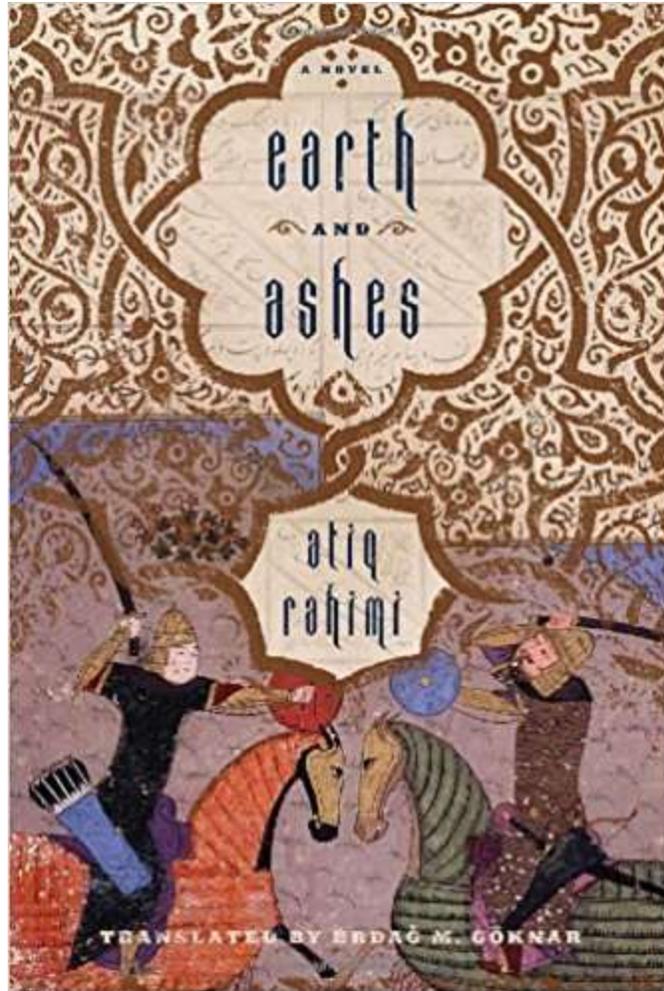
Hosseini has devoted one whole novel to celebrate friendship. Friends can belong to different class, status and race. Trust, mutual understanding, care and sacrifice makes the friendship tree grows stronger. People get friends at whatever age group they belong to. But childhood friends are sweeter. *The Kite Runner* portrays the friendship of different generations. The first generation friendship is between Baba and Ali. Baba hates religion but Ali is very religious. Difference of opinion doesn't affect the friendship which has acceptance stronger than anything else. The second generation friendship is between Amir and Hassan. They both belong to different ethnic groups - Amir is a Pashtun and Hassan is a Hazara. Amir is timid and Hassan is brave and quick. Though the character difference makes Amir feel insecure, Hassan is very loyal to him and even ready to go to any extent to prove his loyalty to him.

Parents-Children Relationship

Hosseini's next novel is about parents-children relationship. Mother-daughter, Father-daughter, Mother-son and Father-son are the angles in which parents-children relationship is studied over ages. Parents teach children about values. But in the course of teaching values they allot certain values to boy-children and some other values to girl-children. They want their children to understand how tough human life is. In *A Thousand Splendid Suns* the mother tells the daughter, "Learn this now and learn it well, my daughter: Like a compass needle that points north, a man's accusing finger always finds a woman. Always. You remember that." (6)

Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* is about brother-sister relationship. In this regard he is often compared to Arundhati Roy but his treatment of the subject is very realistic. Brothers and sisters are very dependent on each other in their childhood but in later ages they concentrate on each of their's family.

Rahimi's *Earth and Ashes*



Rahimi's first novel *Earth and Ashes* is about grandfather-grandson relationship. Though the grandson is an orphan and deaf, the grandfather didn't desert him. He is very patient with his grandson. Usually grandfathers say stories to their grandchildren. But in this case the grandson asks only one question which is very rhetoric—"Did the war make all people dumb?" But really the bomb made his grandson deaf.

A Thousand Rooms of Dream and Fear

Rahimi's next novel *A Thousand Rooms of Dream and Fear* is about relationship between strangers. A college boy is beaten by Taliban and thrown in the gutter. A woman finds him and treats him in her home. He has short-term memory loss and she helps him

to find his identity and also helps him to escape to Pakistan. The sympathy and empathy one feel for each other is what makes the earth a paradise.

The Patience Stone

Rahimi's *The Patience Stone* is about man-woman relationship. Though the husband is in coma the wife didn't desert him. At first the novelist portrays the woman as a loyal wife. But later once she understood her husband was not going to get cured she reveals her dark secrets as her disloyalty to her husband because he is impotent.

A Curse on Dostoevsky

Rahimi's *A Curse on Dostoevsky* is about teacher-student relationship. After graduation the student is thrown to the material world and the students find money speaks louder than ideals taught by teachers. A literature scholar goes to police station, court and mosque etc. but everywhere he finds no ideals of his prescribed textbooks. Even Russian soldiers humiliated him though he was a scholar on famous Russian writer Dostoevsky. In the capitalistic world he finds how to survive under employers is what the skill the universities should teach and not only to be a saintly human being.

Eye Opener on Human Relations

Thus the novels of Hosseini and Rahimi are eye opener on human relations on different spheres as man-man relationship, woman-woman relationship and man-woman relationship. How greed, doubts, anger and lust affect human relations is what taught through moral stories and fables. But being coming of age writers Hosseini and Rahimi portray external chaos like war and instable politics too affect human relations and finally love only conquers.

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