

# When Desperate and Guilty Feeling Destroy Humans' Life in *And The Mountains Echoed* By Khaled Hosseini

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**Abstract** - Born as humans we can't avoid facing many problems as God given as the testing to examine every creator in the world. Since that, many writers interest to take humans problems as the theme for their writings. One of them is Khaled Hosseini, he is included one of the new writers which is succeeded to reveal the complicated conflict inside human especially people in Afghanistan. This research tries to explore the prominent problem in his third novel "*And the Mountains Echoed*" that is connected with guilty and desperate covering the characters in the story. To get deep understanding upon those problems, the writer tries to analyze it in this research by close reading and doing some library researches. The method of this research is by doing descriptive analysis. This research uses psychological theory in analyzing the characters personality. The findings is the characters in the story are really influenced by their guilty and desperate feeling cause they separated by his beloved sister, daughter and niece named Pari. The poverty and lack of supporting good food caused the father took that decision that was selling his daughter to one rich family to save the other members of the family. This article tries to explore another conflict facing by people in Afghanistan, a country which is haunted by many conflicts because of invasion, war and brutality of rezim.

**Keywords:** afghanistan, conflict, desperate and guilty feeling

## I. INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan is a country full with conflicts which become terror for people there. This country never release to get their freedom since the invasion of Soviet, the brotherhood war among Mujahedeen and finally the presence of the strict rules of Taliban. All of these cruel actions influence people aspects in many life. They are faced by complicated situations that make their efforts are useless since the democracy does not take side in the civil society side. Many people are forced to leave their beloved country because of the cruelty, the disaster and the brutality done by the powerful rezim. It arose the great problem for the citizen especially the poor family. The cruelty of rezim and war often spark the emergence of social and economic problems such as poverty, facilities and infrastructures which are broken by the bomb, grenade and other explosion materials.

Khaled Hosseini was also a part of Afghan people before his family and he moved to French to follow the job of his father as a diplomat. Trying to return after his duty is finished, but the invasion of Soviet make Afghanistan was scafu. The people were scattered and they could not go back to their homeland. Because of that incident, they tried to ask the political asylum from the United States of America. His passion of writing is influenced by his hobby that is reading many books in Farsi or Dari language then develop into

English. All of his experience in the past time brought in his present life. It often happened to those people who became the immigrant in other countries. The worse, sadness, happy and memorable experience and moment blended and become the private part of immigrants that also happened in Hosseini's soul and life.

This novel tells the story of human personality issues related to internal conflicts in the past that subsequently become a burden for them. Therefore we need a discussion relating to aspects of personality which correlates with the science of psychology. Personality psychology is the study of human personality psychology with the object of study that is the factors that influence human behavior. In personality psychology, it studied the link between memory or observation with the development, the link between observation and adjustment to the individual, and so on. The first target of personality psychology is to obtain information about human behavior. Works of literature, history, and religion can provide valuable information about human behavior (Koswara, 1991: 4). The second target, personality psychology encourages individuals to be able to live full and satisfying. And third, the goal is for the individual is able to develop all their potential optimally through psychological environment changes.

The first function of personality psychology is descriptive function. It describes and organizes human behavior or events experienced by individuals systematically. The second function is predictive function. Studies should also be able to predict behavior, events, or as a result of which has not yet appeared on the individual. The following is a discussion of a study evaluating the third Khaled Hosseini's novel, *And the Mountains Echoed*.

## II. GUILTY AND DESPERATE IN *AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED*

*And the Mountain Echoed* (Riverhead Books: 2013) as the third novel of Khaled Hosseini is still becoming the magnet for the readers around the world. It is because the theme of the novel reveals about humanity problems. Sins and desperate always come and go upon people's life. This novel is still talking about conflict upon humans especially psychological conflicts, that is people in Afghanistan.

There are people who can easily forget the sins committed, but some are not being managed to forget the sins that haunt a person's life until decades later. According to the science of

psychology, when people did not manage to forgive him for an event in the past and often thought about it until today, then the sins will be the burden that continues to be present in life. And often people are burdened with sin or events in the past, will be hit by the desire, to make up for the regret. Some of the characters in the story experience guilt and sin which will be described in the following sections (Minderop, 2011: 41).

One of the emotion classifications in the field of psychology associated with grief. Sadness or grief associated with losing something important or valuable. The intensity of grief depends on the value, usually extreme sadness when losing a loved one. Deep sadness because of the loss could be a very valuable possession that resulted in disappointment or regret Parkes found evidence that prolonged grief can lead to depression and despair that leads to anxiety. The result can lead to insomnia, no appetite, raised the feeling irritated and become grumpy and withdrawn. Those problems related with the personality problems are seen in some characters in this novel. These are the descriptions of the people who take role in the novel (Krech, 2004: 472-473).

## II.1. ABDULLAH

In the novel *And the Mountain Echoed*, one male character named Abdullah hit by guilt and remorse for not being able to save his beloved sister of human trafficking in Afghanistan. The only younger sister named Pari should be sold to a wealthy family in Kabul to support their families in these difficult times. He was feeling regret for not being able to protect his sister from human trafficking. This worse situation makes Abdullah stricken yearning to Pari.

Abdullah was not able to put the past behind them both when they are grown and played together as children. Moreover Pari has been abandoned by her mother who died while gave birth Pari so Abdullah was nurturing and raising Pari when his father had to work. Reflected of the loss toward his little sister that he loved so much continue to carry on Abdullah for decades. Here is the story of Abdullah's memory told by her daughter who was also named Pari.

*"Some people hide their sadness very well, Pari. He was like that. You couldn't tell looking at him. He was a hand man. But I think, yes, I think he was sad inside (Hosseini, 2003: 348).*

Abdullah always feel the pain and sadness over the loss of his beloved younger sister's figure. It is still happened until he was elderly and suffered the loss of his memory. Meanwhile, she still remembered the figure of her sister, Pari. But his memory is lost and blurred because haunted by a very deep sense of loss. Here's an excerpt that describes the moment.

*Folds appear on Baba's forehead. For a transitory moment, I think I detect a tiny crack of light in his eyes. But then it winks out, and his face is placid once more. He shakes his head. "No. No, I don't think that's how it goes at all."*

*"Oh, Abdullah ..."* Pari says.

*Smiling, her eyes teared over, Pari reaches for Baba's hands and takes them into her own. She kisses the back of each and presses his palms to her cheeks. Baba grins, moisture now pooling in his eyes as well. Pari looks up at me, blinking back happy tears, and I see she thinks she has broken through, that she has summoned her lost brother with this magic chant like a genie in a fairy tale. She thinks he sees her clearly now. She will understand momentarily that he is merely reacting, responding to her warm touch and show of affection. It's just animal instinct, nothing more. This I know with painful clarity (Hosseini, 2003: 372-373).*

## II.2. SABOOR

Besides Abdullah who was stricken remorse for Pari's human trafficking, other figures who also regret and guilt-stricken was father Abdullah and Pari named Saboor. Extreme poverty made Saboor decided to sell his daughter, Pari. Saboor physical descriptions showed him as a poor man can be seen from this quotation. *"His name was Saboor. He was dark-skinned and had a hard face, angular and bony, nose curved like a desert hawk's beak, eyes set deep in his skull. Father was thin and reed, but a lifetime of work had made his powerful muscles, like rattan strips tightly wound around the arm of a wicker chair (Hosseini, 2013: 19).*

Leading to a sense of loss and despair make Saboor hit by depression in his life. He had to sacrifice one of his children to support the other family members. The picture looks very clear in the following quote. *"Sometimes, in unguarded moments, he caught Father's face clouding over, drawn into confusing shades of emotion. Father looked diminished to him now, stripped of something essential. He loped sluggishly about the house or else sat in the heat of their big new cast-iron stove, little Iqbal on his lap, and stared unseeingly into the flames. His voice dragged now in a way that Abdullah did not remember, as though something weighed on each word he spoke. He shrank into long silences, his face closed off. He didn't tell stories anymore, had not told one since he and Abdullah had returned from Kabul. Maybe, Abdullah thought, Father had sold Wahdatis his muse as well" (Hosseini, 2003: 47-48).*

## II.3. UNCLE NABI

Uncle Nabi is the third character who was also hit by a sense of guilt and remorse in his life when he advised her brother-in-law to give his daughter Pari to a wealthy family in Kabul. Uncle Nabi thought by giving one of the children, it can save the family's economic conditions in his brother-in-law family. Unfortunately after the events of human trafficking of his niece, the psychiatric conditions of his brother-in-law, Saboor so depressed. Likewise, the brother of Pari named Abdullah who was so fond of his sister. At the end of his life he entrusts a testament to someone who shows the surrender of his entire estate to a niece he loved, Pari.

*“The second is that you try to find my niece Pari after I am gone. If she is still alive, it may not prove too difficult – this Internet is a wondrous tool. As you can see enclosed in the envelope along with this letter is my will, in which I leave the house, the money, and my few belongings to her. I ask that you give her both this letter and the will. And please tell her, tell her that I cannot know the myriad consequences of what I set into motion. Tell her I took solace only in hope. Hope that perhaps, wherever she is now, she has found as much as peace, grace, love, and happiness as this world allows”* (Hosseini, 2003: 131).

### III. HUMANIST SIDE EMERGED IN THE WORK OF KHALED HOSSEINI

Born and raised in Afghanistan, a country known to have beauty before the invasion and civil war, Hosseini can compare the condition of the country that he loves in times of peace and an era of civil war broke out. As a diaspora, he realized correctly that he had extreme desire Afghanistan be a peaceful, beautiful and comfortable place to be a place to stay. Many things raged in Hosseini's mind. Those made him write many things related to Afghanistan in some of his works. From the start of the event, place names, story ideas and people become characters in the novel more or less inspired by the stories and life experiences of Hosseini both when he stayed in Afghanistan and then moved to the United States until now. It is of course very interesting to be appreciated, when we see an author has a strong bond with the land and all the stories and moments of sadness, joy, disappointment, and longing mixed together and then poured in some of his writings. There is the humanism aspect that is very strong in every story Hosseini wrote. The humanitarian aspect is very touched millions of readers around the world.

As Macherey stated, “The proposition that the writer or artist is a creator belongs to a humanist ideology. In this ideology man is released from his function in an order external to himself, restored to his so-called powers. Circumscribed only by the resources of his own nature, he becomes the maker of his own laws. He creates. What does he create? Man. Humanist thought (everything by man, everything for man) is circular, tautological, dedicated entirely to the repetition of a single image” (Macherey, 2006: 75). Macherey statement is supporting Hosseini's efforts in displaying the humanistic aspects of concern and caring people in the world. A process of creating a work is a very personal thing for a writer. He could be a witness of an event, the period of time up to the historic moment happened in a place, region or country. And Hosseini's works are capable of displaying melancholy story of Afghanistan who suffered much grief and anguish for the people of Afghanistan.

To concern and caring, giving rise to the action calls for peace in Afghanistan is one of the effects that arise when we read the works of Hosseini. I see these efforts successfully carried out by Hosseini. I was one of the researchers and academics who successfully hypnotized with the ability of Hosseini in concocting stories of his life in his third novel. I saw Hosseini's novels are so alluring in its efforts to present a

variety of melancholy story as a real reflection of the sad condition of Afghanistan. I believe a story taken or inspired by a true story as in Hosseini's work will make us drugged and have empathy. That side of Hosseini works that I think deserves an appreciation, which presents a strong aspect of humanism to realize we are more concerned with the fate of other citizens of the world who suffer from the never-ending war.

In connection with the personality as part of the science of psychology, personality is also the author of human life issue. Personal authors will affect the spirit of his work. There are the abnormal and normal personality in life. The normal personality usually in rhythm that is prevalent in his life. The abnormal one was so called in the event of deviation personality. The characteristics of creative personality is imaginative, initiative, has broad interest, openness to new stimuli, independent (free) in thinking, curiosity strong, adventurous spirit, feisty, energetic, confident, willing to take risks, and bold in confidence (Endraswara, 2008: 152).

### IV. CONCLUSION

Everyone is never separated by the conflict in their life. *And the Mountains Echoed* is written by Khaled Hosseini's provides an example of the conflict related to the personality of the characters in the story of the past and become the prolonged load. The remarkable effect arising from guilt, despair impact to the psychological state of the characters. There are some characters got the heavy desperate in the novel. First, he is Pari's brother named Abdullah. Second, he is Pari's father named Saboor. Saboor later died in a state of miserable because he cannot shake the guilt and remorse. Last, he is Pari's uncle named Uncle Nabi. He left all his assets to Pari because he felt culpable to suggest her brother, Abdullah to hand over his daughter to a wealthy family in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Abdullah and Saboor both feel lost and overwhelmed with remorse since they left Pari in Kabul with Wahdati's family who do not have children. Pari was adopted by a wealthy couple to complete their lonely lives. The sense of loss is very, regrets that plagued the life of Abdullah and Saboor make their lives miserable. This is also happened to their children uncle, Uncle Nabi. He was also felt sad and desperate because of his guilty feeling. And this sad story is a lot going on in Afghanistan when conflict and civil war occurred in 1952. Many families sacrifice one or some of their children and sell them by reason of their difficult lives. The wars always cause a lot of pain, misery and sadness for many people. So does in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is full with profanity, infrastructure damaged by bombs and explosions impact on the turmoil in the economy and society. When people are in a state of despair, a way out that is considered the most convenient, that is selling one of the family members, usually children was performed. Those are often happened in a country which is war and conflict happened continuously!

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