

Tribhuvan University

Trauma in Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*: Betrayal, Confession, and Narrativization

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Masters of Arts in English

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December 2012

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Letter of Recommendation

Ms. Anu Upadhayay has completed her thesis entitled "Trauma in Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*: Betrayal, Confession, and Narrativization" under my supervision. She carried out her research from June 2012 to December 2012. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted to viva voce.

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This thesis submitted to the Universal College, Maitidevi, affiliated to Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu by Ms. Anu Upadhyay, entitled “Trauma in Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*: Betrayal, Confession, and Narrativization ” has been accepted by the undersigned members of the thesis committee.

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Acknowledgements

Many factors are crucial to make this project come to the end. However, it still cannot be possible without the assistance of certain people in life. At this moment I would like to thank all those people involved in making my desire of completing this project.

First of all, my sincere gratitude goes to my supervisor Mr Baburam Timsina, Lecturer, Universal College, for his scholarly guidance and support. Besides, I would like to thank Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya, Lecturar, Central Department of English, TU for his regular cooperation and support to prepare this thesis. I am also grateful to Prof. Dr. Padma Prasad Devkota, Dr. Shiva Dutta Gnawali, Dr. Shiva Thapa, Mr. Khagendra Prasad Bhattarai, and Mr. Diwakar Upadhayay, Mr. Laxman Gautam, Mr. Srijon Chettri, Mr. Rajendra Panthi and all involved for their words of support, encouragement and scholarly guidance.

I owe my sincere thankfulness to my parents, who always prompted me and were ever present for me in all ups and downs of life.

I also take this moment to thank my spouse and remember all my family members, my classmates, colleagues without whose support this thesis would not have been completed.

December 2012

Anu Upadhayay

Abstract

This study explores betrayal and confession in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*. It further examines narrativization of trauma caused by betrayal in the main characters in the novel. This research uses the psychological and cultural perspectives which analyze the personality of the main character Amir and other minor characters. *The Kite Runner* is the story of strained family relationships between a father and a son, and between two brothers. It also talks about how they deal with guilt and forgiveness. The main characters of the novel have sinned, and everyone in one way or another is seeking redemption. As Amir, the protagonist in the novel confesses and narrativizes his trauma: he reduces the intensity of trauma caused by his betrayal over Hassan and gets some relief. Hosseini uses the plot structure to emphasize the theme of sin and redemption. As Amir retells the story of life, he weighs each event against his sin, his betrayal of Hassan. This guilt Amir feels is heightened by Hassan's righteousness, loyalty, and his willingness to sacrifice anything for Amir. Amir promptly tries to bury and escape his guilt but realizes that he cannot. Eventually his guilt drives him to insomnia. He wants to get rid of it. So, for redemption from such past mistake, he adopts the son of Hassan and starts to live his rest of the life after Hassan's death from the hands of Taliban. As a boy, Amir had done nothing to save Hassan; as a man, he redeems himself by returning to Afghanistan, facing his past, and acting with honor and courage. Thus the past mistakes and sin have direct impact on the psyche of people. But, no matter how hard one tries, one actually cannot get out of this guilt ever. Trauma can not be released totally but what one can do is to try to reduce the intensity of it and Amir does the same.

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