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HUMAN BONDING IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S THE KITE RUNNER

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Abstract

Khaled Hosseini is a writer and physician of Afghan ancestry. Khaled Hosseini, an Afghan-American author, has received widespread recognition for his three works - *The Kite Runner*(2003), *A Thousand Splendid Suns*(2007), and *The Mountains Echoed*(2013). Hosseini emerged as a new writer, focusing on the lives and culture of the Afghan people. His books based on his early recollections of Afghanistan. He has addressed the hard realities of modern life in his books. Friendship, Love, marriage, sacrifice, suppression, loyalty, guilty are some of the common themes in his novels. His use of imagery creates a sense of realism. Human bonding is a concept that is exposed in all the fiction as a core element.

Keywords: Friendship, guilty, Bond of father and son, loyalty.

Khaled Hosseini, an Afghan-American author, cleverly elaborates human bonding in his novels. Hosseini refers to his debut novel *The Kite Runner*, as a twisted story of friendship. His three books demonstrate how European thought and the American way of life have affected the Afghan diaspora and how Afghans are attempting to emulate them. *The Kite Runner* is entirely dedicated to the theme of friendship and its associated guilt, betrayal, conflict, and pain. This book is based on the lives of two Afghan boys Amir and Hassan, who lived in Kabul. Hosseini captures the two deep bonds between the two boys. It also focuses on Amir's remorse throughout his life for his act of treachery. This piece not only emphasizes Amir and Hassan's relationship, but also the characters' bond with the protagonist. The latter half of the novel centers on

Amir's bond with Sohrab and his attempt to rescue Sohrab from the Taliban group. Through his work, he represents the customs, norms, traditions, and culture of his homeland.

Hosseini skillfully conveys the hardships, destruction, and cruelty of Taliban control in the novel's background. *The Kite Runner* is split into three major parts, the initial of which is set in Kabul. This section details the childhood of Amir from the early to mid-1970s. This part also sees the development of Amir's connection with Hassan. The second half starts in 1981, when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, forcing Amir and his father to flee to California as members of the immigrant Afghan community. This section ends with Amir and Soraya's marriage and the death of Amir's father in the year 1989. The last part concludes in 2001,

when Amir returns to Afghanistan through Pakistan. Rahim Khan, Amir's tutor and close friend of his father, contacts Amir and asks him to return to Afghanistan.

Khaled Hosseini's work depicts the war scenario in Afghan culture and the resulting impact on human interactions. He had elaborated on the Afghan war and its effect on the Afghan People and society. All of Hosseini's books are set against a backdrop of political insecurity and instability. Rebecca Stuhr makes the following observation when studying Khaled Hosseini's books in terms of conflict:

The books of Hosseini reflect a wide range of significant contemporary and current events. The wars in Afghanistan are certainly all part of both novels in *The Kite Runner*, Hosseini offers western readers with a history of the thirty years of conflict and instability in the nation and gives an intimate insight into the culture and people of Afghanistan. (65-66)

The novel is a kind of Bildungsroman in which there is development of Amir's character and his bond with other characters in the novel. The book is filled with many types of connections that emerge between different characters like Amir and Hassan, Baba and Amir, Baba and Hassan and between other people. All these connections play a dominating and important part in the course of the book.

Baba, a rich businessman is the father of Amir and Hassan. He distrusts religious fanaticism but follows his own moral code and acts with confidence and courage. Baba's bond with Hassan is so pure. Throughout his life, he hides the truth that Hassan is his own son since he was born to a Hazara lady with whom he had an illegal affair. Baba cannot love Hassan openly; he partly separates himself from Amir yet he loves him completely. Ali is the servant at Baba's home and an acting father to Hassan. He works unrelentingly as Baba's servant and is renowned for his humility more than anything else. He loves Hassan relentlessly yet he never displays his feelings for Hassan in public. Hassan is Amir's closest buddy as well as his half-brother. In the course of time, Baba's relationship with Hassan develops into

parental duty; he is fully conscious of his role and never forgets the birthday of his illegitimate son.

Baba's bond with Amir portrayed as responsible father to a son. Amir adored his father, but was envious of Baba Jan's devotion for the servant boy. Baba Jan was sceptical of Amir's interest in poetry and literature and wished for him to be as valiant and genuine as Hassan. The character of Baba fights with his personality throughout the book. He attempts to do whatever appears proper in order to negate and redeem his everlasting guilt, and in exchange for each good action, he strives to stay as optimistic in the eyes of his readers as possible. Baba can be described as the novel's rebellious protagonist, fighting against societal stereotypes. Baba says these words "The boy who does not stand for himself becomes a man who cannot stand for anything." to Rahim Khan while he talking about Amir.

Amir and Hassan are similar in three ways: family, history, preference, and difficult issue. Amir and Hassan have a same familial history. They have the same preferences: they like climbing poplar trees and disturb their neighbors, and they enjoy playing little children's activities together, such as kite flying and reading tales. Amir and Hassan are likewise dealing with a difficult situation. Amir struggles to win his father's affection and feels remorse over his mother's death. While Hassan was never introduced to his mother and is also a hazara, he is often overlooked by others. Amir admires Hassan, even though he is unable to express it at times. Hassan also admires Amir for his loyalty and willingness to assist him at any moment. The last element affecting Amir and Hassan's relationship is their good qualities. Amir's good characteristics are intelligence and sensitivity. Amir is also an exceptional storyteller, progressing from wannabe author to published novelist, While Hassan's favorable characteristics include being loyal, forgiving and good-natured.

Amir and Hassan's bond shows the intense friendship in the novel. "The Kite Runner," according to the author, is a celebration of friendship that transcends race, social position, age, religion, and personal interests to bring people together.

Throughout the book, Hassan shows his devotion for Amir and protects Amir anytime he is assaulted by anybody. Hassan entertains him and tells him tales, and as a servant, he is very obedient, meticulously obeying instructions. Amir adores Hassan but avoids his presence in order to satisfy other Pashtun guys who punch him in the ribs for being friends with an outcast. Amir once inquired of Hassan as to whether he would be willing to eat sand for his friend, to which Hassan said, "If you asked, I'd do it." He frequently demonstrated his devotion towards Amir. Hassan protected Amir from local youngsters' taunts and threats, brandishing a slingshot at one of them for being impolite to Amir. On his part, Amir expresses gratitude to Hassan but with an air of pride and begins to view Hassan as a competitor. He is disgusted by Baba Jan's preference and resolves to win a kite flying tournament in order to earn his respect. For the two friends, this rivalry becomes a battleground of devotion and treachery. As Amir's kite flies into the bright sky, Hassan sprints to retrieve his master's final broken kite. He departs to recover the fallen kite and he said " For You A Thousand Times Over"(182). He gets apprehended in one of the alleyways by the same gang of mischievous youngsters. Assef, a pashtun boy misbehaves with Hassan. Amir, hiding behind a wall, observes the whole incident but does not intervene to save his friend. This incident affects the boys.

When Amir discovers that Hassan is a brother, the bond of brotherhood grows stronger. Baba is also a cowardly parent who conceals the truth. He lacks the courage to demonstrate and acknowledge that he has another kid of the mother of a Hazara in the upper classes, the Pashtun, beside Amir. Amir's brotherhood is very close. Amir was taken aback when he discovered they were really brothers. He just knew it after many years of enduring adversity. Hassan was murdered because he tried to defend the house of Amir in Wazir Akbar Khan from the Taliban. Rahim Khan told Amir the story of Hassan when they reunited in Peshawar, Pakistan for the first time after Amir's immigrant years in America.

The story's central subject has developed into the bounds of kinship. The second brotherhood is represented by Amir's connection with Sohrab.

Sohrab is the nephew of Hassan and Amir. For the first time, Amir saw Sohrab, and his memories came straight to Hassan. There are parallels between Sohrab and Hassan in terms of gesture, activities and his preferred method. Both Hassan and Sohrab are true pioneers when it comes to slingshot play. Amir saw Hassan's form in Sohrab, as if they were twins. The similarity was striking. The strength of brotherhood makes this novel deserving of widespread acclaim from readers worldwide. How Amir's struggle to reclaim Sohrab from Assef, which culminated in a fight with Assef that resulted in numerous injuries, became the most efficacious drug for absolving himself of any guilt toward Hassan, his best friend and brother.

Hosseini emphasises the importance of friendship via the personalities of Amir and Hassan. Khaled Hosseini portrays different father-son relationships in *The Kite Runner* while addressing the topic of human connections. He portrays the love, stress, and difficulties that exist between dad and son in order to define the father's position in one's household. For instance, Baba's connection with Amir in the book is diametrically opposed to Hassan's bond with his son Sohrab. While the relationship between Baba and Amir is devoid of love and founded on indifference, the one between Hassan and Sohrab is brimming with affection and trust.

The book does an excellent job of dealing with the themes of friendship and devotion. The greatest illustration of this is the study and evaluation of Amir and Hassan's friendship. Both of them grew up under the same roof and were cared for by the same lady. Amir is approached and questioned many times during his youth about his relationship with Hassan, and he never responds positively. Hassan's life is ruined by Amir's betrayal, while Hassan's devotion stays steadfast throughout the book. Amir never misses a chance to atone for his sins and keeps this knowledge to himself until Rahim Khan informs him that there is a way to be good again. Amir realises that he is no longer a coward after rescuing Sohrab. He understands that his life's only purpose is to look after Sohrab. He owes Hassan for all he has done for him. The tale is centred on a variety of themes, including hypocrisy,

sacrifice, redemption, deceit, and sin. Additionally, it depicts a boy's journey away from his haunting upbringing while dealing with his own remorse and shame.

Hosseini's idea of human relationships portrays the characters' lives in Afghanistan and their bonding through times of conflict and oppression. We are all surrounded by many forms of connection in the world. Thus, the book is one of the means through which a person may disclose his or her life narrative, whether it is about friendship, hatred, love, loneliness, or pain. A novel is a kind of literary work that portrays human bond, whether it be about interpersonal relationships or else. The central theme of Hosseini's books is the bond that all people share. While we may live in distinct realms of life, our fundamental feelings are same. Everyone experiences love, hatred, and rage, and we all experience the ambivalence connected with that love. Apart from the bare needs, a person wants companionship with like-minded others. This is not just a social need or a dream of being alone, as the book implies; it is nearly spiritual in character.

Throughout the novel Hosseini clearly presents Amir's bond with the characters. The Present study is all about the Bond of father and son, bond of friendship and bond of brotherhood. Baba's bond with Amir and Hassan develops into parental duty. Considering all the facts mentioned above, the "friendship" in the novel directed at three ways: Baba and Hassan unrevealed friendship between the man who hated religion and the young boy being religious, Amir and Hassan true friendship between a Pashtun and a Hazara, Amir and Sohrab a suffered person who knows all the secrets and a mature child. Each character embodies a distinct tale of hardship, tenacity and persistence. He delves into the depths of the characters feelings for one another under difficult situations. Hosseini has woven all of the stories together in a beautiful and engrossing way. Rebecca stuhr writes of Hosseini's work, "He blends aspects of Afghanistan's history, culture and everyday life into the action of his tales."

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