

Tribhuvan University

Sibling Quest for Family Reunification in Khaled Hosseini's *And the Mountains*

*Echoed*

Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Central

Department of English in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

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Kirtipur, Kathmandu

December 2015

**Tribhuvan University**  
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**Letter of Recommendation**

Arjun Aryal has completed his thesis entitled “Sibling Quest for Family Reunification in Khaled Hosseini’s *And the Mountains Echoed*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from August, 2015 to December, 2015. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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**Letter of Approval**

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## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to express my profound gratitude to my thesis guide Jiblal Sapkota, Professor at the Central Department of English, T.U., for making constant supervision and guiding me with regular inspiration, encouragement, and insightful suggestion throughout the study. His vigorous efforts made me present this research work in this form.

I am also indebted to Prof. Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Department for the valuable directions and for granting me permission to carry out research on this topic.

I would like to extend sincere acknowledgement to the entire group of Professors, Readers, Lecturers, and the Teaching Assistants of the Department for their valued inspiration. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues and all my well-wishers who directly and indirectly helped me to complete this work.

December 2015

Arjun Aryal

## Abstract

The present research centres on the sibling quest in Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* by utilization of different narrative storytelling and presenting familial relationship, sacrifice, hope of reunion. The main character Pari is sold to Kabul. The separation of the two siblings, Abdullah and Pari, is the heart of the book. Both subsequently become "victims of the passage of time": Abdullah, who is older and remembers Pari, agonizes over her loss for most of his life, while Pari is younger and able to forget her brother after losing him. However, by the end of the book, Pari remembers Abdullah and locates him in the United States only to discover that he is suffering from Alzheimer's disease and has forgotten her. Especially, Pari and Abdhulla who are bound to separate from each other because of their different circumstances and conditons, but they are united at the ending of the novel. They spend many years without seeing. Tht is to say they suffer from the sense of ownness. A kinds of the sense of dislocateedness tortures them. The novelist has really shown the love of brothers and sisters. The other chracters like Markus and Thalia who are Iso brother and sister are compelled to be isolated from each other. They are also united at the end of the novel which can be taken as instance of unification of familiar relation. At the end, Pari and Abdulla, and Marky and Thalia mneet their dear ones because of their strong toil and dedication for quest for ownness. Here we can claim that they can not leave their own native culture although they are settled in western soceity. If they had lacked such desire for own rootness, they would not have reunited with each others. Khaled Hosseini the Afghan-American writer beautifully delves into the subtleties of human relationships. In his novels, Hosseini has expressed his concern about the wretched conditions of the people in general and women in particular who have been doubly marginalized –one by the society and the other within the four walls of their homes. Drawing upon the notion of E.D. Hirsch's notion of "The Aims of Interpretation" (1976), this reserch proves the hypothesis.

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## **I. The Bond of Love in Hosseini *And the Mountains Echoed***

This present thesis focuses on the issues of the importance of family bonding, love, affection, care, sibling relationship in relation to blood and family ties in Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed*. The main characters Pari and Abdullah (brother and sister) are separated at childhood by their father's decision to give Pari a better life by sending her off to live with his brother-in-law's rich employers, leaving an immediate hole in the reader's heart. But this preliminary story seems to be a mere gateway to more heartache as the reader goes through a slew of similar, reinforcing mini-episodes from supporting characters. This novel introduces us to Saboor and his children Abdullah and Pari, and the shocking, heartbreaking event that divides them. From there, the book branches off to include multiple other characters and storylines before circling back to Abdullah and Pari. Drawing upon E.D. Hirsch J.R. notion of *The Aims of Interpretation* (1976), this research paper shows the *And the Mountains Echoed* as story of sibling relationship.

Hosseini explores Afghan families' nurture, honor, sacrifice, and love and sibling relation in many ways in his fictions. Moreover, his stories are depiction of quest of familial relationship in Afghan culture in the text. His fictions rely on his readers and their imagination to decide the fate of his characters. For instance, the fable (stories of *div* and *gaint*) indicates the future of main characters in *And the Mountains Echoed*. This happens in real life of Saboor's family. In this way, the writer displays his wonderful understanding of human emotions and gradually and gracefully draws these emotions forth from the readers throughout the story. The characters he creates in his stories have real life characteristic and traits. In addition, he beautifully depicts his characters' ability, resilience and capacity for finding hope and joy in darkness of separation. *And the Mountains Echoed* is not about the story of

a single person but multi-dimensional. The novel has been written in nine stories which have different themes and events in the same roof of relationship and reunification. The sets of events are described by different persons at different times based on their personalized manner. The beginning is all about sibling relationship. And in the middle, we find another brother-sister pair: Markos and Thalia. They are neither biological siblings nor cousins; they do not even live under the same roof but they follow Afghan cultural norms and values. They are sitting under the same roof of Afghan culture with affection, love and unity. Martin, Rachel writes:

Six years later, Hosseini has written a third heart-wrenching tale, set in Afghanistan, California, Paris and the Greek islands. *And the Mountains Echoed* is a story about family specifically the siblings Abdullah and Pari, separated at a young age. Early on in the book, a young Abdullah thinks that he would rather forget Pari than be haunted by her memory. (23)

This fairy tale told to Pari and Abdullah sets the tone for the entire novel. Recurring themes in the book stem from this heartbreaking bedtime story where survival, sacrifice and enduring love shine bright against the knotted background of the characters. The story of Pari and Abdullah, the brother and sister separated at childhood by their father's decision to give Pari a better life by sending her off to live with his brother-in-law's rich employers, leaves an immediate hole in the reader's heart. But this preliminary story seems to be a mere gateway to more heartache as the reader goes through a slew of similar, reinforcing mini-episodes from supporting characters.

Abdullah decides to leave Afghanistan, travelling to Pakistan and eventually the United States. He ends up in California, running a restaurant called Abe's Kabob

House. He opens an Afghan restaurant there and has a daughter, whom he names after his sister. Following his wife's death, Abdullah is diagnosed with Alzheimer's and is later unable to remember his sister after being reunited with her. He and his wife have named their only child Pari, after his long-lost sister, and the younger Pari will dream of reuniting her father with his missing sibling. After her mother dies, and her father begins to suffer from dementia, Pari decides to postpone her dreams of going to art school to take care of Abdullah:

He looks disengaged, closed off; like he meant to look elsewhere and his eyes happened upon them by accident. Pari clears her throat. Even so, her voice shakes when she speaks. Hello Abdullah. My name is Pari. It's so wonderful to see you. He nods slowly. I can practically see the uncertainty and confusion rippling across his face like waves of muscle spasm. His eyes shift from my face to Pari's. (369)

*And the Mountains Echoed* is the third novel by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini. Published in 2013 by Riverhead Books, it deviates from Hosseini's style in his first two works through his choice to avoid focusing on any one character. Rather, the book is written similarly to a collection of short stories, with each of the nine chapters being told from the perspective of a different character. The book's foundation is built on the relationship between ten-year-old Abdullah and his three-year-old sister Pari and their father's decision to sell her to a childless couple in Kabul, an event that ties the various narratives together. Hosseini stated his intentions to make the characters more complex and morally ambiguous. Continuing the familial theme established in novel, *And the Mountains Echoed* centers on the rapport between siblings. Besides Abdullah and Pari, Hosseini introduced two other siblings and

sibling-like relationships the children's stepmother Parwana and her disabled sister Masooma and an Afghan-American doctor named Idris and his cousin Timur.

Thus, *And the Mountains Echoed* was reportedly in high demand. It received favorable pre-publication reviews and was anticipated as another strong success, reaching the top position before its release and later becoming a bestseller. Five months after the publication of *And the Mountains Echoed*, it was reported that three million copies had been sold. From authors's interview:

One of the vivid and indelible memories of growing up in Afghanistan is of my grandmother telling me and my brother stories about divs, giants and fairies. Some of them were stories that she had been told when she was a child; some from neighbors and my friends. My grandmother was a very skilled storyteller. (2)

Hosseini is said to be from the Mohammadzai tribe of Pastituns. Pasthuns are considered to be the royal clan in Afghanistan, and superior to other ethnic groups. He spent eight years of his childhood in the middle class of Wazir Akaber Khan Neighborhood in Kabul. When Hosseini was 11 years old his family moved to Paris. They were unable to return to Afghanistan because of the Saur Revolution (1978) and Soviet War (1980) in Afghanistan. When Hosseini first arrived in the United States, he describes the experience as "a culture shock" and "very alienating" (13). So, the story of the novel is indirectly indicates the writers life. When Hosseini was 11 years old, the family moved to France; four years later, they applied for asylum in the United States. He attended school in America with little knowledge of the English language at the time and later became a citizen. Hosseini did not return to Afghanistan until 2003 at the age of 38, where he "felt like a tourist in his own country". All three of his novels became bestsellers, with *The Kite Runner* spending 101 weeks on the

bestseller list number one for four of those weeks as a paperback. In 2007, *The Kite Runner* was followed by *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, which has spent 21 weeks on *The New York Times* best seller list for paperback fiction and 49 weeks on *The New York Times* best seller list for hardcover fiction number one for 15 of those weeks. The two novels have sold more than 38 million copies internationally. Hosseini's third novel *And the Mountains Echoed* was released on 21 May, 2013.

As Hosseini belongs to Afghan culture, his personal identity is defined by it. He spent his childhood in Afghanistan, which is reflected through his works where family is main theme. Hosseini explores the deep emotion and feelings through his novel with joyful spirit and typical Afghan family. He is a believer of Afghan's sacred heritage and his novel reflects cultural ward and religious reconciliation of his native country. *In And the Mountains Echoed*, he strives to define the Islam identity in the modern era by bridging the past and present, tradition and modernity. His novel is readily attributed to his desire for pure and traditional Afghanistan as anything else. He is an artist who desires to find between man, nature and god by including different characters and stories in his novel. He tends to privilege Islam culture over the West. His work therefore represents a clear tendency to cherish and preserve a genuinely Afghan tradition of style. Khaled Hosseini writes:

I am forever drawn to family as a recurring central theme of my writing. My earlier novels were at heart tales of fatherhood and motherhood. My new novel is a multi-generational family story as well as this time revolving around brother and sister and the ways in which they love, wounded, honor and sacrifice for each other Islam thrilled at the chance to share his book with my readers. (25)

The book as a full of symbolic one symbolize the Afghan culture. First of all Khaled Hosseini uses the symbolic theme in the title. Like his previous novels, *And the Mountains Echoed* features Afghan characters and tells a story about families, this one spanning decades and generations. The title was inspired by William Blake's line, "And all the hills echoed," with "hills" changed to "mountains" to suit Afghanistan's imposing terrain. Hosseini did not know what the book would be called when he began it, but he did have an image in his mind that had struck him like a "thunderclap", a man walking across the desert, pulling a wagon behind him with a 3-year-old girl inside. In Khaled Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* feathers are a connecting factor throughout the book. At the beginning of the book, it is said that Pari (main character of the novel) loves feathers and has a collection of them. They are her most prized possession. These feathers represent the truth, innocence and renewal. On the other meanings, feathers may represent different things in different cultures they have several universal meanings. When Pari is reached to the childless Wahdati couple (other culture), she has to leave her collection of feathers behind in Shadbagh. Pari is finally reunited with her family she begins to collect the feathers.

So Hosseini valorizes the philosophy of reconciliation by using the symbol of feathers. Oak tree is the symbol of the novel. The eternal reliance on the oak tree, even in its weakest state represents the way Afghanistan as a country, remained faithful to the people, even in times of extreme turmoil. Here, the writer is optimistic in the changing scenario of afghan because he himself suffers for separation of his own country and family and hegitage. The mountains also represent stories that relate to family. All of the characters originated around the area of the mountains. At some point in the novel all the characters connect with their past by revisiting these

mountains. Hosseini rebuilds the traditions of Afghan folk music by transcribing Afghan folk songs in foreign place.

I never intended for my books to be any kind of sociological or anthropological dissertation on Afghanistan. I do realize nevertheless that for some people, my books are a window into Afghanistan, occasionally the only window, so I do want to be responsible in that sense. But I also want to distance myself from the notion that I'm a representative of the country or a spokesperson for all things Afghan. That's not a moniker that I'm interested in. (43)

Stepping over the similar trend, Hosseini in *And the Mountains Echoed* represents the pain of separation of characters and writer too. Moreover, he writes:

We had a lot of family and friend in Kabul. And the communist coup is opposed to the coup that happened in 73 actually very violent. A lot of people rounded up and executed, a lot of people imprisoned. Violently anybody that was affiliated of associated with the previous regime of the royal family was persecuted, imprisoned, killed rounded up and disappeared. And so we would hear news of friends and acquaintances and occasionally family members to whom that had happened that were either in prison or worse had just disappeared and nobody knew where they were and some of them never turned up my Kabul but he dislikes communists. (8)

Hosseini belongs to Afghan culture where the personal identity is defined by the family. This is reflected through his works where family is the main theme. Hosseini explores the deep emotion and feelings through his novel with joyful spirit and typical Afghan family.

In the part of Hosseini's effectiveness as a story teller is the way he draws on universal signifiers of myth and symbol. In a prelude to the novel, Saboor tells his son a fable about a "div" or demon who forces a father to choose a child to give up to him, the implications only later clear to Abdullah. The author uses archetypes: the wicked stepmother, the master and the servant, the brothers and in this case cousins, who are friends yet rivals, but his skill is to put flesh on them, to make them real and individual. Though Pari quickly forgets her birth family, she's haunted by snatches of an old folk song her brother used to sing. In Saboor's fable, the div offers the bereft father the "gift" of forgetting his lost son and the father has to decide: Is it better to remember, even though this means a life of pain? In mining such truths about human experience, Hosseini digs deep and brings up diamonds.

The above reviews shows tht Hoseni's *An the Mountains Echoed* has een analyzed from multiple perspectives such as psychoanalysis, post-colonial studies and so on. But he text has not been approached from the perspective of theory of Hermeneutics.

E.D. Hirsch JR, theoreist of Hermeneutics in his "The Aims of Interpretation" states the way of interpreting the text. Gong against the concept of 'metaphysical hermenuetics. E.D. Hirsch JR advocates that tan interpe3ter is not necessarily so trapped in historicity that he squanders his freedom. Hrisch means to say tht an interpreter is not free to choose his meanings without consider the context of the text and the broad conventions of languae. According to him there are two types of meaning: anachronistic meaning and implied meaning. The former is reader's meaning while the later is the meaning implied by the author. So, the readers should attempt to be close to implied meaning. In this regrd, Hirsch remarks:

For some time now literary theorists, particularly the new critics, have attempted to preserve this distinction under a different guise, and have deplored the use of biographical or historical information for restricting textual meaning to its original information for restricting textual meaning to its original historical or biographical circumstances. Even if Shakespeare had written Richard II to support the rebellion of Essex (which of course he didn't) that would not limit the meaning of the play to its original application. When followers of Essex brought out the play's significance to their political aims, however, no great violence was done to its original meaning. Nor would any important distortion result from a document that showed autobiographical impulses in Shakespeare's portrayal of Richard. Modern applications of Shakespeare's portrayal of Richard. Modern applications of Shakespeare's original meaning could be equally innocent of distortive influence. For a self-identical meaning has the great advantage of flexibility being very sure of itself, of its self-identity, it can enter new worlds and play new roles with confidence. (203)

HD Hirsch JR opines that the tussle between proponents of original and of anachronistic meaning is shown by analysis to be no conflict at all. He states that such arguments about meaning sometimes originate in a Jeopardy to notice that meaning and significance are two different things which are given the same name. Whenever interpretive conflicts are concerned only with emphasis in the conduct of a commentary, then they are conflicts about immediate aims and not about meaning according to HD Hirsch JR. He further focuses that most interpreters regain a

revelation for original meaning and recognition of this might modify some of our disagreements.

Though different critics have seen the novel from different points of view, the research will focus on researching the issues of sibling quest in *And the Mountains Echoed*. From the perspective of Hirschian Hermeneutics. To stress the effectiveness of the theoretical tool an intensive analysis of the text will be the core point of this research. This study is divided into three chapters. The first chapter deals with an introductory aspect of the study and deals with general synopsis of the text, writer, and the subject matter. It incorporates the thesis title, clarification, hypothesis elaboration, introduction to the playwright's background, works themes, technique etc. The second chapter of the research presents an analysis of the novel considerable length on the textual analysis defined and developed in the first chapter. The textual analysis of the novel is about the sibling quest, familial love and affection. The third chapter concludes the research work. Some critics are brought in the introductory part and second chapter in short. It gives the extra force to hypothesis. E.D. Hirsch Jr's *The Aims of Interpretation* (1976) is a methodological tool that argues an interpreter is free to choose his aims and he is free to choose his meanings while dealing with different texts.

## II. Sibling Quest for Family Reunification in Hosseini's *And the Mountains*

### *Echoed*

This present research explores issues of familial relationship in Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* in order to study sibling quest of main character Abdullah, Pari (brother sister) and some other minor characters too. Thus Hosseini delves into pursuit of love and affection through the joys, sorrows and affection that alternately bind and fracture families. Drawing upon the notion of Stanly Fish's reader response criticism, this research proves the hypothesis.

Mountains span several generations and moves back and forth between his root land Afghanistan and current place America. Title of novel is inspired by William Blake's poem "Nurse's Song: Innocence" which refers to "hills echoing with the sound of children's voices". It grapples with many of the same themes that crisscross in his early novels: the relationship between parents and children, brother and sister, and the ways the past search the sibling relationship in the present. And it shares a similar penchant for mapping terrain midway between the boldly colored world of fable and the more shadowy, shaded world of realism. Thus Khaled Hosseini's novel, *And the Mountains Echoed* is the most symbolic title in his body of work. It is his most assured and emotionally gripping story, more fluent and ambitious more narratively complex too. Which signifies the sibling quest.

The main plot of the novel shows the sibling quest. Where the story of Pari and Abdullah, the brother and sister separated at childhood by their father's decision to give Pari a better life by sending her off to live with his brother-in-law's rich employers, leaves an immediate hole in the reader's heart. But this preliminary story seems to be a mere gateway to more heartache as the reader goes through a slew of similar, reinforcing mini-episodes from supporting characters. In the ending part of

novel Abdullah wants to meet his sister. After his father's choice to sell his younger sister to a couple in Kabul, Abdullah is an Afghan growing up in the fictional village of Shadbagh, resolves to leave Afghanistan, travelling to Pakistan and eventually the United States. He opens an Afghan restaurant there and has a daughter, whom he names after his sister. Following his wife's death, Abdullah is diagnosed with Alzheimer's and is later unable to remember his sister after being reunited with her. It is the main issues of the novel to prove the hypothesis:

She turns her face to look at him, her big brother her ally in all things, but his face is too close and she can't see the whole of it. Only the dip of his brow, the rise of his nose the curve of his eye lashes. But she doesn't mind. She is happy enough to be near him, with him, her brother and as a nap slowly steals her away, she feels herself engulfed in a wave of absolute calm. She shuts her eyes. (402)

In the novel two central characters are children living in a remote, impoverished Afghan village. Abdullah is ten, and his beloved baby sister, Pari, is three. He has taken care of her since their mother died giving birth to her. The family has no money, and one of their stepmother's babies has already died from the cold. One day their father, Saboor, takes them on a long, arduous trip to the big city of Kabul, where their Uncle Nabi works for a wealthy couple, Suleiman and Nila Wahdati. Pari is left with them to grow up with all the privileges of wealth; her father has allowed the Wahdati to adopt her.

In *And the Mountains Echoed*, Hosseini clearly shows the specific aspect of family siblingship that is one thematically rich. The landscape of sibling ties is peppered with love, volatility, envy, and a host of other and often conflicting emotions that make it such fertile ground for fiction. Parwana and Masooma are

twins. As nature has decided for them Parwana is stout and unattractive while Masooma is the most beautiful girl in the village. There emanates a love-hate relationship between the two as they enter their adolescence and grow fond of the same man Saboor. Parwana goes to the extent of pushing her sister off the branch of a huge tree which turns Masooma into a breathing mound of an incapable body. Yet she neither discloses the incident to anyone nor seeks an apology from Parwana. As a gesture of repentance, Parwana devotes her life to Masooma's caretaking; right from feeding and cleaning her to changing her diapers. She forgets her fondness for Saboor till one day her brother brings to her a proposal to marry him. Masooma overhears their conversation and decides to liberate Parwana from her servitude. In the middle of a vast desert Masooma tells her:

If you ever loved me, Parwana, if you were ever my true sister, then leave...have hear. Parwana decides in her favor and starts walking towards a new life. She thinks No one has to know. No one would. It would be her secret, one she would share with the mountains only . . . she has lived with secrets all herself. She does not look back anymore.

(71)

The same sets of events are described by different persons at different times in their personalized manner. Within this muddle of characters we find another brother-sister pair: Markos and Thalia. They are neither biological siblings nor cousins; they do not even live under the same roof. Thalia is an alter-ego of the globe-trotting Markos. He is afraid of getting trapped into relationships on a tiny island. He lives on sabbatical from one country to another and in his absence Thalia (the daughter abandoned by an actress mother who seeks to marry another lover out of her marriage) looks after his mother and performs her duties like a son. Markos is extremely fond of Thalia and

grateful for taking his place in his mother's life. In addition to love between people, there is also a striking longing for the motherland which prevails in all his novels.

Creating a kind of echo chamber, Mr. Hosseini gives us an assortment of other tales that mirror the stories of Abdullah and the older Pari. There is the story of their stepmother, Parwana, and her beautiful sister Masooma, who was originally supposed to become Saboor's betrothed; the story of Parwana's brother, Nabi, who becomes a caretaker and kind of brother to Suleiman, his ailing employer; the story of the brash, fast-talking Timur Bashiri, whose family used to live down the street from the Wahdatis, and his introspective cousin Idris, who both now live in California; and the story of a Greek doctor named Markos who has moved to Kabul (in fact, into the Wahdatis' former house) to operate on children who have been injured in the war, and his childhood soul mate, Thalia, who now cares for Markos's aging mother back home in Greece. Jonny Tassnim writes:

When Saboor decides to take Pari to Kabul where he plans to sell her to the Wahdatis, Abdullah is told to stay at home. Saboor strikes Abdullah and even throws rocks at him in an effort to make Abdullah go back, but he continues to follow them. Abdullah refuses to leave Pari and Pari cries for Abdullah. (6)

In recounting these tales, Mr. Hosseini shamelessly uses contrivance and cheesy melodrama to press every sentimental button he can. He has Parwana causing Masooma to suffer a terrible, disabling accident out of jealousy and resentment; and he has Markos drawing inspiration for his work in helping Afghan children from his sympathy for Thalia, who suffered a terrible facial disfigurement as a girl when she was attacked by a dog. In the hands of most writers, such narrative manipulations would result in some truly cringe-making moments.

Hosseini manages for the most part, at least not only to avoid this but also to actually succeed in spinning his characters' lives into a deeply affecting choral work is a testament both to his intimate knowledge of their inner lives, and to his power as an old-fashioned storyteller.

In the decades to come, Pari will grow up in Paris with Nila, a sometime poet and full-time narcissist who leaves her husband behind in Kabul to lead a self-indulgent, bohemian life impossible in Afghanistan. Pari becomes a mathematician, marries a drama teacher and has three children. She suspects that she might have been adopted and resolves to one day travel back to Afghanistan to find out the truth about her past. All her life, Hosseini writes Pari has felt "the absence of something, or someone, fundamental to her own existence": sometimes "it was vague, like a message sent across shadowy byways and vast distances, a weak signal on a radio dial, remote, warbled. Other times it felt so clear, this absence, so intimately close it made her heart lurch" (23). As for Abdullah, he ends up in California, running a restaurant called Abe's Kabob House. He and his wife have named their only child Pari, after his long-lost sister, and the younger Pari will dream of reuniting her father with his missing sibling. After her mother dies, and her father begins to suffer from dementia, Pari decides to postpone her dreams of going to art school to take care of Abdullah.

Hope of reunion is another aspect in the novel where all character departed from familial- centre so they want to reunion in their present life. In the novel *And the Mountain Echoed* departed characters finally get their family. This indicates the sense of optimism and their view of life, evident from:

Why won't you tell me where she is, Pari? Is she having and operation? Don't lie me! Why is everyone lying to me? Has she gone

away? Is she in Afghanistan? Then I am going too! I am going Kabul, and you can't stop me. We go back and forth like this, Baba pacing, distraught; me feeding him lies, than try to distract him with his collection of home improvement catalogs. (351)

The sense of reunification, this extract line has taken from the ending of the novel where the sibling separation is converted to reunion. Pari is the sister of Abdullah who is sold by her father Saboor for the save of winter to wealthy couple of Kabul. Two sister and brother are remained alone from separation. Pari spends her adult life with Nila Wahdati but she is no aware to her past. When, she knows her past event. She wants to re union with her family. The novel presents the hope of reconciliation as the outcome of epiphany to the own family. Pari wants to know her childhood life in Afghanistan. So she prepares to go to meet her family. Sibling relationship and desire of reunion is also striking feature of research hypothesis culture where Khaled Hosseini has kept on his novel. From the novel:

I have never seen such affinity between two beings. In truth, Abdullah was as much father to Pari as sibling. When she was an infant, when she cried at night, it was he who sprung from the sleeping cot to walk her. It was he who took it upon himself to change her soiled linens, to bundle her up, to soothe her back to sleep. His patience with her was boundless. He carried her around the village. (93)

These lines have presented the sibling relationship, Abdullah and his sister Pari where Abdullah love her sister more and always care her in any time, so above mentioned lines are the clear description of familial relationship, love, passionate, care and perfection. And the ending of the novel Hosseini has shown the characters desire of reunion which is also nonwestern cultural feature, “one day the week before at the

playground, were sitting on a park bench, the tree of us, and Paris said Abdullah, do you remember that when a boy had little sister” (385). This line taken from the book where Pari wants to meet her brother Abdullah. The desire of reunion is clearly seen in this line so the reunification is also the factor of warmness in family.

In the middle part of novel, Pari thinks her family from foreign place that her mother is more beautiful than her. At the age of 40s she still looks as beautiful to woman as her age. Her mother has long dark hair, full chest, startling eyes and a face that glowed with the intimidating sheen of classic regal features. Then Pari wonders why she has little resemblances to her mother. She questions to herself why she has little resemblance to her mother. She looks at herself then she identifies her physical appearance. Then when she remembers her father, she also realizes that she doesnot resemblances her father much either. She remembers her father is tall, has serious face, a high forehead, narrow chin, thin lips. And she also realizes that she has little resemblances to her father too. From the personality, Pari is kind of a shy girl. She feels not confident with herself. She likes to underestimate herself in front of the person she loves. In contrast her mother, Nila Wahdati is kind of woman who has high self-confident. She is not shy woman. She can show her attractive look when she face the one that she loved. About the interest, Pari more interest to learn mathematic. She said that she finds feel comfortable from that science. That mathematic is exact science and has no ambiguity not like a life. In contrast, Nila Wahdati the person who does not has interest in science. She feel bored when Pari and Julien talk about mathematic. She likes to give jokes to them as kind of satire. The novel *And the Mountains Echoed* also captures the theme of lost, separation between and among the characters. Brotherhood, familial relation and harmony can be marked on this book. Hosseini also has valorized the issues of intimacy between all

characters where, the most important character Nabi helps his stepmother in Kabul. And the daughter with same name Pari his sister. In this regard Hosseini has written the full story of novel as a good relationship. He says:

I am forever drawn to family as a recurring central theme of my writing. My earlier novels were at heart tales of fatherhood and motherhood. My new novel is a multi-generational family story as well as this time revolving around brother and sister and the ways in which they love, wounded, honor and sacrifice for each other Islam thrilled at the chance to share his book with my readers. (25)

The novel starts with an Afghan bedtime folklore told by Saboor to his daughter Pari three, and son Abdullah, ten. An ogre like creature called a div visits a poverty-stricken town and picks a shanty of a home to knock on the roof of. The chosen household then needs to offer one of their children up to the div lest the monster eat every single one of the family's children. After a sleepless night, the heartbroken father ushers his youngest outside the door and waits for the div to confiscate his favorite child. The creature then carries the little one off to its home in the mountains.

Khaled Hosseini wants to share about human process to sibling quest for his true identity. That everyone wants to know about themselves. Some people might ask about themselves "Who am I". It can be drawn from psychological phenomena that the ignorance of individuals for themselves make people need to know their real self. The main character does not know much about her and she feels that her life is like a puzzle. Here the main character, Pari tries to search her personal identity by defining her concept. Self-concept consists of self-image, self-esteem and ideal self. First step is she defines herself image. She tries to identify herself from her physical appearance. She thinks that her physical appearance has little similarities with her

parents. She tries to compare her physical appearance with her mother and her father. This event of Pari indicates the familial quest. In this novel, Khaled Hosseini not only explains the struggle of the main character to search her personal identity but also shows how truth condition human in a war and fragile in physical and psychological presence. That caused of war many people being killed, poverty everywhere. And at the cold war some poor families lose her family. Because of the extreme cold in Afghanistan many babies die, children and older people. And because of that phenomenon, there is a father who is forced to sell his daughter to wealthy couples in Kabul in order her daughter get a better life for her future. And the effect of being adopted, the main character, Pari does not know much about herself and feels like her life begin in the middle and the end and she does not know about beginning. So she wants to know about herself by searching her true identity.

*And the Mountain Echoed* a novel by Khaled Hosseini using psychological approach the writer can draw the following conclusions as below: Firstly, based on the structural analysis of the novel, it can be concluded that Khaled Hosseini wants to show that people tend to find out their personal identity. Hosseini create the mahor character, Pari who does not know about her past and her true identity. All her life, Pari feels that there is something missing or someone in her heart. After being adopted by wealthy couple in Kabul, Pari forgets about her past. And the time goes by she feels like her life is like a puzzle which is she does not know the beginning then she suddenly comes up in the middle. Then she tries to look for her true identity and look for some unanswered question in her head about her past. Tossi, Nahal writes:

But it's the plight of Abdullah and Pari, living apart yet tied together permanently by the tender, brotherly care he took of her as a child, that holds the novel together. In the tale their father tells, the little boy

taken by the giant had always worn a bell around his neck. In old age the father in the story has forgotten the boy, but still sometimes thinks he hears the sound of a bell, and doesn't understand "why a wave of something, something like the tail end of a sad dream, always swept through him whenever he heard the jingling. (5)

After a life of grief and regret, the father decides to trek the harsh desert and journey to the *div's* palace. The div shows the man into a room with a view of a lush garden brimming with children's laughter. He soon recognizes his son running in the field. The father demands that he leave with his child in tow, the div considers but offers the father a deal: return to his impoverished town with his son and live a life of desolation or leave his son to stay in the *div's* palace where he'll be educated and fed a bounty. Overnight, the father makes the most difficult decision of his life. The next morning, he walks out of the palace alone. This fairytale told to Pari and Abdullah sets the tone for the entire novel. Recurring themes in the book stem from this heartbreaking bedtime story where survival, sacrifice and enduring love shine bright against the knotted background of the characters.

In *And the Mountains Echoed*, Khaled Hosseini takes a leap into a web of relationships where we find several pairs of siblings brought together and separated by circumstances. The story revolves around a brother-sister duo named Abdullah and Pari who live in a poverty-stricken house along with their step-mother Parwana and a new born half-brother. Their father Saboor has decided to give away Pari to a childless rich couple living in the city of Kabul. The ten years old Abdullah has a slight inkling of his father's intentions but is too immature to stand up against him. He is more like a mother to the little girl than a brother. Separated from her brother at the age of three years, it is still easier for Pari to forget her past but for Abdullah the pain

lasts forever till his memory is whitewashed due to an illness in his old age. Pari leaves Afghanistan, resides in Paris, marries her lover and has several children but still something about the past haunts her. She is intrigued about her early life and feels a void throughout her life as if she has left something behind. When she has matured into fifties only then the truth about her biological parents is disclosed. She takes along detour to Afghanistan, in order to find out about her brother and finally finds him in a sickly state in the United States. In this same novel, we find another sibling pair which is bound together in a complex web of emotions. Commenting on relationships as portrayed in his novel.

The place setting of the book is also significant issue of research. The novel begins with a father reciting a story to his children Abdullah and Pari as they take an overnight trip from Shadbagh village to Kabul city across a desert in Afghanistan. He narrates the poignant fable which is symbolic of the fate that awaits them next morning. And Nabi sells his daughter Pari off to a childless couple in Kabul. The siblings are separated from each other in Kabul and Abdullah howling and fighting back tears of howling and fighting back tears of helplessness, he returns to the same village with his father. Racheal Hore says:

Ten years old Abdullah and his beloved three years old sister Pari live with their father, stepmother and baby half-brother in the small village of Shadbagh. Their father Saboor takes manual work where he can find it and the family gets by living hand to mouth. Saboor is desperate enough to arrive at a terrible decision. He must make a sacrifice to save the family so they are walking with the father across the desert to Kabul. (17)

Thus all events of novel are set in the Afghanistan. So the promise of this event acts as a catalyst for the author to weave in several others sub-plots thriving on the themes of family companionship, friendship, abandonment, love and loss are the important feature. Hosseini the subject matter i.e. folklore, reunion, familial relation, brotherhood are the key issues of the texts which can prove the book is a quest of sibling. Even in English language, the novel has been written by the Afghni writer including with the some Afghani diction. In addition Khaled Hosseini own personal experiences and impressions that he received during his childhood days in Afghanistan as a son of a dominant Pashtu family like Saboor's son Abdullah in and the mountains echoed have played a vital role in shaping the structure of novel. Hosseini word provides an indigenous look into an afghan experience

Abdullah and his sister, Pari, are traveling to the neighboring town of Kabul with their father, Saboor. He tells them the story of a monster who demands that a family give up one of their children. If the family refuses, the monster will take all the children. The father draws names to decide which child will be sacrificed and the monster takes that child. The father, driven by grief, goes to the monster's lair to fight the beast. There, he discovers the child is happy and healthy but he has to decide whether to retrieve the child, pulling him back into a life of hardship, or leave him to live his happy life apart from his family. The father chooses to leave the child, believing that the best thing for the child though the father is heartbroken. The family arrives in Kabul and the reader learns the purpose behind Saboor's story. Saboor is unable to buy the necessities for his family and one child has already died because of the brutal winter without adequate heat in the house. Saboor has agreed to sell Pari to Nila and Suleiman Wahdati, a wealthy couple who are unable to have children of their own. The adoption is coordinated by the brother of Pari's stepmother. His name is

Nabi and he works for the Wahdatis. Abdullah and Pari are very close and they are heartbroken at the separation. Markos is from Greece and he grew up with his mother, a school teacher who felt strongly that people should be treated fairly. When his mother's friend shows up with her daughter, Markos is excited to meet her. Then he discovers that the daughter, Thalia, has been brutally deformed by a dog attack. A large section of her lower face is literally missing. They are uneasy with each other at first but come to be best friends. Talian encourages his love of photography and Markos eventually becomes a surgeon. According John Formy:

Through the remarkable story of Dr. Markus and how, and why, he became a plastic surgeon, I am once again confronted with the nature of beauty and physical appearance. His is also the case for two unutterably sad victims of severe facial scarring whose stories dominate the latter part of the novel. I want to look away but Hussein is relentless and forces me to look and to confront all my past failed intentions to do some good, put myself out, or visit the sick or lonely.

(18)

Back in Abdullah's home town of Shadbagh, a war lord has taken over control. He has built schools and helped the town grow and prosper, but he is brutal. Abdullah's half-brother, Iqbal, returns to Shadbagh to reclaim his family's home only to find the war lord has built a gaudy mansion on the property. Iqbal's son, Gholam, meets the war lord's son, Adel. The two seem on the way to forging a friendship until Gholam announces the true reason his family is in the area. Adel does not initially believe it but realizes Gholam is telling the truth after Iqbal makes a public demand for justice. Adel's father apparently kills Iqbal and the rest of the family leaves.

As Nabi nears the end of his life, he writes a letter to Markos, who is living in Nabi's house. Nabi tells Markos about Pari's adoption and asks that he find her after Nabi's death. Markos does track Pari down and she learns the truth about her biological family. By then, Sultana has died and Abdullah's mind has withered to the point that he does not remember her. Pari makes the trip to America anyway and reconnects with her niece, also named Pari. As the book comes to a close, Abdullah's daughter and sister meet in Paris where the young Pari prepares to meet her cousins for the first time.

Pari eventually grows up in the rich Wahdati household and is able to enjoy the fruits of what money can buy. She later moves away with her conceited mother to Paris after Nila realizes that her outspoken attitude and bohemian lifestyle are too much for steely Afghanistan. Her bedridden husband Suleiman cannot stop her from moving away, leaving Uncle Nabi, chauffeur and friend to Suleiman, to care for him until his death. In this bubble of four characters, Hosseini is able to touch on strong cultural themes: the place of modern women in some chapters, we see Abdullah aging in California and experiencing the developed stages of dementia. By his side is daughter Pari, obviously named after Abdullah's beloved sister. Young Pari struggles with the contriving traditional Afghan upbringing of her parents while living in modern America. Older Pari meanwhile, has enjoyed complete French inculcation. Despite her blissful life and loving family, she feels "the absence of something, or someone, fundamental to her own existence," which is Hosseini's way of circling back to Abdullah. Pari later decides to find her roots and meets Young Pari in effect. The meeting of both Pari's become the well-orchestrated summit of two westernized Afghan women and the comparison of their jarring lives growing up.

Hosseini's habit for spanning generations in his novels goes hand in hand with his graceful back-and-forth between past and present. The process creates a sophisticated echo chamber of character narratives where he educates the reader on how the past very well affects the future. He successfully creates mirroring mini stories of Pari and Abdullah. To some extent, it succeeded in driving home the point of enduring sibling love, while other stories within the novel appeared to merely pepper the topic. The account of immigrant Afghan-American cousins Idris and Timur, who come back to a socially and politically healing Afghanistan, was left a bit too raw for this reader to sink her teeth into. Meanwhile the story of Dr. Markos a plastic surgeon who arrives in Afghanistan to do charity work—was overly written, with no connecting or supporting attribute to the central plot of the book, something not typical of Hosseini. His knack for soap-operatic melodrama seems to be the only driving force behind these two seemingly distant short stories, a mere added drama. In another part research is a research conducted by Rachel Martin focuses on the relationship on sibling between an older brother and sister. *And the Mountains Echoed* is a story about family specifically the siblings Abdullah and Pari, separated at a young age. He describes a young Abdullah thinks that he would rather forget Pari than be haunted by his memory:

Abdullah would find himself on a spot where Pari had once stood, her absence like a smell pushing up from the earth beneath his feet, and his heart would collapse in on itself. This focuses on sibling relationship between brother and sister not about sort of traditional, romantic love. Abdullah and Pari's story lingers with an effect not unlike that wave of something. It's a reminder that much of what both connects us and makes us individuals is invisible, but no less real for that. (22)

The similarity of this research with both literature reviews is analyzing the same novel from Khaled Hosseini *And the Mountains Echoed*. The differentiation between both literature reviews with this research is the first research that focuses on analyzing the issues the sibling's research is focused on siblings' separation in latest. While in this research, researcher focuses on searching for personal identity by using psychological approach.

This story is filled with examples of ostensibly good people doing bad things, the consequences of which extend down the generations. It is so sensitively told, however, that I find myself wondering to what extent we, each of us, contain elements of good and bad. Notwithstanding her awful actions, Parwana is not entirely bad. Neither is her brother, Nabi, who initiated and facilitated the 'sale' of a child. He is loyal, loving, and caring and when war and terror come to Kabul, he feels justified in the knowledge that the child, now living in Paris, is out of danger. "Hosseini has the remarkable ability to play the reader like a cello drawing on the minutest detail to wrench the heart and suddenly, inexplicably, rushing ahead. Without too much elaboration and with some respite for the poor reader, Pari's life has been lived in blissful ignorance about her roots; her disturbed 'mother' is now dead and she is alone; she has found and lost love, become a celebrated academic, had a family who are now reared and living their own lives. Perhaps because of my own obsession with loss and longing, I'm impatient to hear how her original family specifically her adoring brother copes without her and if they are re-united. I must curb my impatience whilst we are introduced to a new character, Dr. Markus, a plastic surgeon doing humanitarian work in Kabul, who is tasked with the job of locating Pari and bringing her the news about her real family.

Khaled Hosseini writes movingly and authentically about how it must be for a plain or ugly woman with a beautiful twin. Since the ideal of 'beauty' and 'attraction' is relative and cultural, comparison is the norm for all women. Throughout one life, it is possible to go from being 'invisible' to a period of 'being noticed' and then, as our body's age and change, we become, again, invisible. Reason tells us that, of course, beauty is skin deep and ephemeral, but our emotions are attracted by the aesthetic and we desire to be 'attractive' or easy on the eye, no matter what our age. The world can be a cruel place for a young, sensitive, Plain Jane with a beautiful friend or sister, because she's invisible or lost in a shadow everywhere she goes. There are myriad examples throughout literature associating beauty with goodness and virtue whilst the 'baddie' is typically ugly or does not conform to the 'ideal' shape, size, or look. In this tale, the ugly sister, Parwana, commits two devastating crimes against her sister to remove her sibling as an obstacle to marrying her childhood love. She, thus, literally, becomes the wicked step-mother.

In the case of Abdullah he is still young when Pari is born, but he takes on all the duties of a caregiver. It's Abdullah who changes and feeds Pari but it's also Abdullah who nurtures and soothes her. This prompts a connection between them that would likely have not existed if their mother had survived. Abdullah is willing to risk anything for Pari and there's the story of him trading his only pair of shoes for a feather, just because he knew it would make Pari happy. When Saboor decides to take Pari to Kabul where he plans to sell her to the Wahdatis, Abdullah is told to stay at home. Saboor strikes Abdullah and even throws rocks at him in an effort to make Abdullah go back, but he continues to follow them. Abdullah refuses to leave Pari and Pari cries for Abdullah. Saboor sets out for Kabul the following morning with Pari. Abdullah refuses to be left behind. Saboor hits Abdullah and throws rocks at him, but

Pari cries out for her brother and Abdullah continues to follow. Saboor finally gives in and allows Abdullah to go along. During the early part of the trip, Abdullah finds feathers and gives them to Pari. She has a tea tin box at their home in Shadbagh where she keeps the feathers she finds.

Abdullah lives with his father and Parwana, his stepmother. His mother died giving birth to Pari. His half-brother, Omar, was one of three babies who died two winters earlier. He now has another half-brother, Iqbar. Abdullah knows Saboor blames himself for Omar's death, believing he needs to earn more money in order to provide for his family. Parwana wakes to the scene of feces in the bed, smeared all over her sister, Masooma. Masooma apologizes. Parwana wants to scream in anger, but refrains. She heats water and washes Masooma, knowing that she then has to wash all the bed linens. Masooma cries silently. Parwana and Masooma are twins and Nabi is their brother. Their parents have been dead four years and Nabi works in the city, leaving Parwana to care for Masooma. Saboor's wife has recently died and Parwana watches him struggle to raise his two children, one just an infant. She has heard that he is looking for a wife but refuses to let her thoughts go any farther. Female bonding is another part, from the story of intense friendship stretching beyond the peripheries of life it is came across another peculiar love story between two women in his novel *And the Mountains Echoed*. This novel has so far been acclaimed as the most heart-breaking story which makes the reader cry at several points. Parwana and Masooma are the two twins separated by a physical and psychological situation. The principal thing that echoes throughout this novel is the bond of love between the two women that becomes their strength to endure and retaliate against the ruthless society.

The story then switches to Pari, Abdullah's sister. Pari in this chapter refers to Abdullah's sister, who is now attending college. Pari and her boyfriend, Julien, are

about to go out to dinner when the phone rings. Pari knows it's probably her mother. Julien thinks she should ignore it but she goes back inside and learns that her mother is in the emergency room, having suffered a fall. Pari goes to the hospital to accompany her mother home. They are in New Shadbagh, located at the site of the village where Abdullah grew up. The town has expanded and the community is gathered at the town's new school, built by the generosity of Commander Sahib. When the time comes to cut the ribbon, Commander Sahib calls on Adel to perform the honor. Adel is thrilled to be at his father's side. As they stand beside their car, preparing to go home, a group of people approach Commander Sahib, asking for favors. Adel knows that there are many signs of his father's generosity around the town, including a medical clinic staffed with doctors and nurses paid for by Commander Sahib.

Khaled Hussain in his novel *And the Mountain Ecoed* critiques the western cultural encroachment and individualism. By presenting different kinds of characters, he criticises the growing concept of individualism which is flourishing in western culture. By showing the derogative western culture Hussain tries to preserve his own Afghan culture. Moreover, he defends his own native or ethnic culture that valorizes communitarianism.

Through the novel *And the Mountain Ecoed* Hussain proves that his own native culture is more powerful than western culture that sows the family reunification of the departed characters. This means Afans native culture can not be demolished by the western culture. We can also say that in Afgans culture unity is possible whereas in western culture in searching unity among the people is futile job. In fact Hussain superiorizes his own native culture where love, unity, relationship, emotions, sense of ownership have been given more importance. But in contrast to it, in western culture,

there is not any space for love, unity, familial relationship, and sense of oneness. The reality, western culture is victimized by the epidemic disease of individualism.

Hosseini presents Pari as a major character of the novel whose life becomes desert when she is sold to Kabul. Pari and Abdullah have been forced to depart from each other because of their own destiny. But at the end of the novel Hosseini shows a reunification between Abdullah and Pari. A researcher here tries to excavate the fact that why the author shows reunion between the characters who are departed from each other? Obviously we can say that by showing such the author valorizes his own native culture. Though Pari and Abdullah have migrated to western culture, they are not hypnotized by it. Though they have settled in western, their inner heart can not escape from their own native culture. Here we can say that if Hosseini had not wanted to valorize his own native culture, he would not have shown such reunification of the character in the end of the novel. By unveiling such kind of theme of unity, Hosseini spreads the slogan of integrity between and among the Afghans.

Hosseini's novel as a representation of sibling relationship with love stories gives the theme of familial relationship. There has been traditional love stories in the sense that a romantic love story between a man and a woman, you know, they've been stories of love between characters where you would not expect love to be found. So it is always these intense relationships that form under unexpected circumstances. And it's the same with this book there are a number of instances where you have relationships between characters that are very intense and life-changing and yet they're between people you would not expect it to happen. The novel began very, very small, and it began with a single image in my head that I simply could not shed: It was the image of a man walking across the desert and he's pulling a little Radio Flyer

red wagon, and in it there's a little girl about three years old, and there's a boy walking behind him, and these three people are walking across the desert.

Thus, Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* follows a close-knit but often separated Afghan family through love, sacrifice, sibling relationship. The story opens in the village of Shadbagh, outside of Kabul, as a laborer, Kaboor, relates a haunting parable of triumph and loss to his son, Abdullah. The novel's core, however, is the sale for adoption daughter, Pari, to the wealthy poet Nila Wahdati and her husband, Suleiman, by Pari's step-uncle Nabi. The split is particularly difficult for Abdullah, who took care of his sister after their mother's death. Once Suleiman has a stroke, Nila leaves him to Nabi's care and takes Pari to live in Paris. Much later, during the U.S. occupation, the dying Nabi makes Markos, a Greek plastic surgeon now renting the Wahdati house, promise to find Pari and give her a letter containing the truth. The beautiful writing, full of universal truths of loss and identity, makes each section a jewel, even if the bigger picture, which eventually expands to include Pari's life in France, sometimes feels disjointed. Still, Hosseini's eye for detail and emotional geography makes this a sibling quest read. The novel begins with a tale of extraordinary sacrifice that has ramifications through generations of families. Thus, this research excels the issues of sibling quest and familial relationship in *And the Mountains Echoed*.

Khaled Hussain in the novel *And the Mountain Echoed* has depicted different kinds of characters who are isolated from each other because of their own destiny. In fact through this novel, the novelist has shown an instance of family reunion. Which is unmasked at the end. There Pari and Abdullah belong to one family whereas Thalia and Markos belong to another. Nabi as a uncle of Abdullah also grapples to search for

his root. All in all in the novel Hosseini has tried to show similar issue on family reunion.

### III. The Web of Relationships in Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed*

After the discussion and analysis of the issues of sibling quest, *And the Mountains Echoed* is reflected throughout the familial relationship remains the central theme. Hosseini delves into a world of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters and friends and foes with all their manifest complexities and contradictions. The story of main character, Pari and Abdullah, the brother and sister are separated at childhood by their father's decision to give Pari a better life by sending her off to live with his brother-in-law's rich employers, leaves an immediate hole in the reader's heart. This preliminary story seems to be a mere gateway to more heartache as the reader goes through a slew of similar, reinforcing mini-episodes from supporting characters. While traveling with their father Saboor across the desert to Kabul, an event occurs that changes their lives forever. This tale revolves around not just parents and children but brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers. Following Saboor, Abdullah and Pari and the twist and turns of their lives, and their choices: as they travel the globe from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos.

Hosseini explores many ways in which families nurture, wound, betrayal, honor, and sacrifice for one another. How often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, when it matters most. Khaled Hosseini belongs to a country where a person identity is defined by the family to which he belongs. Be it the mother and daughter in *And the Mountains Echoed*, Hosseini explores the magnitude of emotions that the characters have for each other under demanding circumstances. So his novel is filled with the joyful spirit of a typical afghan family whether in its motherland

Thus, such types of strong factors that give strength to the characters are the bond of love and loyalty as reflected in *And the Mountains Echoed*. Hosseini likes to

treat his novels as love stories. But he makes it clear in his interview, that these love stories are very much unlike the Platonic sagas of romantic love between a man and a woman. They are not traditional, they are stories of love where characters seek and are saved by love and human connection. Their love is tried and tested amid difficult conditions and the characters are left to discover their individual paths of reuniting with their loved ones at their own peril. It is ultimately this longing for love that draws characters out of their isolation, gives them strength to transcend their limitations, to struggle with their vulnerabilities and perform acts of self-sacrifice. So, Khaled Hosseini considers loss, memory, and familial love to be the primary themes of *And the Mountains Echoed*.

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