

HUMAN RELATIONSHIP IN KHUSHWANT SINGH'S BURIAL AT SEA

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ABSTRACT

The existence of every living being below the sky is having relationship with one another. It's too particular in case of six senses human. It may give either lighter or darker experience to everyone. There are many varieties of relationships which all comes under four major relationships like Friendship, Professional, Romantic and family. Taking Relationship as a tool or theme numerous writers all over the world has written novels, plays, poems and short stories. Khushwant Singh is a well-known fiction writer, journalist, editor, scholar and historian. Khushwant efficiently portrays the real picture of the relationship between the human beings. This article discusses the human relationship in the novel Burial at Sea penned by Khushwant Singh.

KEYWORDS: Six Senses Human, Friendship, Professional, family Taking Relationship

INTRODUCTION

The dictionary says the term relationship means the way in which two or more people, groups, countries, etc., talk to, behave toward and deal with each other. This connection may take place with any living beings. It is more special and particularly when in the case of humans. The relationships can give healthy or unhealthy and happy or unhappy experiences. However, the good one improves all aspects of your life and strengthens your health and mind, which could even be one of your best supports. Also, it could be considered as an investment because the more you put in, the more you get back. Everyone's bond is unique, and people come together for different reasons. But there are some things that good in common. There are many varieties of relationships which all comes under four major relationships like Friendship, Professional, Romantic and family. These interlace and grow into a rich needlepoint of interlaced threads in either way. As well, it could be identified, built and maintained at any time during the life cycle of a person.

To keep up an acquaintance happy one should share something from their part to the receiver, but the focus must only be at the receiver's end. Stay connected with the person, in a way by sharing your activities if not regularly and everything, at least specified things once in a while. Never forget or fade them from your memory. It's always fairer to update yourself about the opposite side and give motivation and encouragement to their rise or reach the goals. Moreover, support saying regards and congratulations. Communicate for a better communication, if anything goes wrong like disagreement or misunderstanding repair the rift and fix it at the earliest which will herald smoother, further. Follow ethical codes of behavior and continue being completely trustworthy. Honor and respect him/her all the time. Be loyal- positive in thoughts, words and deeds which would be pleased and delighted by everyone. Avoid badmouth, criticize or back stabbing others. Even in some reasons or occasion if you must get rid of a relationship, do it in a positive

and sympathetic way. Be humble and open in all your ventures. Above all the biggest and **most valuable investment in a relationship is time**. Providing tender love and care in surroundings may expand and extend the network and ensures constant success of an individual. **Love is one of the most profound emotions known to human beings**. The historical and religious manuscript of Christianity cited on love in several places of The Bible. Particularly, in the books of I Corinthian, chapter 13 the boons of love is signified. In verses

4. Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5. Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6. Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7. bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8. Love never fails. 13. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love. (*I Corinthian 13:1-13*)

By the way, remember to develop a winning relationship, which keeps yourself in the minds of others where you will enjoy and experience victory which admires inner and outer circle.

Taking Relationship as a tool or theme numerous writers all over the world has written novels, plays, poems and short stories. Out of that many took place in respective literatures. Indian Writing in English is a fusion of Indian soul and sources of the Indian spirit and its custom. Initially, the novelists like R. K. Narayan, Raja Rao and Mulk Raj Anand were mainly concerned with the down- trampled of the society, the Indian middle class life and the expression of the native traditional cultural ethos. Following them contemporaries like Kamala Markandaya, Bhabani Bhattacharya, Ruth Pawar Jhabvala, Nayantara Sahgal, Arun Joshi, Manju Kapur and Khushwant Singh wrote about the themes related to social reality of the times. In general, all the above mentioned writers' works have dealt under the denomination Relationship. Indian novelists writing in English in the last few decades have produced intellectual and aesthetic novels.

Khushwant Singh is a well-known fiction writer, journalist, editor, scholar and historian. He was born on February 2, 1915, lived up to the age of 98. He can be listed in the contemporary writers of the past and present. The author became reputed writer of par excellence with the publication of the masterly creative work *Train to Pakistan* (1956). Singh has written a few more novels like *I Shall Not Hear The Nightingale* (1959), *Delhi* (1990), *The Company of Women* (1999), *Burial at Sea* (2004), and *The Sunset Club* (2010). Khushwant is versatile in his creative and historical writings, extending from fiction to journalism. There are certain basic qualities which govern his creative talent and the growth of his art. His writings are creative as well as critical. He has an innate search for identity. He has also earned notoriety through his straight forward utterances and writings. In 2007, the Indian government awarded Khushwant Singh the nation's second highest civilian award the Padma Vibhushan; he returned the same in 1984 in protest against the Union government's siege of the Golden Temple. He was given a Sahitya Akademi Fellowship by Sahitya Academy of India. At ninety- eight, he relished tasty food and was eager to hear the latest gossip and scandal. He drew a balance sheet of his achievements and failures. He is fiercely independent in his thinking and writing. Khushwant efficiently portrays the real picture of the relationship between the human beings.

This article discusses the human relationship in the novel *Burial at Sea* penned by Khushwant Singh. Singh expresses the expression of the scratched mind in human relationship, both the level of intimacy and the distance between a man with a man, a man with a woman and a woman with a woman. The novel begins with the embalmed body of Victor Jai Bhagwan, a brilliant young man with the temperament of a leader, and fiercely committed to his country. He returns from England after his education, determined to bring the benefits of modern industry to his native country.

Within a few years of India's independence, he becomes the country's business magnet and finds a place in the Darbar Hall of the Governors palatial residence, overlooking the Arabian Sea. He had bequeathed all his property to his only child, Bharati, and also instructed her to have him buried at sea. He had also specifically mentioned that no religious rites were to be performed. The novelist uses the flashback technique to take the readers into the living world of the protagonist Victor Jai Bhagwan.

Krishna Lal Matoo, a leading lawyer in Delhi, had three daughters and one son. He wants his only son to be an aristocrat. Initially, he disliked Mahatma Gandhi. Later, he became his open admirer. He wished his children to be an Indian with western culture. Hence, he recruited a British lady, named Valerie Bottomley, and aged thirty – five. She taught all the subjects to the children, both theory and practical by introducing new games and showing the places. She has become one of the family members of Matto. Jai intended to become an engineer rather lawyer, which is more prompt to the nation. Valerie accompanied Victor to join to Eton, England. She helped him to find a house for Victor and signed for six years, where the big boy in the room becomes a good friend.

Valerie was asked by her sisters to think about her life, however parents did not probe. She returned India and took administration works in Matoo's office. While Victor came home on vacation he was received by his family members and friends. His mother cried, looking unto him. Then his father advised not to marry an English girl. Gandhiji advised him to stay away from liquor. When he was back to England, he met many Indians at Oxford, who were not after education but after woman and other enjoyments.

A year later, he found a Keralite named Madhavan Nair, who compared Victor to Shakespeare's Cassius, a man of lean and hunger. They had the same spirit, so become good friends. Indians at oxford meet in the maximum evenings and invite friends and speakers to discuss on India to learn more. Victor, the one represents. He likes Nair because of his sharp wit and ability to give more tit for tat, good memory and could reel out statistics to prove how the British had milked India over the centuries. Victor left a few things in England and came.

He did a foundation work and started a textile Industry. He bestowed good quality and attractive pay for employees, along with benefits like housing, education to children, etc. When Victor wrote a letter to Gandhi soliciting him for his blessing, he replied Jeetey Raho – Long may you live. Victor commenced few more business in the board named Jai Bhagwan.

Matto's daughters were married in a simple way and Victor was married to a seventeen year old Kashmiri girl named Jaishree Raina at Shanti Bhavan. They had a girl baby and named her Bharathi. After a year Raina died, but victor felt guilt for not spending time with her and saying a loving word. Bharathi was not let out of Mrs. Matoo's sight, she cared her completely.

Victor appointed Nair as general manager of the Jai Bhagawan Shipping Company by providing all facilities. On the other hand, Nair did not fetch a good name to the company in India. He went into politics with Jai Bhagwan Enterprises support. Mr. Matto's health became worse and passed away. Victor and Valerie hugged and wept, he thanked her for bringing happiness in his father's life. Gandhiji sent a letter to console Jai, which was a cherished possession. A week later, Valerie took leave of Matto's family. After three months, he received sad news that hi second father Gandhi was assassinated. Mrs. Matoo asked him to be beware because it's Kalyug.

Bharathi was educated in Switzerland for the four years as his family members suggested. Victor loved her daughter too much. After Bharathi has grown up, Victor wants her to visit all his companies in Manchester, Sheffield, Germany and US. She was well received by the staff and workers. She impressed all. Nair Suggested Victor that he would accompany Bharathi to introduce people in England. Victor sensed good and approved. They stayed in London during the Christmas Day, that night Madhavan Nair had sex with Bharathi. Many years ago on the same day Victor lost his virginity.

When Bharathi was out of county her father suffered from heart disease and doctors advised him to have medicines and diet. He went to Rishikesh and stayed. Being in the balcony, he enjoyed the sunset in the evenings and the sun rise in the mornings. There he happened to find an ashram and to meet Ma Durgeshwari, a yoga teacher who own a tiger called Sheroo. She was divorced by her husband who suspected adultery. This meet continued regularly and a rapport developed within them. She taught and gave some natural treatment to him. Also, Swami Dhanajay Maharaj Brahmachari taught some asanas measuring his body. Finally, he planned to take all these three with him to Delhi. All the family members accepted yoga and started practicing. A month later Jai Bhagwan Textile in Bombay, the biggest company's many ventures went on a strike. Nair was asked to handle it, but he expressed his inability. Nevertheless, Bharathi entered the field and met all the employees who indulged in the strike. Her magnanimous approach made everyone to get convince and continue their work. Bharathi was attracted by Swamiji and felt to have sex with him and they did.

Nair disliked the rapport of Bharthi with Swamiji and worked against Victor and his team, initially it worked but later it doesn't. Ma Durgeshwari discussed for a long time, whispered that she is pregnant and doesn't want to get rid of it. The meeting ended with the understanding. On a particular day Victor was just a few yards away from the gateway when a few gun shots are heard. When the chauffer was coming closer to get his master, he found dead, drenched by his own blood.

Khushwant Singh has brought out his characters with good human relationships in this novel. The imaginary personality Krishna Lal Matto is a famous lawyer in Delhi. He became very famous because he maintained a good rapport with the public. Because of his care and fondness towards his three daughters and one son, he recruited a caretaker from England to educate them. Krishna had the least level of romantic relationship with his better half. The casual relationship which he had with Valerie Bottemley transformed into romantic. On the contrary part, this made Mr. Matto to corner the legal one. Singh portrayed Mrs. Matoo, a woman from high society was given poor importance. She did not get love and affection from her hub, but still she was loyal. She was unable to keep up mother relationship because half of her responsibility was taken by Valerie. The one and only member of the family is a consoler for Mrs. Matto is her grand - daughter Bharathi.

The protagonist Jai Bhagwan alias Victor is a superior example for Friendship, Professional, Romantic and family. During his stay in England he upheld a good rapport with his roommate big boy. He met Madhavan Nair, a Keralite from India at Oxford. Victor liked Nair because of the same spirit. Both had intention to develop their native land. Although he dislikes in the post days, for the sake of friendship he made Nair as his own employee during his unemployment. After his education, Victor started Jai Bhagwan Enterprises. He gave more benefits to his employees which no firm has provided.

Relationships between management and employees are of substantial value, which is important to maintaining productivity. This productivity pays obvious financial dividends to the company, as it can get more done in less time with fewer costs. His businesses with engaging workplaces and a well-trained workforce are more likely to retain and attract qualified employees, foster loyalty with customers and more quickly adapt to meet the needs of a changing marketplace.

This goodness was offered because of the social responsibility which developed from his childhood. His intention was not focused on an individual, but on a mass. This professional relationship made the public to admire him and resulted in good fame. Nonetheless, he failed to maintain a romantic relationship which he must have maintained with his wife, Raina. After years, when he is getting old, he happened to meet Ma Durgeshwari. The friendship and care convert to Romantic which ended by Dugeshwari's pregnant. The correlation with family is very vital. He has not despised his father or mother in either way from his birth till death. His mentor Valerie's rapport plays an important role in his life. She identified him as flair. The real character Mahatma Gandhi, whom he considers as his role model, guide and advisor encouraged him in all the upright and perfect paths. Victor's sisters and friends were his all-time supporters. Beyond all, his daughter Bharathi touched him emotional. Whatsoever the work is, he spent time with his young one.

Valerie Bottemley, a British lady spent her maximum of time for Matoo's family. She was trustworthy to her master. Valerie lends her years to all his agonies and commiserates unto him. Romantic relationship with Mr. Matoo remained her at Shanthi Bhavan. The affection on Matto made her to care him during his senectitude. She was the only remedy for his intellectual and physical desires. Her influx in the family brought a revolution. Singh depicts a spinster at the age of 35 remained unmarried because of her entry to an Indian family. Her duty consciousness made her to come back to India. After Matoo she understood that she won't have space and left to her own land.

Bharathi, other than her grandmother and father she was not moved by anyone. Jai is being the father, he taught her to develop self – image, reminding that inner beauty is more essential than outward beauty. He encouraged her to dream big and empower her for the future. As well, he educated her that she matters a lot. She agreed to have another relationship in the family, who would be her step-brother or sister. She was only sexually attracted by Nair and later by Swamiji. But the professional relationship which she had at her young age favored to handle public issues, earned good name in the society. Khushwant sketched Nair as the worst example of friendship. He doesn't stop saying the human relationship with humanity, but it extended to five sensed animal. Ma Durgeshwari owned tiger named Sheroo which did not harm anyone.

On the whole, the novelist has realized and experienced the importance of human relationship and taken it as a major theme in his work.

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