

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY IN SALMAN RUSHDIE'S *MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN*

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ABSTRACT:

Midnight's Children is about India's change from British colonialism to Independence. It regards as an example of postcolonial literature and magical realism. The story is represented through several characters and it is preceded by real historical incidents as with historical fiction. In this novel, Rushdie symbolically represents the story with moral about the events in India both before and after the Independence and partition of India, especially the incidents happened during the midnight on 15 August 1947. Rushdie's works reflect his own experiences and through his works he shows the sufferings and difficulties of immigrants and how the immigrants search for their self development and how they felt strange experiences when they got new relations with land, family, community and nation during migration. Rushdie occupies a prestigious position as a migrant intellectual and the main characteristic feature of his writing is its self-consciousness with an analysis of the cultural locations from which it is written.

In the novel *Midnight's Children*, Rushdie presented the life and experiences of three generations of Sinai family, surviving in Srinagar, Amritsar, Agra, Bombay and Karachi. The central character, midnight child Saleem Sinai works at a pickle factory and describes the incidents and his experiences to his wife Padma. The description of the vital incidents like Quit India Movement, Cabinet Mission, Muslim League's activities, riots, Five Year plans, Pakistan war, liberation of Bangladesh and the sacred relic of Hazratbal Mosque shows the dynamic power of the protagonist and the novelist.

The novelist bravely declares that as far as autobiography can be taken into account, The novel portrays India with rise and fall, films, mythology, politics, religion, marriage, friendship, enmity and so on. India is represented in different situations and atmosphere from Kashmir to Bombay and Karachi to Dacca. Every aspect of the story is varied but the method continues perfect, thus proving the creative intelligence of Rushdie. The great variety of themes, descriptive manner and literary styles that have gone into the creation of *Midnight's Children*, and the elaboration of its proper arrangement, appear to resist any attempt at a complete evaluation of its structural pattern. Saleem Sinai was born at the precise hour of midnight on August 15, 1947 – when India gained its Independence. In this striking, imaginary

story, country and child experience the emotions of birth, the petulance of infancy, the emotional impact of adolescence, and the anomie of adulthood. In short, the country and the child underwent similar experiences.

Midnight's Children includes three parts. The first part deals with the incidents that happened in India from 1915 to 1947 are brilliantly related to each other, the Jallianwallah Bah Massacre, Muslim League and its communal practices, the position of the nationalist Muslims who rejected the notion of Pakistan, Quit India Movement, the arrival of Mount Batten, the separation of the nation and the subsequent revolts and the violence. Saleem simply creates the separating line among the old world and the new. Autobiography of Saleem is the story of children who are honoured to be both masters and sufferers of their time. His description is thus both a story of his own life and a reflection of the country. The first part of the novel starts with the economic difficulties faced by Ahmed Sinai's family. After some difficulties which caused great affliction, Ahmed Sinai's family emigrates to Pakistan with a view to settling in Karachi on a permanent basis. They become sufferers of 1965- war. All the national incidents of significance during this time of the countries of the post-colonial history are connected with Saleem Sinai. Saleem's description of the emergence of India since Independence is interrupted with many incidents which shook the country, while his manipulation of the history of Pakistan in complete with actions of political nature. Rushdie observed a decline in the post- Independent India, especially after the death of Nehru. Development of the country proceeded to fanaticism and affected the growth and the political climate with the disintegration of the myth of a country, Saleem was haunted by confusion and possession.

At the same time, the wealth of the protagonist resemble those of the post- Independent India. Rushdie creates contemporary incidents, politics and history into the important scope of the novel to bring out the important impact. The description in the third part of the novel becomes deviates slightly and the political satire is overwhelming. Saleem with his dream of preventing the country from its destiny is immersed in politics which is beyond him and leaves him powerless. The totalitarian reign between 1975 and 1977 was harmful to the country. India is rooted in the principles of a democratic secular nation. The faith of the country originated at the time of Independence were destroyed with the castration of the midnight's children by Indira Gandhi. The disappointed and powerless Saleem continues himself to the isolation of a pickle country and determines to protect his account of India's history for future generation before his death.

Saleem's development from extreme confidence to disappointment which resembles the voyage of Independence from a confident nation to a deseperating position, is a remark on the post-colonial history of the nation. The title *Midnight's Children* represents from the time of India's Independence on August 15, 1947, advocates both the assurance of a new future that thousands of children represented and disappointed of the post-Independence generation to accomplish that assurance and recognize their capability, the grand house of free India where all its children can live about which Nehru has announced in his speech at the significant time. The country freed children but also deceived the concept of a united and secular India with their chaos and inner conflict. Their story is in fact related to those broken assurances made to be broken. The other significant element of the book is its striking union of the realist's experience and imagination. At once, a festival and upset of India and its multiple culture, this significant novel continues to be a source of inspiration and a challenge to future novelists to excel its success.

Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* is a category of humorous epic genre, a type which is a blend of Homeric, mythic and tragic meaning. This novel circulates through six decades and nearly three generations of India's pre and post-Independence history. It is an epic in the connotation that it attempts to explain or include an Indian whose stories are uncountable to be contained. All through the book, one notices the novelist moving towards that association with powerful incidents and public lives. In this novel astonishing ends are involved in the beginning, and beginning in the ends. In every end is the beginning of a new story, the descriptive is spread and never concluding. In addition, this is an epic that cannot include all the untold stories that are remained to told. One notices the epic type becoming a method of freedom and the coming becoming distress to be exposed. There is the tragedy of Aadam Aziz illustrated in humour, mythic and so actual terms.

Thus, Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* is a satiric account on the vital political incidents that happened between 1947 and 1978. Like a historian, Rushdie records important historical incidents and like an artist, he reproduced history also. The description and the theme, both describing the personal and the untold story of the Indian subcontinent. *Midnight' Children* presents a real history of concurrent India in the matter of events. Rushdie has clearly concentrated on the space and time of the subcontinent of India from 1915 to 1977. There is a line in this novel thus, which describes how epic fictional tale, national incidents, family story, advertisements, film, famous songs, newspaper extracts imitation and rumour could all be drawn together in one comprehensive sweep that is humorous, historic and mythic at the same time. Last but not least, Salman Rushdie is considered as a glistening novelist with surprising creative and intellect resources, an expert of endless story teller. His *Midnight's Children* has become novel, with a great appeal to a scrutiny of history and an aesthetic story.

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