

ANALYSING THE NOTION OF NATIONALISM IN KAMILA SHAMSIE'S *A GOD IN EVERY STONE*

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ABSTRACT

*The notion of nationalism demonstrates one's attachment to home country. Nationalism is a thing that is gifted to a national by birth because genetic birth means national birth (Girinius, 1969). Nationalism is an ancient phenomenon, however it is debated in present times but it can be traced back to "as far back as Josephus, if not Thucydides, we find the appeal to freedom to preserve ancestral ways from foreign interference. The present study discusses nationalism in Kamila Shamsie's *A God in Every Stone*. The paper explores the significance of national attachment in the selected novel. The study is qualitative in nature as it deals with fictional domain within the discipline of literature. The study concludes that nationalism attain unity, sovereignty and loyalty as collective bond among people of same nationality.*

Keywords: nationalism, unity, sovereignty, loyalty.

INTRODUCTION

Nationalism is an ideology based on the fact that a person's loyalty is devoted to his own nation that outshines other peoples and group interest. Nationalism is an idiom of opposition to foreign rule (Al-Abbood, 2010). Nationalism is a thing that is gifted to a national by its birth because genetic birth means national birth (Girinius, 1969). One cannot choose one's nationalism, we are members of the nation in which we grow and live. Nationalism is an innate phenomenon and person's loyalty lies with his nation. Nationalism did exist before its theory was given. Every nation has its own ethnic and cultural ties with them, their kinship, blood, culture and religion. If we take the ancient empires like Persia, the powerful nations considered them as the superior nation. They were proud of their dynasties and their bloodlines, Darius the great a Persian emperor said: "I am Darius the Great King, King of Kings, King in Persia ... an Achaemenian" (History of Iran, 2017).

Nationalism is an ancient phenomenon, however it is debated in present times but it can be traced back to "as far back as Josephus, if not Thucydides, we find the appeal to freedom to preserve ancestral ways from foreign interference" (Smith, 1991). We can find its examples from Herodotus, the text shows this example by narrating the Carian rebel. Nationalism bloomed in the primitive states of Africa and Asia at the start of the 20th century. Hence, the 19th century witnessed the age of Nationalism in Europe and the 20th century was the age of ascendance and efforts of influential freedom movements all over Africa and Asia. Nationalism is tied with ethnicities, the stronger the ethnic identity the stronger is the national identity (Smith, 1991).

The present study discusses the importance of nationalism during independence movement of Carians, Armenians and Indians. It shows the roles that nationalism plays during independence movements.

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Statement of Problem

Kamila Shamsie being writer of nationalism and colonialism. On close examination of Kamila Shamsie's *A God in Every Stone*, it seems to show that nationalism is the most important phenomenon during independence movement and the roles nationalism play during foreign rules.

Objectives of Study

To highlight the importance of nationalism during independence movement as shown by Shamsie.

To throw light upon the roles that nationalism plays in *A God in Every Stone*.

Research Questions

What the significance of nationalism is during independence movement as depicted in *A God in Every Stone*?

What does the role nationalism play in *A god In Every Stone*?

Significance of the Study

The present study is significant and worth-reading in following ways: it shows that the people belonging to same nation are secured by their Nationalism and it serves as a uniting force for the nationals. This study motivates people to raise their voice against the oppressions of the powerful nations to get their own right and sacrifice everything including their life if needed for their nation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Nationalism is "either devotion (political or emotional) to one's nation or a policy of national independence" (Athreya, 2016). Nationalism has multiplicity of meanings; Stanford Encyclopaedia depicted that Nationalism focuses two concepts "attitude shown by members of a nation relating to their identity and the actions which the members of nation take to gain freedom" (Nationalism, 2014). According to Athreya (2016) sometimes the states preceded the nations like the UK and France and in the case of third world countries, ethnic nations characterised by extending kinship principle to their nations. Athreya (2016) argued that the notion of a nation is very important for understanding the concept of Nationalism. The nations stood up for the sake of their identity and took actions to throw the foreigners out of their country and wanted to have a free state without intervention of any other nation. Renan (1992) discussed that a nation is a spiritual principle with two things; present and past. The past is called the "legacy of memories" and the present is the desire to live together, the will to keep alive the heritage. Humans and their history are the resultant of the long history of efforts, sacrifices and dedication; it is not invented. Nationalism plays major roles in the nation formation and preserves its cultures by attaching the nations to their ancestral values. During the eras of sufferings and subjugations new nations were emerged as "Nationalism invents nations where they do not exist — but it does need some pre-existing differentiating marks to work on" (Smith, 1991). The ancestral ties are important to maintain the identity of a nation. Nationalism is very important in a nation's life because it is the doctrine of the nation. It tells about the dangers that can be faced by a nation and then it prepares the nation for those challenges. According to Singh "the essence of Nationalism is nation's security that presupposes its unity" (Singh, 2013). Geopolitical unity is a necessary phenomenon for the sovereignty of a nation. Nationalism is responsible for bringing unity, security and development to a nation and these are the basic human needs. The concept of unity simply means the "unification of the national territory or homeland, if it is divided, and the gathering together within the homeland of all nationals" (Smith, 1991). Nationalism is the force which provides power to the people to maintain their identity and makes their survival possible as a nation. Nationalism mainly is the influential dogma of political authority in the present realm, and it retains the nation that governs by its co-nationals. Nationalism served as uniting force "By having a strong sense of who we are" (Patel, 2014). It is the force which binds a nation and prepares it to face the challenges as a whole. Without this binding force a nation cannot get its independence or face other challenges. According to Smith unity means the "brotherhood" of all the nationals in a nation; the "Family metaphor" is used for a nation "nation is depicted as one great family, the members as brothers and sisters of the motherland or fatherland, speaking their mother tongue" (Smith, 1991).

Nationalism acts as an "ideological movement for attaining and maintaining autonomy, unity and identity on behalf of a population" (Smith, 1991). Autonomy is the notion to act under free will without any intervention of the foreign rulers; it gave rise to collective struggle to fulfil the national will. Autonomy "is the goal of every nationalist" (Smith, 1991). Autonomy is the will of nationals to live according to their own free will and when this free will was challenged by the invaders

then Nationalism plays its part to restore autonomy. Nationalism fulfils the needs of its nationals by bringing them to conclusion that a sovereign state is the validity of freedom of a nation (Smith, 1991). Nations must have their own free state where they could implement laws and rules according to their own needs. The notion of autonomy is attached to the sovereignty of nations.

National loyalty is the faithfulness to the nation and it is necessary for the survival of the nation because it identifies a person from all other nations of the world as it “fosters a sense of identity” (Connor, 2007). Nationalism gave rise to feelings of sacrifice; the people of that nation can sacrifice their life for the survival of his/her nation (Burg, 1993). National loyalty leads to self-sacrifice because the absolute principle of loyalty leads to self-sacrifice (Wilson, 1916). In view of Connor (1994) nationality is something “beyond reason,” it is non-rational phenomenon and it is the largest group that commands loyalty. In some situation the emotions of love and hate are strongly felt for the specific persons or the groups. Action calls and sacrifices for the nation in the face of threats to nation demands the unique behaviour and qualities of those who belong. Nationalism contains the ability to raise the behaviour of people to a higher level in which their actions gain meaning and are eligible for their survival. The strength of national sentiments makes reason ineffective and some people try to make them worthwhile even heroic for their nation by sacrifices and efforts. These all things combined to form Nationalism and it secured the nations during colonisation. *A God In Every Stone* gives the accounts from three nations by depicting their Nationalism and independence movements

The text depicts the Nationalism of Carians, Armenians and British Indians and importance of nationalism to bring about independence movements and roles that nationalism plays for the survival of a nation as portrayed by Shamsie.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is cultural and anthropological study focusing on the culture, response, dealings, observation, behaviours of colonised people, therefore; it is qualitative in nature. The study is carried out by exploring book reviews, biography of the writer, interviews and critical discussions to collect data and further used it to understand the text of the selected novel. The study will focus on how people resisted for their sovereignty and show the importance of sacrifice, union, loyalty, freedom for the preservation of nationally as depicted by Shamsie.

Nationalism is the main source to provide a base for independence movements. Theorists like A. D. Smith, Girinius, Al Abood, Pierce, Mjungu, Connor and others highlighted the importance of Nationalism. It includes the uprisings, slave rebels and independence movements against the foreign invaders. The national identity of the nations motivates them to struggle for their sovereignty. Every nation has its own culture, kinship and social practices and that nation cannot bear the intervention of others in their culture or kinship; so it leads the people to get independence from foreign rules.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Everyone in this world loves its own country, nation or people. Nationalism was very important for the nation under foreign control as it ensured the survival of nations. The text has shown independence movements of three nations Carians, Armenians, and Indians. Carians struggled against Persians and tried to overthrow foreign rulers from their land and Scylax who was faithful to king but a Carian National sided with his own nation. Scylax had written the “glorified account of the life of that Carian rebel, Heraclides, raising his ambush of the Persians to a victory greater than any of Darius or Cyrus”. Scylax’s love for his homeland or his nationality, his ancestral ties most appealed him and he had forsaken honour, fame and power for his freedom.

Then we had Tahsin Bey, who was Armenian from his mother side. Armenians were struggling for their separate homeland. He sided with Armenians, his loyalties were with his nation not with Ottomans.

Next, we have account of Indians under British rule, here we have two brothers Qayyum Gul and Najeeb Gul. Qayyum was active member of independence movement and he was part of Khudai-Khidmatgar. Khudai-khidmatgar is the party of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and it is helping the people of Peshawar to get rid of foreigners. Najeeb was not involved in Independence movement at first but then he witnessed the horrors of foreigners and became a member of independence movement at the end. There was a girl named Diwa, and she sacrificed her life for her nation.

The roles played by Nationalism were of vital importance, and these roles included unity, preservation of the nation, national loyalty, sacrifice and sovereignty for the nation. The concept of unity simply referred to the unification of the homeland and the gathering of all nationals together. The Carians unified against their invaders for the independence of their country. Armenians in the Ottoman Empire struggled against the Ottoman rule in order to be safe and sound after sufferings. Armenians formed their party for the purpose of unity and resistance as it was depicted “an Armenian party, with independence from the Ottomans as its goal” (p. 30). The Armenians have made a platform for the unification of their people to struggle for a common goal. Third account discussed the unity of Pathans, and their independence movement during the British Raj and this movement brought fruitful results. Nationalism brought the fierce and warlike nation to the unarmed peaceful struggle. This was a harder task for the Pathans to be unarmed but for the sake of independence and nationality they endured it and when Qayyum asked them “For the sake of freedom are you men enough to put down your guns and endure?— Yes, came the answer,” (p. 248). The protest unified the people and we can see from the text that “crowd takes up demand for revolution” (p. 345). The people were demanding revolution, a change from this condition of turmoil to a peaceful state.

Sovereign states are necessary for the fulfilment of the national will of the nation. Autonomy is the thing which is fundamental to human nature, because it is the ethical imperative for humans. The text shows us the picture of three incidents and people were struggling for autonomy of their lands and peoples. The foreign impositions as portrayed by the text that the Carians, Armenians and Indians were subjugated by their masters. Carians were brutalized by the Persians because the rulers were Persians and they made laws, regulations from which they could benefit themselves. Scylax was a competent man, but Queen asked her that when “Persia” had given you all the things and you were trusted person of Darius then why you betrayed “Persians”. The queen was dead blind due to her imperial status and power that she could not bear that a slave could go against them. She asked him brutally and proudly that “Did you think you could hide from me here, Carian?” (p. 385). Armenians were subjects in Ottoman Empire and WWI brought horrible effects with it. Ottomans were declining at that time and Armenians were struggling for their autonomous state of them like the other subjects of the Ottomans. The Nationalism of Armenians stirred them to resist for their own autonomous state where they can live according to their will, rules, religion and culture. British after colonizing the India disturbed their autonomy by implementing their own laws upon the natives. The colonisation led to subjugating of the people and hurting their national stances so they started an unarmed struggle. The Indians rebelled against the British in 1857 but failed and then civil disobedience started against the British. During civil disobedience many incidents took place one of these was on 23rd April 1930 for the independence of their homeland which was turned into a bloody massacre. Sovereignty played very important to the Nationalism it enables a nation to set its own principles, rules and laws which were designed by their will.

The role of loyalty in Nationalism is very important for Anti-colonial movements. National loyalty of the people helped the nation to maintain its autonomy. The conflict starts just from the beginning of the novel when the story of Scylax was narrated. Scylax was a man from Caryanda, who betrayed Darius. Scylax was the most trusted man in Persia and he had done everything to make the emperor happy but after 20 years he sided with his own nation the Carians. The Carians though knew that they were nothing before Persian army. Their loyalty to their nation demanded that they should resist colonial regimes, but this resistance was not proved fruitful because of the strength of the Persians. Armenians under the Ottoman’s command were suffering and at last they tried for a separate homeland of themselves. Tahsin with loyalty for his homeland Armenia wanted to write a praising account for his cousins from Armenia. The Armenians identity demanded to have a separate homeland for them and during that struggle the Armenians were annihilated by the Ottoman authorities for their demand of loyalty to their land. The loyalty of the Armenians to their own nation demanded to struggle for their survival as a nation. Indians during British Raj were struggling against colonial regimes. All of the characters belonging to Peshawar showed that their national loyalties lied with their own nation. Qayyum was loyal to his own land. Najeeb was loyal to his people, he told Viv with a tone of national pride about Peshawar and its people. Diwa sacrificed her life along with the dead body for her people. Nationalism helps to preserve the culture of the Nations. The people are attached to their own ancestral ties and these ancestral ties have been portrayed by the text that leads to formation of new nations. Nationalism is the force which brings security to the national identity. Carians were Persian

subjects and Persians practiced colonial practices to eradicate the culture and traditions of the Carians. These eradications led the Carians to preserve their identity, their culture through revolt and they rebelled against Persians for the survival of their identity. Armenians were Christians and subjects to Ottomans Muslims. Armenians were exploited by the Ottomans and their Nationalism and memories of the past motivated them to raise their voice against colonials to preserve their culture and identity. Tahsin was very much inspired by his ancestral ties he belonged to "Anatolia – ancient Caria – like Herodotus the Father of History and Scylax the Great Explorer" (p. 17). The text depicted that the land to which Tahsin belonged was traced back to the same land of ancient Caria. The Indians were also subjugated at first and when they resisted against the colonisers they were massacred and in India there were two nations invented after the British rule. The Muslims wanted separate land for them. In that colonisation nations are invented and maintained their survival is possible by means of their Nationalism. Before colonisation it was India and during colonisation it was British India, but after suffering the colonial experience there arose two nationalities namely Hindus and Muslims. The Muslims wanted a separate homeland of themselves so decolonization separated the subcontinent into two countries India and Pakistan. In the whole novel writer used the word India with Peshawar but in the end she wrote it "14 August 1947, Caspatyrus, Pakistan" (p. 387). 14 August is the independence day of Pakistan and from the beginning Shamsie told us that exactly the exact location of Caspatyrus is unknown, but it is believed that it is somewhere near or in Peshawar. The things which relate the people to their nation included the folk songs, stories and other things. In Peshawar's storyteller market the ancient stories were told in the form of "badalas". The nations with strong ethnic ties would likely to emerge as a strong nation this means that the nations had strong kinships with their ethnicities; and when those affinities were violated then there aroused a need for a new nation with a separate homeland.

CONCLUSION

Nationalism played a major part to attain unity, sovereignty, loyalty, sacrifices and preservation of national culture. Family metaphor is used for nations; that is members of a nation were brothers and sisters to one another. This concept of Nationalism united the scattered nations to help them and strengthened them to unify against the colonisers to answer their colonial practices. The Carians, Armenians and Indians were united during their Independence movements and resisted against the power regimes. Sovereignty plays vital role in the development and progress of the nation. Sovereign nations could implement their own rules and laws for their own benefit without intervention of others. So the text portrayed the struggle of colonised people for gaining autonomy for their homeland. National loyalty is intertwined with notion of sacrifice. National loyalty shows the faithfulness of nationals to its nation; so the text portrayed that people sacrificed their lives, luxuries, fame and other things for their national loyalty. Scylax forsaken wealth, power and honour over his loyalty to his people, Tahsin and other Armenians sacrificed their lives for national loyalty. Qayyum sacrificed his loyalty to 40th Pathans and Diwa sacrificed her life with other Peshawari men on the day of 23 April 1930. The people wanted to preserve their cultural identity and traditions. The natives did not want any foreign intervention in their land so resisted those interventions for the preservation of their culture. This thing sometimes led to the formation of new nations, although they have some ethnic ties on which their nationality was based as in text after decolonisation British India; the two nationalities were evolved Pakistanis and

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