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REFLECTIONS OF GLOBAL TERRORISM IN MUKUL DEVA'S 'LASHKAR'

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Abstract:-The present paper analyses Mukul Deva's first Indian thriller 'Lashkar : Into the Heart of Terror' published in 2008 which appears to be a narrative of his experience global terrorism that inspired him as an army officer, when he worked in the Sikh Light Infantry of the Indian Army from 1981. This narration of the a bomblast at the Sarjini Nagar market in new Delhi on 29th Oct. 2005 conveys the strange link between global terrorism and India and Indian economy. It also hints at the relationship between global terrorism and Indian social life. The narrative diverges into the minds of the terrorists which reflect their ideology of terrorism. It shows us Mukul Deva's broad intention behind this typical narration who wants to illustrate the horrible nature of global terrorism, use of violence of the innocents as the means of spreading terrorism, with ultimate aim of intimidation for political purposes.

Keywords:Postcolonial, Terrorism.

INTRODUCTION

The narrator explains in the first part of 'Lashkar' "the plump, middle-aged lady had just bent to pick up the bright red table cover with small mirrors embroidered on it when the bomb placed five feet away detonated. There are nothing between her and the bomb to cushion the effect of the explosion. Her head and a large part of her neck were ripped right off, spraying the pretty teenaged girl standing directly behind her with her with gore and flesh ... The blood splattered all around her and yet to register when the second bomb placed twelve feet away exploded and the LPG cylinder near which the bomb had been placed ignited in sympathetic detonation. A flaming, almost perfectly triangular, piece of metal splintered from some where in the center of the exploding LPG Cylinder. It sliced through the turbulent air in the teenager's chest with tremendous force. The young girl looked down and started at blooded metal jutting out of her chest in disbelief. Life left her body as she crumpled slowly to the ground and came to rest in an untidy heap inches from her mother's headless corps.... It was Hamida, the middle-aged lady who had been beheaded and her teenage daughter, Navaz whose deaths were to matter the most." (3)

The most important factor here is that this incident reflects wide intentions of the terrorists behind performing this terrorist act at Sarojini Nagar Market, in New Delhi. There is close relationship between market and the economy of any country. Market is a place where a number of financial transactions take place and the economic output of any particular market adds to the national output and it adds to the national income of any country. So the terrorists have chosen this typical market to attack and to disturb the peace at the market places. In India, the result of which will be decrease in the market output due to the would be fear in the minds of the common people. The buyers and the sellers will be afraid of maintaining smooth transactions gradually and won't take part in all the transaction, which will lead to the loss in market activities. It is the major intention of the terrorists to stop the large scale flight of Indian economy, market and capital, and to create instability in the field of Indian market and economy.

It also shows that terrorists' formal insurgent organization which have a division of labour with center roles filled by skilled specialists. They have a hierarchy of status and authority, their own system of norms, and strict organizational loyalty and discipline. They also intend to disturb the maintenance of law and order of our country through such attacks so that common people will stop to believe in and to support the government. Thus to weaken the government by creating instability in the field of the market and economy. The Terrorists situated the terrorist training camps at Muzaffarabad in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK), Deva reveals that Pakistan allows insurgent organization to operate their terrorists deeds from their country. The characters like Maulana Fazlur Rehaman and brigadier Murad Salim are controlling the training camps. The freshly trained terror recruits were headed for the Pakistan Army posts at Chakoti, on the Line of Control (LOC) to be slipped across

the border that very night back to India. The narrator puts it “ their arduous, six-month-long training was over. It was time for them to play their part in the jihad to free their land. What better way for their training to come to an end than on this glorious footnote?” (6) This narrative articulates Mukul Deva's ideology of the terrorism.

It also asserts that it is the direct attack of the narrator on the Pakistan where young terrorists are trained and are sent to India, to carry out the bomb blasts. They are inspired to do such organized crimes giving it the label of 'jihad' (holy war). The scenes of the bomb blast are shown to them interpreting it as “heroic deeds” (6). The images of carnage, havoc and destruction influence the young terrorists' hearts. Next, the narrative clarifies how the ammunition necessary for the bomb blasts, is sent to India through various ways. The narrator reveals that such ammunition is brought to India through a dozen of ways; taking precaution about the Indian intelligence agencies and not to alert them to the possibility of an imminent operation. The ammunition includes the RDX, the detonators, the timers, the pistols etc. The responsibility of this task is given to Afzal, a tall, reedy, dirty and robust young terrorist. This narrative investigates the process of bomb-making which is the narrator's intention to make us known to be able to fight them whenever the time occurs. The narrator states that the Indian must have this knowledge to counter the terrorists, which is the need of the time. The narrator directly displays that the ammunition is brought to Delhi from the border town Khajwala, Rajasthan state, to send it to a particular person in Delhi. The narrator indicates that it is possible in India, where the intelligence agency is supposed to be very alert. All the ammunition is sent to the planned place to strike through the stolen vehicles like cars which are deliberately stolen from the rural area to confuse the police on jurisdictional issues to slow down their search. The license plates are changed and the cars are sent to the small garages after the strike. In this narrative the terrorists choose their different garages in the 'Savita Nagar area in South Delhi. (10) Further the narrators shows the negligence of the duties done by the police at the check post who are always unimpressed by the vehicles carrying hidden ammunitions of bomb blasts. “They give importance only to the amount they get from the vehicle drivers to pass the vehicles by opening the barrier”. (11) It is the intention of the narrator here to explain that corruption is the serious problem of the Indians which has become responsible for spread of such terrorists activities in our country. Corruption and taking bribes have made it easy in our country.

Next, the narrator explains how the terrorist's make use of a profile planted on one of the several matchmaking sites on the net. The consignment is given to a cyber owner at Delhi who identifies Afzal from his profile on net. The narrator discloses that internet and cyber-space play an important role so far as terrorists acts are concerns. The narrator wants that the police must have perfect knowledge of modern technologies. They must be adept in it. The narrator shows that the terrorist are scholar young ones who are skilled and adept in handling and operating modern technological devices like computer, internet, promptly. They take full and perfect use of internet to perform their heinous activities of bomb blast, with speed and in the minimum time.

Salim, the leader of the perpetrators is a short man with a balding pat and an easy smile had arrived on a position of sufficient power. The narrative directly introduces us Brigadier Salim Murad, of the dreaded ISI (Inter Services Intelligence), the rogue Pakistani intelligence service, had been instrumental in implementing countless covert missions all over the world. His crowning achievement had been the Talibanization of Afghanistan and the setting up of training camps all over Pakistan occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan to feed the global terror factory. The narrator puts it “ He had been responsible for sending more kafirs (non believers in one God) off to the happy hitting grounds than almost all the Al-Qaida leadership put together.” (15) The narrator proclaims that this Brigadier Salim has kept the fires of jihad (holy war) alive in the minds of the people, at home and overseas. The state of unrest gave the Pakistan Armed Forces power to control Pakistan's economy and politics, through fundamentalist political parties. These parties have no political, social, or economic agenda and any support at the grass roots level. So their only aim is to “retain a firm hold on the reins of power.” (15). The drugs, weapons and sale of nuclear technology generated millions of dollars, for these Generals in power, and for Pakistan politicians Chitkara and Girdhari put it “...Kashmir terrorism is a Rs 250 crore enterprise per year ... Narcotics trafficking from leakages work out to 70 tones of heroine annually “(Chitkara and Girdhari 8). The narrator writes about Salim's agenda as “ a deep, almost pathological hatred of everything even remotely Indian. The millions of American dollars he had diligently siphoned out of the narco-terror trail ... to fund his passion” (16) The narrative peeps also into the terrorists' anger about American actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Pakistan Army's defeat in 1971st war gave birth to jihad. So Salim says “No matter what the cost, I will make these bastard Indians pay..... we always in flames, make it an international example of the despicable kafir violating human rights and international agreements by denying the Kashmiris plebiscite.” (17) General makes their plan clear when he says “.....Our aim still remains clear the liberation of the Kashmir Valley”. (18) This comments make it clear that Kashmir issue is the most sensitive for the Pakistani Government, the ISI, and to the terrorists The narrator is of the opinions that Salim is influenced by general Zia's violent thought that the Kashmiris are with them with hearts and minds. They are simple minded folk who do not easily take to the type of warfare against foreign domination as Punjabi and Afghan. The narrative explores that Brigadier Salim, makes up his mind to implement General Zia's plan to plant their chosen men in all key positions in Kashmir Government, to subvert the police force, financial institution the communication networks and other important organization. They plan to create chaos in Kashmir in collaboration with Sikh extremists; and to establish virtual control in those parts of Kashmir valley where the Indian Army is not located such as Siachen, Kargil, and Poonch sector to force the Indian Army to deploy reserve formations outside the main Kashmir Valley. They also to settle Afghan Mujahideen in Kashmir to infiltrate into with a view to extending areas of their influence, like Punjab. The narrator investigates the most important plan of General Zia which occurred in Salim's mind is the liberation of the Kashmir Valley and the establishment of an independent Islamic state. The narrator examines that the modern arms and ammunition of the US consignments intended for the Afghan Mujahideen

have used in Kashmir valley to liberate it. All these facts show that the Kashmir issue is the basic cause behind infiltration of terrorism in India. General Zia, Salim remembers, assured that their Chinese friends will help them. Who would come for their rescue Zia putS it. "If we do not win we don't lose." Salim also knows from Zia's speech that it is disastrous to believe that they can take on India in a straight contest. Salim launches 'Operation Topac' to balkanize India by unleashing a low intensity conflict that with assistance from the ISI, when there are inherent contradictions of Indian polity. The conversation between Salim and General Zia makes it clear that it is easy for them to play the Islamic card. "The religious bond makes it very easy for us to raise funds for them from all over the Islamic world." (24)

Next the narrative explains that the new trained jihadis infiltrators are sent to India from Pakistan Army Chakoti post at midnight. Iqbal's friend Abu Khan leads the way. Abu is a quiet demeanor, and has determination, the best shot, the best navigator and the most versatile in the field of craft. They have been warned about Indian Army their new battlefield surveillance radars, and always Russian Draglines sniper rifles. Unfortunately, the Indian Army killed Afghan and Abu Khan in two shots, following hundreds of glowing bullets. The narrator puts it "Immediately, hundreds of glowing bullets arced through the directness that followed was a combination of the harsh chatter of machine gun fire and the tortured screams of the young jihadi." (27) Iqbal sees the collapse of his colleague's trainees. This narrative reflects the counterattack of the Indian Army. Then Omer Wahed Ali collapsed and Iqbal helped him as a friend. Even through ambush of the Indian Army, the terrorists, though they were dying, keep their spirit up and keep on walking without the fear death. Become they are the jihadis. They avoid to go back to Chakoti so that the Indian Army may not know about Pakistani check post. They reach at Indian town, Hari, at dawn. The narrative explicate that how Salim has been the right man in the right place. He thinks now to spread violence in Nepal and Bangladesh, about Kargil defeat of the Pak Army he says "I know how many body bags they shipped down from Kargil. Each Indian dead body is one more ovary for us" This comment clarifies that the so called attacks in Kashmir or Kargil are the acts of the Pak-sponsored terrorists who are ready to exploit every possible opportunity to breed hatred discontent and violence in India. The narrator puts it "The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the demolition of the Babri mashid, Ram Janam Bhomi, the general elections, the Mandal riots, the Godhra train burning. Even so, not many more were aware of just how deeply the ISI had sunk its tentacles in to every aspect of Indian society and polity." (34) Salim had almost single-handedly choreographed the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight from Kandhar, forcing the damn Indians to hand over a few diehard loyalists to the Taliban. So Salim, to Deva, is the most crafty militant, working against India. Salim's fundamentalistic are clear when he remembers what general Zia has said that "it is only Allah who metes out infinite justice?" (35) To Salim, the American invasion of Afganistan spelt the end of the years of Pakistan domination of Afghanistan's internal affairs. It seems that terrorism in India, has long history which leads to the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and cold war between Russia and America. American invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq and their influence on India. Salim criticises the nuclear agreement coming up for discussion between India and America. He puts it "... the American's are salivating for a bigger share of the huge Indian market." (36) Salim throws light on the American's external affairs in which he finds that they (Americans) are "the treacherous bastards". It will jeopardize Pakistan's security without giving it a second thought. This is nothing new to them. He complains that America has used Afghan brothers and Pakistanis against the Russians when they needed to do so. They tossed then (Afghanistan pales) aside like used toilet paper when the Russians withdrew from Afghanistan. America is now using Pakistan to bring Afghanistan to heel. This instances make it clear that today's problem of terrorism his been created by western imperialist countries like America and England. The root cause of terrorism is their competition to grab power (territorial) between Russia and America in South-East Asia. Salim is confident that America is wasting its lot of dollars in search of Shaikh Sahib (the All Qaeda Leader). The terrorist intend to save their (Pak's) economy with the American dollars given by America for infrastructural reforms.

CONCLUSION:

It is the terrorist's ideology that India is the sole supporter of America, friend of America, and Indian markets are making America financially powerful. So India is their second enemy after America.

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