

PSYCHOLOGICAL UPHEAVAL: LEADING TO SEARCH FOR AN ALTERNATIVE IDENTITY

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Abstract:

The tragedy associated with partition has given birth to fictional explorations with an attempt to talk about the inner turmoil and social complexes that ruled the subcontinent. The partition fiction records the gruesome human disaster in the early years of partition. The paper would talk about the psychological displacement caused due to large scale migration. The People of that area were not able to understand the Partition violence at first and later they were not able to identify their own self due to the large scale of violence that took place at that point of time. The trauma and violence of the Partition led them to bear a new identity which was further given voice after the displacement took place. We can say that Partition not only created a huge gap in the minds of the people of that era but also made them suffer huge psychological displacement which further made them bear a new identity.

Keywords: *Migration, violence, identity crisis, self-recognition, psychological displacement.*

The creation of India and Pakistan in 1947 came at a huge price. There was a lot of communal violence between Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus which led to the largest transfer of population from one place to the other. The tragedy attached to it has given rise to literary explorations with an agenda to define the inner war and social problems that covered the subcontinent. The vast texts of partition account the huge human disaster in the early phase of partition. The lifelong suffering and confusion of the people of the subcontinent has been a favorite issue of the writers. Toba Tek Singh, Basti and East-West are solid examples that attempt to give us a sight into the public chaos, communal hatred, extreme disintegration and large scale sectarian violence. The novels have received worldwide acceptance and recognition for presenting faithful representation of self hatred, mistrust and enormous upheavals coming together in the result of partition. Both the writers talk about the same points of partition and post partition disturbances in their novels; they hold their own self mirrors to show the physical tortures and psychological outbursts which became quite notable at that point of time. The novelists have given human outlook which bring to the course of event a sense of reality, horror and believability. Literature truly talks about the suffering of the innocent, whose pain is more notable and a carrier of pure reconciliation than political coin of action. The transfer of the huge mass surrounding the Partition of India gave rise to at least ten million refugees and called for at least one million deaths. The sources of property loss were not known and it could not talk about the upheaval that took place. The creation of India and Pakistan gave rise to huge scale destruction which further gave birth to India and Pakistan and also talked about their lifelong sufferings in the best possible way.

The period talked about writers like Sadat Hassan Manto, Intizar Hussain and Sunil Gangopadhyay who not only talked about violence that occurred during Partition but also noted the life-long suffering of the people of that era to mark the gruesome encounters that took place at that point of time. Partition framed a way for the people of those eras to either recognize themselves as the mob of Hindustan or Pakistan which also led to the further recognition of terming themselves as "Hindustanis" and "Pakistanis". The readers can sense the protagonists of all these eminent works go through a major form of transformation the

moment they decide to recognize their own countries and stand for its glory. The people of that era believed in the pangs of Partition and as such wanted to believe in a world where they will seek a future which will not have any existence of their old self. They further carried the sense of grief and loss to their new country. We can sense that people talk about the glory of the Partition War but we fail to understand the pain that these people underwent after the Partition as they crave for the essence of their motherland. The Partition narratives eventually talk about the history that the people cherish. They also talk about the courage shown by the people of the nations to claim their independent states. In this process, we also fail to recognize the major transformation that all these characters underwent after the upheaval takes place and they are shown ways to their respective lands. Partition Literature deals with the writers narrating about the lifelong sufferings of innocent woman and children which includes rapes, mass killing, tortures, and abduction to bring the reader's mind to the fact that they were the ones to go through the utmost partition violence.

We can sense that Sadat Hassan Manto talks about the audience's state of mind when the "inmates of a lunatic asylum" were to be transferred to their respective lands. The inmates fail to understand as to why they are being transferred to some other nation, the fact that they are a part of India does not leave their mind till the very end of the novel and as such they look confused and also develop bitter hatred towards their own nation and country people. The patients look quite upset as we see that one lunatic claim, "I want to live neither in Hindustan nor in Pakistan, I will live on this tree". This shows the unrest that strikes the minds of these people who claim to belong to their motherland. When we see the characters of Toba Tek Singh we find that he basically talks about the position of men in the context of Partition and also describes their discomfort. Their rights are brutally snatched away from them without their consent. The story further gets its voice when we see the main protagonist of the novel Bishan Singh who went mad at the day of the exchange of the lunatics as we see that the moment his turn comes he looks for Toba Tek Singh but eventually lands up in a "no-man's land" in a flat face position. The land is termed as such because it neither belonged to the Hindus nor the Muslims. The respect that a lunatic developed for his country goes unnoticed by the people of that era. We see that with the normal people, the ones who are termed as lunatics served as a prey to the pangs of Partition. Sadat Hassan Manto is a brilliant writer who very beautifully projects the love of a countryman for his land and the respect that he bears for his Country. The sufferings of these lunatics are not recorded, their new identities were not welcomed by them instead they chose to deliver themselves to a plot where they can term themselves as orphans, who does not have any identity.

Basti by Intizar Hussain is another masterpiece which talks about the rights of men. Basti means "settlement" and the story revolves round the main protagonist of the play named Zakir who further talks about lost love, disillusionment, tradition and family. Zakir is seen to settle down in Lahore as he talks about the future of the city. He is seen to talk a lot about his past city Rupnagar. We see Zakir as a young boy with an ideal childhood in the streets of peaceful town of Hindus and Muslims of India. Zakir's life transforms when his family moved to Pakistan. Not only we see the young boy struggling with his daily life in the new country but we also witness the uneasy and distressed adulthood of the same. It also plays an active part in the short war of 1971 accompanied by the street protests. Zakir is seen to talk about his love life many times when he wishes to be with her and remarks about the old days. We see the other characters of the novel equally participating in the emotional turmoil that is taking place in the same city when the locals of the city are seen to exchange a few words like "We are unlucky people" while the other one claims "Was it good that Pakistan was created?". We also see the young boys talk about their country as Afzal along with Zakir wants to decorate their new country with rose gardens and mango orchards but Zakir clears the air when he finally states NO to the question asked by his friend "Can't we stop the Wars?". Basti is another example where Hussain talks about the unsatisfactory life accompanied by pain and distress that ran across the nation after Partition. We see the writers not only talk about their ways of understanding the pains of Partition but we also see them narrate the words of all the eminent people who couldn't take the pangs of such an phenomenon. In other words we can sense that much of the population after the partition

was highly offended by the decision taken by the higher authorities of creating an independent India and Pakistan and as such all the Protagonists of these brilliant works are seen to settle down for their forced identity which was not cherished by them. The urge to get a glimpse of their own land is a brilliantly given voice by all the writers of the Partition era.

East-West is a Bengali novel written during the time of Partition and it aims to look after the life of the civilians after the Partition. We see that it affected not only the people of those respective areas but also created a lot of problem to the different kinds of language generated at that point of time. The novel aims to talk about the different aspect of Partition on The People of “East” Pakistan. The country was divided according to its religious priority which created a major division of the Bengali culture and language. The “cultural” identity of this race was taken from them especially in East Bengal where the “subjective inclination for a unified Bengali Culture” remained and yet the propagators talked “such talk was out of place in East Pakistan”. East West talks about the large scale migration of the Bengali families who were not only thrown out of their lands but also the “landed gentry” were impoverished. The concept of home becomes very predominant throughout the novel and especially gets its form by the introduction of the refugees from the “East-Bengal”. The central character of the novel Pratap sees his sister's house taken over by a band of refugees, and his brother in law is also seen to die in the scuffle that led to that horrific event. He feels blocked as he sees that he cannot give any kind of justice to this massacre that happened before him. He claims that he is a refugee himself and as such there is no point of Protests. The theme of dispossession, impoverishment and upheaval becomes the major theme as the story progresses.

Pratap is also seen to suffer in his personal life when we see him settling down for chicken instead of mutton to feed his kids, we also see him suffer a lot as he faces an economic sanction which makes him buy “cheap” fish from the market in order to run his family. He stands as an example for all the other migrants who were highly dissatisfied with their lives and as such wished for a settlement where they can go back to their own land and get back their old life of satisfaction and contentment. We are introduced to the next character of the novel named Biswanath who never thought of money and claimed that money should only be thought of in dire need, is seen to strive hard for it as he comes down to a level where he looks for his day-to-day livelihood. Pratap is the main character who represents the perfect image of a well-cultured Bengali man but his class-consciousness kills him throughout the novel as he is seen to settle down for an ordinary life beyond his imaginations. Through the characters of Sunil Gangopadhyay we can sense a high source of unsatisfactory life led by these men. They cherish for their old life which used to be full of comfort and satisfaction. The novel also talks about friendship and we also see the characters undergo a sense of loneliness as they miss their old friends. The novel is a clear representation of such sentiments which further talks about all the details related to the aftermaths of Partition.

We can term all these texts as a source or account of valid information shared with the reader's which talks about the different kinds of reactions that these natives faced after they underwent the horror of Partition. Partition Literature clearly portrays the different kinds of problems these people suffered; the upheaval followed by the trauma thus leading the protagonists of the novels bear an identity which is totally new to them. Partition Literature portrays women to have suffered a lot of trauma and violence but the novels I talk about declares the fact that the rights of men were taken away from them. When they wanted to have a happy life with all the securities, we see that they suffer an absolute defeat where they do not believe in their existence and company. The right to happy life was brutally snatched away from these men and as such we see them to settle down for an alternative which makes them question their position as a man. The entire paper talks about these men striving to get their perfect life in the new land where they are left with their families. The writers of the Partition era shows us a series of events which makes us question humanity at first but also helps us to consider the position of men in the society where they are seen to strive for their rights to a happy life. People term woman and children as the worst sufferers of Partition, but we also see that not only men suffered when they saw their loved ones go through such a trauma but they were

highly dissatisfied with their lives as they were not given their rights to happiness and freedom after the Partition of 1947.

In these works we can sense that large scale dissatisfaction is witnessed and it was also important for all the characters to understand the importance of a good life. All their new rights started to fade away as they were under the impression of going back to their own land to live a better life and to understand the importance of such a life where they have a mental satisfaction and urge to carry on their life with utmost dignity. The past occurrences had given them enough challenges in the present to overcome and also we can feel the psychological disturbances that these people were still undergoing to add to their discomfort by not letting them enjoy their stay in their new land. Most of the authors had a very simple outlook at the time of Partition regarding the sufferings that these people underwent and it was further justified when they understood as to how justice had been served to them by transferring them to their new lands. The People were not aware of their inner turmoil and also the pain that could never leave them to enjoy a life without the pangs of Partition. We can conclude by saying that as a result of Partition we can see that not only people underwent a psychological upheaval but the large scale migration also affected them in the best possible way by questioning their identity.

Thus we can sense that the only way we can quantify the tragedy associated with Partition is through the psychological displacement of the people where they cling to their new identity which is forced on them.

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