

THE ROLE OF A FATHER IN CHILDREARING PORTRAYED IN *THE KITE RUNNER* BY KHALED HOSSEINI

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Abstract

The role of parents in raising their children is very important. This article describes how the involvement of a father affects the children's successful booming in childhood and career in the novel, *The Kite Runner* written by the famous Afghan American novelist, Khaled Hosseini. The roles of Baba and Amir teach a lot of things. We can observe different poles in fathers, who behaves both negatively and positively one after one. The effective fathering is framed by the enduring and repetitive cycle of perpetuating the next generation of fathers through the care and nurturing provided to the current generation of male children.

Keywords: Parent, fathering, son, relationship, enduring

Khaled Hosseini is one of the emigrant authors from Afghanistan who lives in San Fransisco. He started his career as a surgeon, but surprisingly became a novelist that writes about Afghanistan and its conditions for the last three decades. He has written three unusual novels so far about the lives in Afghanistan. He described the importance of father son interactions in his debut novel, *The Kite Runner*, the relationships between mother and daughter in his second novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and in his final novel; he wrote the close relationships among the siblings in Afghanistan families. His each novel shows a distinct feature of his writing style. His published novels gained great popularity.

The Kite Runner is Hosseini's first published novel in English by an Afghan novelist. It is a story in which the father and child relationships are discussed¹. The setting of time and locality are the fundamental milieu in all Khaled Hosseini's novels. **Khaled Hosseini's first novel is a story set in Afghanistan, America and shortly in Pakistan in which the father child relationships are discussed**¹. Family is of utmost importance in the Afghan culture.² His storylines have always looked around the family and the relationships between them. The power of familial relationships represented by Khaled Hosseini is one of the most important themes in the novels, especially with the debut published literary work, *The Kite Runner*. The notion of

father son relationship between Baba and Amir is very interesting. The role of a father in raising his son is so prominent, especially in childhood, because it is the base of life.

The author has illustrated the bond between Baba and Amir, the most important relationship that is maintained in the second part of the novel. The concept of fatherhood has resulted in a vast array of rich, complex, and diverse insights into the meanings associated with the role of the father in the family¹. Amir is the protagonist in the novel, whose father is a well-of business person.

The relationships between fathers and children would continue to alter throughout the novel. *The Kite Runner* is a tale of tenderness among fathers and sons that portrayed in the novel. The author explores the idea that a father-son relationship from the beginning of the novel to the end. The concept of fatherhood has resulted in a vast array of rich, complex, and diverse insights into the meanings associated with the role of the father in a family¹. Baba's relationship with his son in the beginning of the novel is so frail weak and conflicting. Baba always thinks of his own regiment. They adhere keep living in different poles with different ideas about life. Baba and I were more alike than I'd ever known text. Amir is the protagonist in the novel, whose father is a well-of business person. Amir is always wooing Baba would be closer to him. But, Baba is always busy with his business matters and friends. He doesn't take much care about his son, Amir. But, Amir is very fond of his father's love and affection. Amir's father, Baba is a great business person in Kabul. They have a the most beautiful in the Wazir Akbar Khan district. Baba is a great humanist. Baba had built an orphanage. So Amir feels always so proud to be the Baba's son. Amir attends to the opening ceremony of the orphanage, which was built by Baba. Amir observes that everybody turns on him when he caught his father's hat. Amir dreams his father is always with him. Some of them tousled my hair and shook my hand too. I was so proud of Baba, of us.¹⁴

Baba's relationship with his son in the beginning of the novel is so complicated and conflicting. Baba always thinks of his own regiment. They adhere keep to living in different poles with different ideas about life. Baba and I were more alike than I'd ever known text. Amir is the protagonist in the novel, whose father is a well-of business person. Amir is always wooing Baba would be closer to him. But, Baba is always busy with his business matters and friends. He doesn't take much care about his son, Amir. But, Amir is very fond of his father's love and affection.

He always thought of his father as a great honorable man who everyone looked up. He always thought Baba was a person so much better. as fathers in this novel. So that Amir desperately wants his approval. A growing child always likes to be happy with his mother and father. In fact, Amir has no mother. The association amid Baba and Amir is explored examined notably in the absence of womencharacters. It represents abnormal rapport between the father and son. His mother dies in childbirth while giving birth to Amir. Since then he grows up, by a nanny hired by Baba. Amir, lacking of a mother's love since his childhood, sees his father as his onlyspiritual support. He desires to gain the whole of his father's love. Amir inherits an interest in education and literature from her mother as she used to work as a teacher in Kabul. No doubt, a father could definitely think much about the delightful future of his son. But, Baba feels somehow dissatisfaction with Amir, because he has dreamed about Amir to make him a good athlete. In Baba's opinion, real men and real boys play soccer just as Baba had when he had been young. According to Baba, real men did not read poetry. But Baba wouldn't give up. He tries to

An International Multidisciplinary Research e-Journal

create an interest in Amir in soccer. He has mixed feeling about his son. When Baba is in a talk with his friends about their favorite subjects, politics, business and soccer, he sends out Amir when Amir is asked to hit with him saying, “This is grown-ups’ time. Why don’t you go read one of those books of yours?” He’d close the door, leave me to wonder.”

But, Baba expresses his impatience, when he sees his son always spends with books. “He always buries his head in those books.” That opinion makes Amir to be unfriendly with his father. Amir feels envy at the orphans when

After the Soviet invades Afghanistan, at once Baba changes himself and starts to be so friendly with his son how Amir wishes. Baba’s words motivate Amir to win the kite fight, which comes once a year in winter. Baba was used to winning, winning at everything he set his mind to. Didn’t he have a right to expect the same from his son? And just imagine. If I did win⁵². After the kite tournament Baba takes him to his relatives’ home and praises him. Amir learns how to behave and call elders from Baba, because he has no mother. “Baba had taught me at a young age to call any older male Kaka, or Uncle, and any older female, Khala, or Aunt⁷⁷. Baba feels so satisfied with Amir winning the kite fight. Many a times he shares with the relatives. They applaud and congrats Amir for his victory. He becomes a hero among them.

The relationship between them become so strong that ever becomes weak. They go to movies, share personal feelings. He tells stories. “I remember I was fairly happy when Baba was home. We’d eat together, go to see a film, visit Kaka Homayoun or Kaka Faruq. Sometimes Rahim Khan came over and Baba let me sit in his study and sip tea with them⁸¹.” Baba throws a grand party. Amir feels so proud for being Baba’s son.

But, suddenly the situations change Amir and Baba run off to the United States. where Baba desperately and in reverse wants and depends Amir. Baba’s life becomes so difficult. Baba works at a gas station, which makes him ill-health. On Sundays they both work in a flea market. The relationship between father and son improve apparently and they become good friends and share their feeling to each other.

Amir completes his graduation. On that day, when he is honored with a degree certificate Baba feels much happier. “I am moftakhir, Amir,” he said. Proud. His eyes gleamed when he said that and I liked being on the receiving end of that look¹²²” Baba takes Amir to a bar and drinks with his son. “Tonight I am too much happy,” he announced to no one and everyone. “Tonight I drinking with my son.¹²²” Baba gifts a car to his son. “You’ll need it to go to college.¹²³”

Amir becomes a writer. Then, he supports his father. Baba once again feels so happy at Amir’s success and asks General Teheri’s daughter for Amir to marry. After Amir’s marriage Baba dies peacefully. Baba’s death makes Amir so sad and alone. “My whole life, I had been “Baba’s son.” Now he was gone. Baba couldn’t show me the way anymore; I’d have to find it on my own¹⁶¹”.

Conclusion

The novelist is succeeded portraying the human relationships in a family. He proved a father is not enemy to his son, but always a well wisher. The novel proves that the most important relationship in a family is a father son relationship. This state of father and son affair demonstrations that the blood relation.

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