



Train to Pakistan (Khushwant Singh) - is the Projection of History & Community Depiction of Two countries

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Abstract :

Khushwant Singh is at his best in his novel, "Train to Pakistan." It is simply pristine in its beauty. The ending is bound to leave you in tears, showing the unity of Hindus and Muslims. This book is a poignant pointer towards the contemporary state of affairs. Nevertheless, it is a highly recommended saga on the ill fated vivisection of India and a heart-rending document of a gory time which makes it a enthralling read.

It captures the essence of Indian soil in an amazing way. It's quite surprising that what Mr Singh wrote during the partitioning years, is quite relevant even today. Cops were abusing their powers then and even now continue doing that. People followed religion blindly and still tend to do so. Nothing's changed much even with the advent of science and technology. The story of this book revolves around a village- Mano Majra, a borderly village between India and Pakistan. The beautiful description of the nature and the harmony with which Sikhs and the Muslims live makes it stand out from the other villages. However in the post-partition era, things start changing when Sikhs and Hindus from Pakistan are butchered and sent in trains to India.

Keywords: Life & Humanity, History, Sacrifice, Nationalism, partition, cultural conflict.

I. Introduction :

Train to Pakistan a wonderful novel which explains about History of India and Pakistan during 1947 I mean during the time of independence what are all the incidents happened and how those incidents culturally affected both the countries where people thought we can lead our life wonderfully and also we can settle in respective countries without any troubles. the novel is both intellectually as well as emotionally very important among all the novels written by Khushwant Singh during his time to the readers because individual problems of loyalty and responsibility Facing by the both Hindus and Muslims by Fundamentalist which totally disturbed the lifestyle of common people. this novel as written during 1956 and first published in the year of 1956 and 57 it widely accepted by all. this novel it also Given to various languages of India as well as European languages to reach maximum reader ships steady grown over the years regarding Indian Independence movement and its after mark consequences and its result with details and imaginary some explanation which give will give you the exact locations exact incidence which took place between the countries of India and Pakistan by the freedom fighters as well as non Freedom Fighters and also by the political leaders how they miss us the freedom movement I mean after independence incidents in both the countries.

II. Literature Reviews for Study and Analysis :

In India based on 1947 incidents which is very important in the history of freedom movement as well as Independence before independence and after independence in relation to various socio cultural as well as political issues many novels as well as writings how come up by various writers of India in different regional languages. I have gone through all those novels of repetitive to collect the data for literature review to learn about Khushwant Singh's train to Pakistan which is important novel of that period. Here I Likes the way it portrayed the partition scenarios . Novel Train to Pakistan is really a great book if the reader is interested in India's historical facts and people around 1947.

In my collection of data as well as the information to read about khushwant Singh's train to Pakistan Atmosphere of mistrust between communities post independence and the social behaviour of Indians in rural parts of India during the Raj is well depicted. A must read for readers interested in social behaviour of different communities in the independence era.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES ADOPTED:

Various research methodology which are being observed to study about trying to Pakistan and also to analyse the history how it is depicted in this novel as well as human personality of both the communities of Pakistan as well as India I tried to explain in different perspectives analysing human personality connecting to the history of 1947 post independence as well as pre Independence incidents which played in connection to cultural background of both the regions:

1. Studied novel with comparison of the time other novels
2. History of 1947 detail analysis
3. pre and post independent India and Pakistan
4. Cultural conflicts and social impact on both the countries
5. analysis of damage of social life due to the miss trust between the community
6. Was it necessary the partition of India
7. What roll partition of India played by the British
8. critical review of partition of India by the British to India and Pakistan

IV. Train to Pakistan (History and Human Life):

It is a short novel set in an imaginary village in Punjab, Mano Majra that is caught unaware in the horrors of partition. In a town that is predominantly Sikh with a small Muslim minority that have lived together peacefully for generations, hated is infused with the abrupt arrival of a train full of corpses. This leaves people seeking vengeance, and the minority are forced to flee for their lives.

The unrest of partition follows close to India attaining freedom. While the villagers are still digesting the news that the English are leaving, they are confronted with a strange concept of a new country for the Muslims. This is so foreign to the Muslims themselves, as the village is their only concept of home. The town is intimately connected to the railways even though trains don't stop there. A disrupted train schedule puts everything out of order as the clockwork passage of trains is used to tell time. The unexpected stoppage of a train from Pakistan, loaded with victims of a brutal massacre changes the quaint town completely. The atmosphere is heavy with suspicion and people who have lost no one are keen to settle scores on behalf of their slain religious brethren.

Train to Pakistan requires the reader to have a super background of Pre-partition history of sub-continent, the cultural influences of castes living in India over each other, their social interactions and the imperialism of whites on Bharat. This will create an ultimate resolution to commit words for this script, either saying something for this book would be blasphemy. **Train to Pakistan** is slow in the beginning but picks up gradually as the events unfold. The Last is the best part of the book because, when I end of my reading, I was in tears. I am not sure whether other readers will get the same feelings or not, but I am sure it will leave them unsettled and melancholy.

The simplicity of the plot and the characters is the book's another positive in addition to the heart-rending end. Here, I liked the way the book was able to take me back in time and help me visualize Mano Majra and its people. The beautiful description of life in a village is also worth a mention.

V. Analysis to Project the reality :

The story is set in Mano Majra, a sleepy little village, situated on the border of India and the newly created Pakistan. The village has been a place of peaceful co-existence for Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims since the past few generations. Few people know about the partition and fewer still, understand the ramifications of it. The story opens up with the murder of the local moneylender in the dead of the night. Two people are arrested. Juggut Singh, the local village dacoit and Iqbal, a young politician who has just arrived in the city.

Though the police comes to know of their innocence, yet they are not released. The arrests might come in handy later, reasons the District magistrate. Soon, life returns to normalcy in the village. But the arrival of a train full of corpses, from Pakistan's side of the border shakens everyone. The DM decides that the Muslims in the village need to be evacuated quickly. Though the villagers initially protest against the decision of the police, yet they soon come round to the idea that migration is inevitable. As the Muslims get ready to leave, the villagers get

emotional. For generations, they have lived together like one big family and now they are being separated for no fault of theirs.

The train to Pakistan is due to leave in the dead of the night. On the previous night, a small group of outsiders enter the village gurudwara. Here, they incite the village folk, asking them to not be mute spectators and take revenge for the killings of their brothers and sisters on the other side of the border. A plan is hatched to attack the train on the railway bridge. The details about the plan are leaked to everyone, but nobody including the DM and policemen dares to oppose it. They fear for their lives in front of men who are beyond reason.

The DM, who is desperate to do something, ends up releasing Iqbal and Juggut Singh from the prison. So, it finally boils down to whether either of them will be gutsy enough to do something to prevent this terrible tragedy from happening.

VI. Important Themes of the novel :

The book, through the lives of its protagonists touches upon multiple subjects. Horrors of partition—How it affected the lives of common village folk who had nothing to do with partition. Love triumphs over hatred of all kinds. And it knows no boundaries of religion or caste. High-handedness and inefficiency of the police during those times —The police had the power to make criminals out of common men by trumping up false charges and they could allow even criminals to go scott free, if it suited their purpose. Sometimes, all the talk and idealism can come a cropper when it is faced with real-life situations.

VII. In my Personal Observations in analysis :

The best part of the book is the treatment of the characters. Each of them have a voice of their own. The way they lay bare, their thought process, makes it easy for the readers to understand the motivations behind their actions. Realism comes from the fact that nobody is shown to be perfect. Everybody comes in different shades of grey. With some being more darker than the others. Hukum Chand, the District Magistrate, genuinely wants to do good but that doesn't prevent him from manipulating facts or sleeping with a girl young enough to be his daughter. Iqbal, the political activist, preaches to the people how they should stand up for their rights and maintain communal harmony, but when the time comes for him to act, he steps back, knowing that self-preservation is more important than anything else.

Another wonderful thing about the book is the unique insights that the author gives into the eccentricities of the village folk living during those times. An English speaking person is accorded respect by one and all. Even the police treats him in an infinitely more humane way than it would treat other criminals.

The District magistrate's office involves a lot of unnecessary pomp and show. For the village folk, he is a God-like figure. Policemen and the servants are unwavering in their dedication towards him. Whatever he says, has to be done without asking any questions. It is ridiculously easy to spread rumours and misinformation among the village folk. Even, thieves are supposed to have a code of honour. For eg. they cannot commit a robbery in their own village.

History is very important to all the people who likes to know about their country and background of it but the history of India and Pakistan which is before 1947 and immediately after 1947 water all the incidents took place between the countries will mark the milestone for both the countries in different dimensions where debate history as well as human personality how people of both the countries accepted reality is accepted the incidents religious incidents as well as people mind set for the benefit as well as father establishment of their families in respective countries.

VIII. At Last to say :

'Train to Pakistan' has a lot of references made to train in many different situations. However, the defining moment for the novel is its very end, where one of the protagonists who seems unrefined and rude through the initial reading does what deemed right for the love of his life and turns out to be a real hero. He turns out to be more wiser, broad minded and cooler when compared to other educated fellas described in the novel. It is worth reading a novel to better understand the story.

Other than that, trains do depict the tension between India and Pakistan during the partition time. It goes on to tell tragedies suffered on both sides of the border, hatred thrown at each other and helplessness of people wanting to stay back at their homes but had to leave fearing mob madness and violence. The best thing about the novel is that it is unbiased about the stories on either sides of the India Pakistan border, unbiased about the class differences of the people and finally unbiased of human values.

IX. CONCLUSION :

At last to conclude, this book leaves you with a better idea of India and its diversity of religions. the author talked with truth and facts rather than mindlessly blabbing about the greatness of the country which from the story is clear, he despised. This novel Clearly explains post independence incidents which played important role in India where Britishers were not there and how both the countries struggle to manage the communal issues immediately after independence.

This is a deeply thought provoking book, that will give you a lot of ethical and moral questions to ponder upon. It is recommended for anyone wishing to understand how partition affected the lives of people living in villages, where communal violence was something unheard of. Kushwanth Singh focuses on the loss of humanity by all religions, without taking sides. The innocent unsuspecting victims of blind rage belonged to all fractions of the society, leading to about a million casualties, being regarded as the biggest massacre on Indian soil. Singh uses his intimate knowledge of Punjab and imagery to transport the reader to a place of palpable discomfort.

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