

COSMOPOLITANISM IN ANITA DESAI'S THE INHERITANCE OF LOSS

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ABSTRACT:

The inheritance of loss depicts many details the tragedies of a third world country just free from colonialism. Against the enormous backdrop of the Himalayas so savage with beauty and yet the stillness of its towering ranges directly draws upon the boring and mundane life of its characters with turbulent inner sides and shades. The novel gives us scrumptious details of the beauty of the natural world. The inheritance of loss is a literary masterpiece, which is fascinating and unquestionable in its flair for description, character scrutiny and human emotion mastery. There is more to it than the story of these four individuals, it speaks of a military insurgency arising. Awakening hate and almost tearing that part of the region from India.

KEYWORDS:

Colonialism, inner conflict, darkness, suppression,

Desai describes the inheritance of loss book that tries to capture what it means to live between East and West and what it means to be immigrant and what happens when a western element is introduced into a country that is not of the West. Desai aims to describe, what happens when you take people from a poor country and place them in a wealthy one. How do these changes manifest themselves in a personal sphere, a political sphere, over time? As Desai notes, these are old themes that continue to be relevant in today's world, the past informing the present, the present revealing the past.

The story revolves around the two main characters: Biju and Sai. Biju is an illegal Indian Immigrant living in the United States. He is the son of a cook who works for Sai's grandmother. Sai is a girl living in the mountainous region of Kalimpong with her maternal grandfather Jemubhai, the cook and a dog named Mutt. Desai switches the narration between both points of view. The action of the novel takes place in 1986.

The major theme of running right through is one closely related to colonialism and the effects of post colonialism. It deals with the loss of Identity and the way it travels through generations as a sense of loss. Individuals within the text show snobbery at those who embody the Indian way of life and vice versa, with characters displaying anger as the English Indians who have lost their traditions.

The Gorkhaland movement is used as a historic backdrop of the novel. The retired judge Jemubhai Patel is a man disgusted at Indian ways and customs, so much so, that he eats chapattis with a knife and fork. Hates all Indians including his father whom he breaks ties with and his wife who he abandons at his father's place after torturing her. And yet, he is never accepted by the British inspite of his education and adopted mannerisms. A novel that sprawls across two continents set in 1980s India, the novel focuses on Jemubhai, a former judge, his teenage granddaughter Sai and their cook who live in a rapidly deteriorating house in the north-east Indian town of Kalimpong – and the cook's son Biju who has gone to find prosperity in the United States.

Kiran desai has presented in this book such lovely details that many a times feels so much like our world. She has portrayed the human soul, naked and bare. The novel depicts Jemubhai the dilemmas of post colonialism. The judge Jemubhai whose perfect manners and demeanour is very much. British is not able to get himself free from the shakles of the traditional Gujarati and Indian Mentality.

The Nepal's struggle to get their own rights and land slowly creeps into the lives of the characters, the cook. The judge. Sai noni. Lola and troubles and questions their very being.kiran desai has dealt very harshly with the Nepal's or Gorkhas who want their land ,They are fighting for their freedom.originally.they belonging to this land and this land to them have been through centuries serving as Chowkidars for English sahibs or anglicanished Indians like the judge Jemubhai.every struggle for freedom has its roots in suppression just like Indian Independence movement .on one hand the world believes in the U.N and its principles and on the other hand we very easily oppress a particular cast and stamp them with a particular label and go forward with our lives. The Nepal's may be wrong as it has been portrayed but what about their rights and their share of life which they have been sacrificing for so long, to make way for others. Definitely this has to be thought about.

The novel through rich with details and presenting a picturesque mosaic of life at times fall prey to monotony and boredom. The darkness and the inner conflict sometimes weigh too much upon the mind and soul.