



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

THE DEEP LOVE THAT FATHERS FOR THEIR CHILDREN RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S KABULIWALA

P.Priyadharshini

I M.A English

P.S.R Arts and science college

V.Ganesamoorthy

II MA English

ABSTRACT

Kabuliwala is a short story written by Rabindranath Tagore. It tells the story of a poor Afghan merchant, Rahamat, and his friendship with a five-year-old Bengali girl, Mini. Rahamat visits India every year to sell dry fruits and this year he meets Mini, who is fascinated by his stories. Rahamat and Mini form a strong bond and he starts to visit her regularly, bringing her gifts. However, when Rahamat is arrested by the police, Mini and her family try to help him. In the end, Rahamat is deported from India, but Mini and her family promise to keep in touch with him. This heartwarming story shows the power of friendship across cultures.

Keywords: Kabuliwala, Separation, Relationship, pain, resilience, yearning.

The story entitled the “Kabuliwala” has been set in the early twentieth century Kolkata. It delicately explores the bonds of friendship, affection and parting in the relationship between a middle-aged Pathan trader and a five-year-old Bengali girl. It is a simple tale of a father's love for his daughter and the transfer of that love to another little girl. It is a love that transcends the borders of race, religion and language.

This story is all about the beautiful relation between the daughter and father. Though separated physically, the memories sustain the love for the child. Only a spark is necessary to light up those memories.

“Aario” song is sung by Haricharan and music by G.V.Prakash kumar from film “Theiva thirumagal”. The song has wonderful relationship between father and daughter.

"Karuvarai illai endra pothum

Sumanthida thonuthe

Vizhi Oram eeram vanthu

Kudai ketkuthe

Aairo Aaaraairo ithu

Ithu thanthaiyin thaalaattu"

Such was the case with Mini who woke up with affection in Kabuliwala, for his long forgotten daughter in a faraway land. In the story, Tagore has presented Mini's initial reaction to Kabuliwala. It is only through the character of the narrator that Tagore has shown the love and affection as well as attraction for the foreign places. Whenever the narrator sees Kabuliwala, he is immediately transported to the dry mountains of Afghanistan, which he relishes. Through the portrayal of Kabuliwala, the narrator has also shown the fear of the foreigner and the fear of the foreign land.

Tagore succeeds in bringing a twist in the story. Rahamat kills a man for not paying back is debt to him and is consequently jailed for many years. It is natural for others to forget him and so do the author and his daughter. But Rahamat does not forget them. He appears at the decorated house with the usual gifts for the “Khoki” with a heart, full of fatherly love, he longs to see the little girl. The simple Kabuliwala has no idea that with the passage of time, she is no longer a small girl but a grown up one, to be married that day. The sentimental ending, the goodness of all character the childish girl, the natural suspicion of a mother are what make this an unforgettable story. Taken from “Galpaguchha” (a collection of short stories) Kabuliwala will continue to occupy a special position in our heart and soul. The regional flavour, the interesting dialogues and the twists and turns enhance its readability.

The main theme of this story is that humans, no matter what their nationality or background, are all the same, as symbolised by filial affection—the deep love that fathers have for their children. In the story there are three examples of filial affection—the narrator and his daughter Mini; the Kabuliwala "Rahmat" and his own daughter in Afghanistan; and the Rahmat "Kabuliwala" and Mini. In this story Rahmat comes to India every year to sell dry-fruits and to meet this girl named Mini. He had a physical altercation with a person while collecting debts and was imprisoned. After several years, he was pardoned and was released from jail. He returned to meet Mini at her house on her wedding day, but she had grown up and did not recognize him. Her father, however, gave him some money so he could visit his own daughter.

“I would have killed my svasur, but how can I with these on?”

- Kabuliwala

There’s something truly special about the bond between fathers and daughters. With Father’s Day just around the corner, we’re rounding up some of our favorite depictions of father–daughter relationships. Publishers’ descriptions below.

Harper Lee 's "To kill a Mockingbird" is one of the best-loved stories of all time, To Kill a Mockingbird has been translated into more than 40 languages, sold more than 30 million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture. The relationship is Scout and Atticus have one of the most cherished father–daughter relationships in American literature. Atticus is Scout's moral guide as she navigates a turbulent time in the South. He treats Scout as an equal, always answering her questions honestly despite the uncomfortable subject matter.

"When a child asks you something answer him, for goodness sake. But don't make a production of it. Children are children, but they can spot an evasion faster than adults, and evasion simply muddles 'em." [p.99]

Anthony Doerr's All the Light We Cannot See is also told about the relationship between father and daughter. The relationship is Blind at a young age, Marie-Laure has a very close relationship with her father, who goes to great lengths to make his blind daughter's life a satisfying one. He builds her a model of their neighborhood so she can memorize it and navigate on her own; he hides gifts to keep her mind sharp; and he teaches her Braille.

"There is pride, too, though - pride that he has done it alone. That his daughter is so curious, so resilient. There is the humility of being a father to someone so powerful, as if he were only a narrow conduit for another, greater thing. That's how it feels right now, he thinks, kneeling beside her, rinsing her hair: as though his love for his daughter will outstrip the limits of his body. The walls could fall away, even the whole city, and the brightness of that feeling would not wane."

My Father's Secret War by Lucinda Franks. The relationship is my Father's Secret War explores what secrets and lies can do to a father–daughter relationship, and how that relationship can mend when the truth is finally told and understanding is gained.

"Sharper than a serpent's tooth is an ungrateful child'

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