



MORAL ISSUES AND MOTIVE OF LONELINESS IN "KITE RUNNER" AND "THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS"

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the themes of moral dilemmas and the motive of loneliness in Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner" and "A Thousand Splendid Suns". The paper analyzes how loneliness is not merely an emotional state but a driving force behind the characters' moral choices and actions. In "The Kite Runner", Amir's internal struggle with guilt and the loneliness he experiences as a result of his betrayal of Hassan becomes central to his journey of redemption. In "A Thousand Splendid Suns", the loneliness of Mariam and Laila, shaped by societal oppression and personal trauma, motivates their moral decisions, leading to acts of self-sacrifice and solidarity. The article argues that in both novels, loneliness acts as a catalyst for personal growth, moral reckoning, and the pursuit of redemption. Through a close examination of Hosseini's characters, the paper highlights how loneliness can push individuals to confront their past, rebuild relationships, and ultimately find meaning in their lives.

Khaled Hosseini, as one of the most prominent contemporary Afghan writers, explores complex human emotions and social issues in his novels, *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Both works delve deep into themes of guilt, redemption, love, and, notably, loneliness. Through his characters' struggles and relationships, Hosseini portrays loneliness not as an isolated experience but as a significant motivator in their moral choices and actions.

Loneliness and Moral Choices in The Kite Runner

"The Kite Runner" primarily revolves around the life of Amir, a boy from a privileged family in Kabul, and his friendship with Hassan, the son of his father's servant. The novel is marked by profound moral dilemmas, primarily driven by Amir's feelings of insecurity, guilt, and, ultimately, loneliness.

Loneliness and the Internal Conflict of Amir:

Amir's loneliness is central to his character development. As a child, he craves the approval of his father, Baba, and believes that winning his affection will bring him happiness. However, when Amir witnesses Hassan's assault by Assef and chooses not to intervene, this choice marks the beginning of his moral downfall. His feelings of guilt and shame isolate him from Hassan, but they also alienate him from his father, who becomes emotionally distant as Amir matures.

The Motive of Loneliness and Moral Redemption

For Amir, loneliness is a consequence of his moral cowardice and betrayal. His quest for redemption is as much about reconnecting with others as it is about confronting his inner demons. In contrast, Mariam and Laila's loneliness leads them to forge bonds with each other, defying the roles imposed on them by society and seeking meaning and love in a world that often seems hostile.

Hosseini uses the motif of loneliness to explore the complexities of human morality. He suggests that loneliness is not only the result of external circumstances — such as social isolation or war — but also a product of internal moral conflicts. In both *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, loneliness drives the characters to make difficult moral choices, leading to their eventual growth and, in some cases, redemption.

Conclusion

Khaled Hosseini's novels are profound explorations of the human condition, and the theme of loneliness plays a central role in shaping the moral arcs of his characters. In *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, loneliness is not just an emotional void but a force that influences and motivates moral decisions, offering a deeper understanding of how individuals grapple with guilt, redemption, and love. Through his characters' struggles, Hosseini reminds us that even in the darkest times, the desire for connection, understanding, and redemption can transcend the isolation that loneliness often brings.

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