



## DEPICTION OF PARTITION IN INDIA THROUGH KHUSHWANT SINGH'S "TRAIN TO PAKISTAN" AND CHAMAN NAHAL'S "AZADI"

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### Abstract:

To preserve the existence of human culture, creation of literature is essential. In literature, a good novel makes us well acquainted with the talent and imagination of the story writer and that is why it is very important for the characters in the novel to be alive. The story of the partition of India expresses human experiences description and exploration of events is an article of literature referring to the divide from each side of the borders. Many novels and stories are included in this series. Khushwant Singh, born on 2 February 1915, was a well known Indian novelist, writer, politician, historian, and journalist. He had achieved considerable fame as a journalist. Khsuhant Singh was honored with both Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan award. His novel "Train to Pakistan" became very famous. "Train to Pakistan" is a historical novel published in 1956. This novel focuses on the tragedy of the partition of India in 1947. This novel is about the bloody conflict between the Hindu, Sikh and Muslim. Population in which a successful attempt was hatched to destroy the people by packing them in trains and trucks. Chaman Nahal, born on 2 August 1927 in Sialkot, was a well-known novelist, literature, writer, lecturer and professor of English literature. In 1962, he worked as reader of English at Rajasthan University, Jaipur, Nahal's novel "Azadi" based on the independence and partition of India is much discussed. Chaman Nahal was awarded both the federation of Indian Publishers Award and the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977 for the novel "Azadi". The begging of Independence, The horrors of Partition, Migration, atrocities, etc. a series of incidents happening one after the other and its tragedy have been depicted in the novel Azadi.

**Keyword:** Partition of India, Human Experiences, Exploration of events, Bloody Conflict, Hindu-Sikh & Muslim, Horror of Partition, Tragedy

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## **Introduction**

### **Train to Pakistan**

Train to Pakistan is a realistic communal novel. Its social realism and communalism can be seen in different characters and their conversation. It depicts the terrible tale of the partition of India and Pakistan and also the incidents that followed by this partition. These incidents are such a pathetic that can't be forgotten by the eye witness or those who will read the history. So it will be remembered as one of the darkest chapters of human history. Just after the announcement independence, partition of India was also announced and caused a great turmoil in the Whole continent.

In the novel "Train to Pakistan" Khushwant Singh tells about the imaginary place Mano Majra, where Sikhs and Muslims lived together in peace for hundreds of years. The base of the story in the novel is focused on the Hindu- Muslim disturbance of 1947 after the announcement of the partition of India. This novel presents the bitter and sweetness both truths of Indian Independence and the announcement of the division of India.

It would be right to say that the story is based on the different characters and the village Mano Majra, the imaginary village situated on the border of Pakistan and India. Mano Majra is well known for its railway station. The novel starts with the introduction of Bhai Meet Singh, fat, dirty clothes and all the times wear underpants, the custodian of the town Gurudwara. Next important character Hukum Chand a sophisticated magistrate comes in his American car who later resigns due to serious strain of the town. Then introduces Juggut Singh, the main character of the novel, is a Sikh thief, who is playing a negative Character in the novel, who is six feet tall and an uneducated local badmash, who visits police station once in a week. Iqbal is a unsolved character, who is foreign- returned, an atheist and a social worker from Britain and he is much respected and people called him Babu Sahib. The Mullah of the town is half-blind Imam Baksh and her daughter Nooran is in love with Jugga and carries two months old baby of Jugga in her womb.

The story starts with the loot and murder of Lala Ram Lal. His family was the only Hindu family in the whole town. Jugga and Iqbal both were arrested for this murder which they did not commit. Because they both have not done this murder they got released soon from the jail and came to know that a gang was planning to attack the train taking Mano Majra's Muslim citizens to Pakistan and also

planning to kill the passengers. Nooran introduces as, Jugga's lover, who is also boarded on that train. Neither the magistrate nor the police was able to shoot the main responsible of the violence. But they each had the intentions to bank the train, while they were sound aware of the truth that it may charge their lives. Iqbal was only one who struggles with his own opinions for something good on the other side, Jugga sacrifices his life to save the train, and in the train his beloved Nooren was also boarded.

### **Azadi**

We can say that "Azadi" is one of the best creations of Chaman Nahal. 'Azadi', the novel is a work written on the theme related to the partition of the Asian subcontinent into two countries, India and Pakistan. The novel 'Azadi' is a grand writing based on historical and political aspects because Chaman Nahal himself was a migrant. That is why Nahal has given an excellent description of the infiltrators, the changes that took place there and the practicality of the situation as seen through his eyes. The novel Azadi is the story of the terrors of the partition and the holocaust created by the communal protest and it also gives an intensive picture of the effect of a partition on the lives of the people living in the border town of Sialkot.

Chaman Nahal's "Azadi" is poignant and heart breaching novel of the seven west Punjabi families, who were deeply exaggerated by the partition. In the novel Lala kanshiram is a main character and the head of the family. As a central character, an ideal person of humility not only with the familiar people rather with each. He had respect for the British also, as they had brought tranquility to the hostility torn territory and made a nation. But his belief in the British Rule weakens when he heard about declaration of the British to quit the country after the Partition of India.

It can be understood by Lala Kanshiram's anger with the British when he made heated notes about the unreliability of the British to never think of them while dividing the country into two nations India and Pakistan. The word "Refugee" was introduced to Lala and other residential; nobody could understand this division so no one was not ready to leave the place and to leave the people with whom they have spent their lives. The word "refugee" was a new word for Lala Kanshiram, as if it was an unknown letter of the alphabet. Lala does not understand this word "refugee". Hence Lala Ram stated that

*"I was born here, this is my home, how can I be a "Refugee" in my home".*

Nahal suitably entitled the novel 'Azadi'. It is a sarcastic title connected to freedom. But this freedom has thrown them on the road like beggars, made homeless, forced to leave the motherland.

It has not happened with few people rather there was not a single family that had not suffered in communal riots. It is a pathetic story of everyone's where some have lost their loved ones, children have died due to the hunger and women were and abducted and raped. Did they want this freedom at the cost of the deaths of their loved ones? The writer asked the question through the central character Lala Ram that is this was the freedom where leaders and politicians have not gone through the sincere consideration otherwise there would not have been like this. "That's why Lala was deeply tormented when he was questioned by an enquiring officer in Amritsar that what the intention of going to Delhi was. It is worth remembering the unpleasant remarks by Lala

*"I am going there to have a meal with Nehru to celebrate Azadi".*

### **Research Materials and Methods / Methodology:-**

For this study, the researcher used analytical method. The efforts made by the researcher were qualified and observational. The researcher maintained purpose and objectivity throughout the research paper. The researcher selected the novel "Train to Pakistan" by Khushwant Singh and "Azadi" by Chaman Nahal. The novel "Train to Pakistan" and "Azadi" by Chaman Nahal were selected as the primary sources of this paper. To make it efficient and effective, other related works were selected as secondary sources. By analytically studying the primary and secondary sources, reliable and analytical results of the research were obtained.

### **Study Area:**

The ominous and harmful effects of the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan and the resulting resentment against Hindu, Sikh and Muslim people are made clear in the form of a sharp attack in "Train to Pakistan". Khushwant Singh's protagonist, Jugga's character in "Train to Pakistan" here, Jugga who recognised as a Gunda throughout the novel but at the end he sacrifices his life to save the lives of

many unknown people along with his beloved Nooren

The novel "Azadi" describes the massacre resulting from the horrific violence and communal conflict that arose as a result of the partition of India and Pakistan. It also presents a harsh series of ill effects of partition on the lives of the local people living in Sialkot city. The character of Nahal protagonist Lala Ramlal in "Azadi" is asking why the leaders and politicians have not taken into the consideration to save the lives of many people. At the same time of freedom we common people were looted.

### **Results and Discussion**

#### **Train to Pakistan**

After reading and understanding the novel in depth, we come to the conclusion that "Train to Pakistan" ultimately focuses on the perception of before and after partition. After the partition of India and Pakistan, a new border was created between the two countries. At that time, there was panic all over North India, yet in the meanwhile, there was a lone Mano Majra village where there was peace for the time being. But in the same Mano Majra village, after the announcement of partition of India and Pakistan, there is a movement of a train full of dead bodies and a conspiracy is hatched by Hindus and Sikhs to quench each other's thirst for blood by pulling the rope tied in the train to kill the Muslim. It is not believed that we feel such a change in the situation of Mano Majra village before and after the partition that the earlier peace of Mano Majra village was destroyed by the partition and made an eye witness to the terror of independence.

#### **Azadi**

In Chaman Nahal's novel "Azadi", we come across the heart-touching, poignant, shocking and heart-wrenching story of 7 Punjabi families. This story perfectly captures the depth of the announcement that followed the partition of India and Pakistan. In this novel we are introduced to the story of the central character grain merchant Lala Kashiram and other families. Before partition, all these families were living together happily in Sialkot, but after partition, Hindu-Muslim fights and riots took place among these people. Every family suffers from riots. Hindus are being forced to go to India and Muslims to go to Pakistan. Families are forced to leave the village for a refugee camp and are located further afield. Many people die in this. Some people had lost their near and dear ones. Many women

were kidnapped. Shameful incidents like rape of women were being carried out. In the name of partition, the experience of incidents like looting, massacre, stampede among the people related to partition had become a common everyday thing.

In short we can assume that it was a partition that gave rise to bloodshed between Hindus and Muslims.

Finally it can be said that the total mental stability, assurance and strength was shattered by the declaration of the partition of India. The unkind expression in which the English declared freedom to India but the announcement of the partition was sufficient to smash the happiness and confidence of the population. The country was like brutally killed by this announcement. It was a

Historical event which demands sufficient serious consideration to maintain the peace of the country but without right procedures being taken to defend the people and their properties. Government has taken their lives like tools and toys in the hands of misfortune and disaster. The people had known only the fine feelings and high ideas and respect to each others. Independence was also for the first time on the basis of equality and respect. The feeling of equality, honor and nobility resulted in murder, death and separation from the people with whom they had once lived. There was no connection between independence and its impact on the outcome. People of all societies and religions were simply cheated and duped. The entire population was in panic, whether they were Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or any other community, because they were deceived and withered. This story will be self-sufficient in telling for the coming generations the terrible pain that happened before knowing the history of independence.

### **Conclusion:**

#### **Train to Pakistan**

The novel "Train to Pakistan" covers religious, persecution and consequences of chaos. It presents complete emotional tension and turmoil based on the fictional place Mano Majra. The novel "Train to Pakistan" explores how strong relationships, imbued with religion and love, can lead to unimaginable and uncertain events, which can turn anything into a traumatic and heartbreaking act. Here the entire community is fearful in a system of rural uncertainties. Where caste system, religious power and political power are based on the importance of human life and the values of humanity. The bond

and understanding between Muslim and Sikh Jagga proves that there is still some humanity left in the people. This bond indicates that commitments have to be fulfilled. Promises still exist in every religion. There is no language for human affection and love. We can show these through our behavior and conduct, with the strength of the unity of the local people, wrong incidents can be stopped. Khushwant Singh's "Train to Pakistan" is a decisively influential writing on the partition of India, in which love, religion, group and individual choice are given special importance. In the fictional village Mano Majra, there is no one completely bad and no one completely good. Everyone finds favor based on their selfish motives. Jagga was initially addressed as a dacoit and scoundrel number 10 but still Jagga never committed any murder and did no harm to anyone. On the contrary, Jagga was successful in saving the lives of many other Muslim people along with his love Nooran and demonstrated his true 'love' i.e. sacrifice by sacrificing his life.

### **Azadi**

The novel "Azadi" deals with issues regarding partition and independent. That is set on Independence and partition of India. The novel deals with factors leading to partition and after that it present a picture of demonetization of life. Azadi is next hopeful dawn of Indian Independence and it tragedy of partition. The massacre and there was vast influence on Refugee and spinning period of announcement of the cabinet mission plan on June 3 1947 to the aftermath the murder of Mahatma Gandhi on 30 January 1948. The real subject of the novel is man, his hope, fear his love, and hate. The horrors of Partition were taken advantage of by the criminally minded British rule and even our national leaders. No law of any kind was taken by the present government to suddenly ban it. Nahal is more interested in presenting the tragedy of partition than the thoughts of Gandhiji. Thus, after the declaration of independence, people's attention is more focused on the tragedy of partition rather than following Gandhi Giri or Gandhi's principles. At the same time, some people, be it Hindus, Sikhs or Muslims, were misusing the partition in the name of projecting Gandhian values.

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