Book Review

# The Kite Runner

By Khaled Hosseini

Muhammad Junaid Ali Asif Raja

Reg. No./Roll No. 290927

# Introduction:

Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was the son of a diplomat whose family received political asylum in the United States in 1980. He lives in northern California where he is a physician. The Kite Runner is his first novel. He has published three books, and all of his books became best sellers. The book has been written in a very elucidating manner. It perfectly describes Afghanistan in the 70’s and its state after the annexation by the USSR, of Kabul. The book touches every inch of the soul of its readers with so many emotional upheavals. The book enables its readers to continue reading it by creating its elements of suspense. The clarity of the story is so immaculate that the reader perfectly simulates the on-going moment of the novel. The emotional connection with the characters is easily developed through the reading of the book where you feel love, disgust and many other feelings with the characters. Being a fictional story, as an audience it is depicted as a real life story.

# Summary:

The “Kite Runner” is a remarkable piece of work by Khaled Hosseini that portrays a gripping and emotional story of betrayal and redemption. It tells us about Amir and Hassan, two close friends. Amir, being the son of a rich merchant but being weak and cowardly and is always protected by Hassan, a son of his father’s servant. The thrilling story revolves around Amir’s one hope of winning his father’s love through the Kite-fighting tournament but the story takes a huge turn where Amir is unable to protect Hassan like he used to do for him. Amir betrays his friend, breaks the friendship bond between them, because of the jealousy that Hassan receives more of his father’s favours. Later on, he finds out that Hassan was his half brother.In the act of making up for his mistake and knowing that he is the reason for the death of Hassan, his only hope is to now protect Hassan’s son for which he makes a dangerous trip to Afghanistan to save him. The attempt was successful but Sohrab being mentally and physically abused become psychologically weak and mute ,attempting suicide but a kite event where Shorab gives a very little faint smile is hope towards a better future for all the abused and war stricken countries.

# Analysis:

The craftsmanship done by Khaled Hosseini in The Kite Runner conveys a lot of deep meanings and teaches you a lot of daily life lessons in life. Some of which are as follows:

The characters in this fictional novel and the scenery seems so realistic that one develops feelings for the character. The sceneries and some moments are as if they are *real life simulations* and the reader is present for testimony. The *characters seem alive*, one feels *love and disgust for the characters* at some points of the novel.

The story emphasizes on the *father-son relationship*.Parents aspect their kids to be like them but that’s not always the case. Amir, a literary person, wasn’t strong and barbaric like his father wanted to be. He still wanted to be loved by his father. His Baba saw the things he wanted to see in, in Hassan due to which jealously and enviousness between these two developed.

The story consists of *many unpredictable and interesting moments*. No one predicted the sexual assault , no one predicted the betrayal, no one predicted Hassan and Amir to be half brothers. No one predicted that Amir will try to redeem himself by saving Sohrab, Hassan’s son.

The story gives a very clear message that *war is an evil doer*. The writer describes the lush and magnificent Afghanistan of its prime, of its riches, of its luxuries, of its beauties. It tells us about the prosperous country turning into ruins because of the aftermath of the war and its terrors. It turned the great Afghanistan to ruins. The Afghanis that lived their with complete freedom had to save their own lives and seek refuge in other countries

The novel also discuss the issue of *racial discrimination* and on the basis of *Firqa*. The story depicts how *Sunni and Shia* *communities of Pashtuns and Hazaras* hated each other. This can clearly be seen through Affes who sexually assaulted Hassan out of utter hatred and looking down upon Hazaras. Just because he thought they are inferior to him. Pashtuns made Hazaras their servants. This also raises awareness about mental and physical child abuse and how negative and adverse effects of thinking himself superior to someone can cause something this bad is so alarming as well.

The story shows various aspects of *human life and its ups and downs*. From living freely in their own country in their own house, Amir and his Baba to later on fleeing their own country, living on the edge of their lives.

One other important message from the story, is the *importance of forgiveness*. It can be seen when Hassan forgave his mother who left him when he was only a week old. It tells that we should be forgiving and also how friendship is the strongest bond and how Hassan didn’t even say anything about Amir even knowing that he is the culprit because of the bond of friendship that had been developed between these two throughout the years. The story further signifies that **Friendship is no doubt the strongest bond.**

The story is although an excellent piece of art but there are some events that are *too fast paced*. The change of scenarios to Amir was injured in his attempt to save Sohrab which he was successful in but the scene immediately goes back to Amir and Sohrab reaching Pakistan.

During his Afghanistan redemption arc, Amir was badly injured and suffered heavy internal bleeding and still surviving is close to *not something reality*.

Some description of *some events or characters* *were too long* which made the part a bit boring. The Afghanistan Redemption Arc was a bit too lengthy, describing few places of Afghanistan or where the lived or even at the start of the book was *too boring and unnecessary*.

The book contains *very vulgar language and scenes of Rape, molestation, sexual assault, mental and physical abuse of children and the pedophilia*.

# Conclusion:

This remarkable piece of art by Khaled Hosseini depicts different themes of ***“betrayal and redemption, love, forgiveness, the social class and the ethnic tensions in Afghanistan and the immigrant experience”*** in a very elucidating manner. The story from being childhood friends to being broken and separated, to Hassan getting molested by an Elite class Afghani, to his own son getting abused by the same guy in Taliban in the far future. It shows us that how envy can take over loyalty and even your closest of friends can betray you. It gives us the message of gender and racial equality that all humans are born equal and we should treat each other better than we treat ourselves. The end of story, where Shorab gives a very little faint smile gives us hope for the future of the world and Afghanistan. It shows that we should be optimistic about future regarding all the grief-stricken people, abused children and war-stricken countries.