

# A Critical Study of Khushwant Singh's Writings

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**Abstract – Khushwant Singh is a prolific writer in English. His writings are lively and very famous. He has written novels like-train to Pakistan, I shall not hear the nightingale, Delhi, The company of women, The Burial at sea and some important short stories like the voice of God. A Bride for the sahib and Black Jasmine. No doubt, he is a convenient writer. He is convenient because he does not compel a wider reading. He has declared that his roots are in the dunghill of tiny Indian villages. His fiction reeks with the odour of his roots. His style is hard and vigorous. He employs colorful Punjabi expletives and terms of abuse off and on. His Irony works like. Sikh swords.**

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In Train to Pakistan, he dwells on the impart of partition on a small village Manomajra on the Indo-Pak borders. The division of India had been strictly on religious lives. Pakistan was to be a nation of the Muslims, India of the Hindus and the Sikhs and what khuswant singh calls pseudo christians. The partition attitude does not surprise us. What surprises most is the violent attitude of both the Muslims and the Hindus towards each other. It is the process of alienation that goes an across the borders of the two countries like India and Pakistan even today. These aspects have been delineated in detail in the novel called Train to Pakistan. The swift tempo of the narrative skill keeps the interest of the readers alive all along.

At first, the Sikhs and Muslims formed a mixed community. They were living very friendly. They are even ready to sacrifice Their life for each other they were living very cordially, so much so that their relationship never got disturbed by violence. But when the ghost train come from Pakistan. Their relationship got disturbed. While leaving the village Imambakhs chacha embraced Lambardera Banta singh. Both weep bitterly. Not only this, Sikh and Muslim Villagers fell into each other's arms and wept like children. Imanbakhs chacha got out of the lambardara's embrace. "There is no need to cry, " he said between sobs.

"This is the way of the world"-

"Not forever does the bulbul sing in balmy shades of bowers,

Not for every lasts the spring Nor ever blossom flowers.

Not for ever reigneth Joy,

Sets the sun on days of bliss,

Friendship not for ever last,

They know not life, who know not this"

Here, we see that both the community living utmost friendly. But when fanatacism is let loose, both sides murdered, both srides killed and both sides murdered. This novel is writer with the purpose that it might not occur again in our county.

I shall not hear the Nightingale is also an authentic novel of no mean order the novel presents an ironic picture of Sikh joint family. It describes their reaction to the freedom movement through the character of Buta Singh The Magistrate, the novelist has mercilessly Pilloried Indian officialdom. The only character that earns our respect is old mother Sabhrai who has the dignity of an ancient people behind her. The novel derives its tale from a sentence occurring in the book as "once more the Nightingale will sing"[2] She says that I shall not hear the Nightingle' a sentiment expressed in tune with the temper of the novel.

This is story of Sikh joint family in the days before India's independence. Buta singh is the father and head of the family. He is the magistrate who works for the British for his loyalty to the British Sarkar and he is expecting to be honoured with a title on king's birthday. On the other hand, his son sher Singh is a hot blooded young revolutionary. He has joind a band of terrorists and comrades. In order to be a leader, he thought out a plan to distrust arms supplies traffic on road and rail bombing. Sher singh is arrested in the murder case of a village headman. This brought earthquake through the foundation of Buta Singh's house. But mother Sabhrai had strong faith in God. She used to say:-

"There is one God

He is the supreme truth,

He, the creator,  
 Is without fear and without hate  
 He is the omnipresent.  
 Pervades the universe.  
 He is not born,  
 Nor does he die to reborn again.  
 By this grace shalt there worship him"[3]

She departed from this world forever. But God saved her family and Shersingh was released from jail by the order Mr. Taylor. Once again the happiness prevailed in Buta Singh's family. They all began to live happily.

Delhi is Kushwant Singh's crowning achievements. The story spans over several centuries of history, and took twenty five years to complete. Indeed! this novel is based on the story of Delhi, Bhagmati and Khushwant Singhs personal life. About the novel Mr. Singh himself says- " I put in it all I had in me as a writer, love, lust, sex, hate, vendetta, violence and above all tears. All I wanted to do was-to get them to Know Delhi and love it as I do"[4]

The novel account for the history of New Delhi from the eyes of an old Sikh guide named Mr. Singh. The story progresses with chapters bearing the narrations by poets, Sultans, Soldiers, white Memsahibs etc. This is full of creative literary technique. Here, in this novel, various characters are shown in different styles.

In the company of women, India's most widely read author Khushwant singh has produced inhibited, erotic and endlessly entertaining celebration of love, sex and passion. The novel begins with the story of a millionaire businessman Mohan Kumar's deserted life. His father was a retired middle level government servant. Being tempted with large dowry, he got his son married with a high class-nagging wife. Sonu was fair, high spirited and convent educated, she was ill tempered jealousy and nagging. He could not bear the pangs of agony. She deserted him. Recently separated from his nagging, ill-tempered wife, he decided to reinvent his life. He was convinced that lust is true foundation of love. He embarks on an audacious plan. Now he will advertise for paid lady companins to share his bed and his life. In this way his journey of life begins in the company of some remarkable women as-Sarojni Bharadwaj, the demure professor from small town Narayana. Molly Gomes, the free spirited masseuse from Goa, Susanthika from Srilanka. Mohan finds solace in the practiced charms of his obliging maid, Dhanno, and his first lover; the American Tessica Browna to whom he lost virginity and Pakistan Yasmeen who brought him the heady passion of an older woman.

Burial at sea is very fine novel of Kushwant Singh. In this novel, the writer has shown the path of prosperity of nation as well as an individual man through the life of victor Jai Bhagwan. He is miniature Gandhi who challenges Mahatma Gandhi and the topic of progress. He has tried to solve the problem of unemployoneut by establishing different kind of industries. He suggests the planning of textile mills steel plants, automobile factories, huge dams and thousand miles canals, every village connected by road, more schools, colleges, hospitals, free religious and caste prejudices. Victor Jai Bhagwan is a miniature Gandhi whose vision was just against the vision of Mahatma Gandhi for country progress. At last he met the same fate as Bapu.

On the whole, Khushwant singh's art of writing is a unique one. His writings provide amusement and welcome relief from the strain of practical affairs. He deals not with mere trivialities which lie upon the surface of life, but with hydraheaded problems which constitute the very texture of life. His writings are very creative. He hurls bitter attack on evils of the society but at the same time gives the wounds a balm. In his writings we find dramatic sense, comic mode, aesthetic sense of wit, authenticity, realism and humanism etc.

Even if some says that he is not major writer to be classed with either Henry james or james Joyce or Virginia woolf on the one hand and Tolstoy and Dostovosky and Turgemnev on the other but in my opinion, he is outstanding and excellent. His articles published in Newspaper column." With malice towards one and all" acts like rudder as it opens the eyes of politicians. No doubt, his writing is great river of life and beauty flowing, without any impediments of time and space in which there are numberless pilgrimage spots where all the travelers come and take dip for literary enjoyment and moral guidance.

## REFERENCES

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