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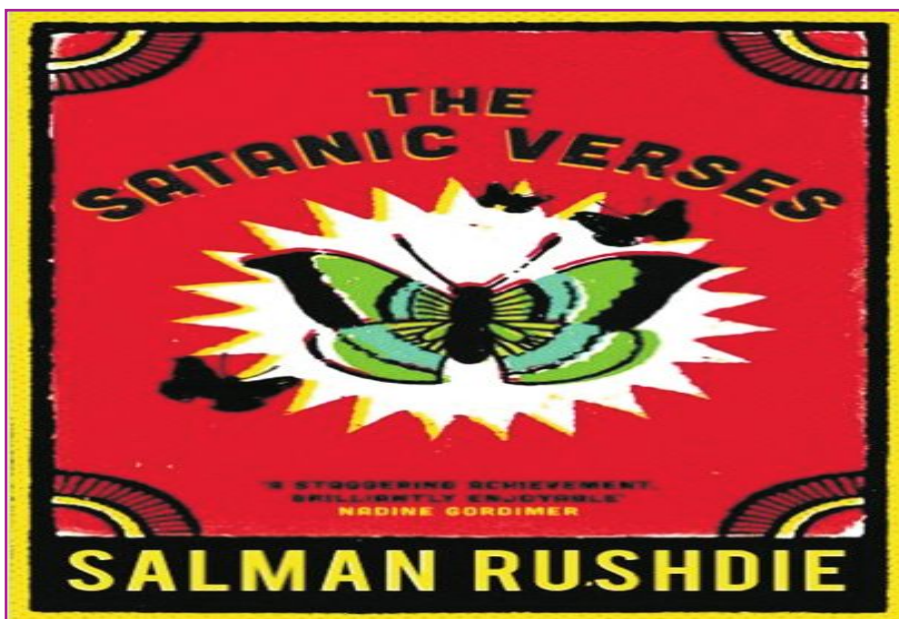
RE-PRESENT HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY IN RUSHDIE'S 4TH NOVEL "THE SATANIC VERSES"

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INTRODUCTION

Re- Present History and Spirituality in Salman Rushdie's 4th Novel the Satanic Verses

The Satanic Verses is Rushdie's fourth Novel, mainly focused on Quran and its Prophet Muhammad .He used the special form of Magic Realism or Magical Realism where original characters and historical facts and figures are represented with magical settings. He used the same concept with his classic novel Midnight's Children .The Satanic Verses is completely different from other Novels. In this Book, he travelled to the east through his past real life situations and experiences. He looked at religious fantasies and beliefs of the People. The theme is a satire on the Islamic religious book of Quran, through this a few negative comments on God and his existence through Verses. The verses were uttered through Pagan Maccan Goddesses like Allat, Uzza, and Manat. Before writing this novel, Rushdie

ABSTRACT

History is a record of the past events, situations, kings and kingdoms as well as Rulers and their ruled. But, Literature looks into the lives of the people and their Social, Cultural, Economical, Emotional and Spiritual insights. Among all Post Modern Writers, Rushdie used two powerful literary genres like History and Magic Realism concepts for his fictional characters. Through this novel, Rushdie went in to the ancient Eastern Countries, looked at the beliefs of the people and the topmost Intelligentsia. His aim is to bring out Miss Concepts and the blind beliefs of the people through

centuries without any practical proof. Rushdie was vexed up with the religious fantasies, illusions of the people of Islam. The primary purpose of the novel is about to remove religious maladies of Muslim community. It is a historical novel based up on spiritual values. It is a semi-fictional novel, some of the real facts and situations are mixed up with fictional Bolly wood and Tolly wood Film actors. Magic Realism is the main element in the entire novel.

KEYWORDS: Historical Fiction, Magic Realism, Illusions, spiritual insights

had gone through a lot of research on ancient Mythological, Historical classical writings of the early writers of the world. The title of the book was primarily influenced by the famous historian Abu Abdullah Muhammad Waqidi was an early Muslim Historian and wrote a religious book on Muhammad. He was the initiator who gave the World the concrete information of Muslim Community. Rushdie gave much priority to study a Persian Scholar and Historian, Abu JA Tabari, composed wonderful verses on Quran. He wrote a famous historical monument "History of the Prophets and Kings'.

The Satanic Verses was accepted and acclaimed by English Community. It was short listed for 1988 Booker Prize final list. It achieved 1988 Whitbread Award for its literary standards. This is a Novel, narrated by Rushdie who used more non- English words and phrases as well s a lot of Illusions. At times, hundreds of Arabic words are used to bring out the true message of the context. The book is written based up on Muslim Religion, Islam and its Supreme Mahmud. Once it got its existence, hundred and thousands of Muslims, all over The East as well as West to Ban the book and expel Rushdie from the Earth. Rushdie became center part of the controversy because of his comments on Allah, the God of Muslims. Through this Novel, he tells us there are no rules of Religion, no Verses are true but the man's only motto is his only rules for his own life. Laws are purely for Individual rights not to oppress them with Devine laws in the Name of God. History provide us some Statistical details of the Past but it never look in to the insights of the lives of the people. It is the duty of Literature to question the Rulers and Religious Priests. Literature, particularly Novel form became more complicated and complex due to its scope of creativity and extensive analysis.

The Post Modern Writers are radical in their views and question their previous Cultures and Traditions. In the name, freedom of speech, they are free to expose the drawbacks of the Old Order. Rushdie, a un- orthodox family where his father was studied in the west later he started Medical practice in India. From the child wood on wards, he did not preach the religion; instead he was trying to bring out the maladies in it. He celebrated The EID festival with his parents. Early morning wear new clothes and went to Masque for Mamas with his father. He had Christian friends so he used to go to Churches as well as, he was closely associated with Hindu children so he visited temples very frequently. It is the origin of religious tolerance instead of religious extremism. Rushdie took up a challenge task to compose a Fiction, against Quran and its Prophet Muhammad. Through this novel, he wanted to question the very basics of Quran and the out spoken Verses of the Prophet. The Satanic Verses Controversy or Rushdie Affair became hot –topic among Eastern Countries, particularly Arabic Countries including India and its subcontinent. The novel was first published in England in the year1988. It became popular in England, America, France and other Christen based Western Countries. But some of the minor Muslim community raised their voices against the book because of the writer made some blasphemous comments against God and his messenger Prophet Muhammad. The very beginning of the novel,' to be born again, you have to die' uttered by Gibreel Farista. The jumbo jet Bostan Flight A1-420 blew apart without any cassation fall in to the English Channel. The passengers who were on the board lost their lives except two; they were survived from the disaster. They were Gibreel Farista and Saladin Chamcha. The principal character, Gibreel Farishta is mixed up with two major Bollywood and South Indian movie stars Amitabh Bachan and N.T.Rama Rao used to act as Hindu Gods like Vishnu, Shiva, Krishna, and Rama and so on. Rushdie showed a lot of patience to create the principal character Gibreel is like his own personality as well as his ideology between religion and humans. He became sick, after his recovery of the illness; he loved Alleluia, a mountain climber of England. This information passed on to Rekha Merchant who was former film actress and Farista's lover committed suicide and she became a ghost, tried to take revenge on Gibreel. These two women characters represent Rushdie's two spouses of Padma Laxmi and Marianne Wiggins. Padma Laxmi is an Indian born actress, model and a television host. Her well known cook book Easy Exotic got the American Best First Book award. Marianne Wiggins is an American novelist. She got Whiting award for her novel. Rushdie first married Padma, after became separated from her. Later he got married with Wiggins when he was expelled from India. When writing these two powerful women roles, he kept his own autobiographical views in his mind.

The entire book is divided in to nine major units. Each and every unit is unique and it exposes to the major incidents of the past. The first chapter is: The Angel Gibreel 2. Mahound 3.Ellowen Deeowen 4. Ayesha 5. A City Visible but Unseen 6 Return to Jahilia 7.Thre Angel Azrael 8. The Parting of the Arabian Seas 9. A

Wonderful Lamp. The very beginning of the Novel: To be born again, sang Gibreel Farista tumbling from the heavens, 'first you have to die'. The jumbo jet plane was crashed and sank in to the English Channel. Two Indian popular Actors of India were survived out of all the boarding passengers. The first one is Gibreel Farista who is famous Hindi Film Star is like Amitabh Bachan and the second one is London based Radio announcer as well as Actor. Rushdie used magi Realism for his plots excessively. He begins the first chapter with magical concepts. When the flight explodes, two major characters of the novel, Gibreel and Chamcha were flying over the sky and singing popular Hindi Lyrics. Rushdie add magical influences for the real Characters and settings.

In this novel, magical concepts as well as historical ideas were added to the characters. Gibreel lost his parents at an early age. He became homeless and starved for food so he joined as a delivery boy to exchange goods from place to place and person to person. Some body adapted him and provided him food and other facilities for the orphan child. Gibreel had inborn talent and had artistic qualities so he was encouraged to become an Actor. Due to the Flight accident, he became sick physically as well as mentally. Soon he recovered from his mental illness. Because of his imbalance of his mind, he lost faith in God and Verses of the God. It is the main cause; he gave negative comments on God. When he was busy with his movies, he was associated and loved Alleluia Cone, an English Woman. Gibreel had already a former lover; Rekha Merchant did not digest the situation and committed suicide. Rekha became a Devil and she wanted to take revenge on Farista for his illegal affair with second lady. These two characters represent two wives of Rushdie, Padma Laxmi and Marianne Wiggins. Alleluia became his life partner, so Gibreel was interested to go to England to begin new life with Alleluia. Gibreel's follower Saladin Chamcha was born and brought up in the crowded city Bombay. He was neglected by his father Changez Chamchawala. He was not happy with his father and wanted to escape from Bombay. He was dreaming about England and living in London. When he was in School, he wished to study schooling in London. He became separated from his father because; his father was married with another woman. Chamcha became furious about the issue. Saladin got angry that his Step Mother's name also his own Mother's name as Nasreen. After his Graduation, he became dubbing actor. He married Pamela Lovelace. After his marriage, he settled down in London. After a long time he came to India to perform George Bernard Shaw's Play. When he was in India, he had affair with Zeeny Vakil. Zeeny was so sympathetic with Saladin's father Changez; it was not liked by Saladin so he parted from Zeeny before returning to England.

Mahound is a character similar to Mohammed. Mahound is a follower of God and preacher of Islam to the World. The Muslim community believes that Mohammed is true representative of God and he utters God's own preaching's to the Humanity. Rushdie used different version as he represents Mohammed was a business man instead of God's representative. Later, he became an Islam religion preacher. According to Rushdie, Mohammed was devils party as John Milton was Devil's party in his popular Epic Paradise Lost. Rushdie is a great reader of Literature of the Ancients form historical and cultural point of you. Mahound climbed up the mountain in the Hizas to meet the archangel Gibreel who was the primary source to reveal God and his omnipotent powers. The religion is unique for all type of people as well as all the cultures all over the World. Mahound, a business man who started new religion called ISLAM. According to him, Islam is a religion approved by all types of people and Cultures. KarimAbu Simbal was the supreme leader and the King of Jahilia. The city of Jahilia is made up of Sand. There is no water in the city. It is like a hot desert. Rushdie compares Jahilia with Saudi Arabia, the sacred place where Prophet Muhammad was born in that place. Every year lakhs of pilgrims visit Macca. This process is called as Hajj. Here the writer used ancient History as a tool to express his opinions. The three best-beloved goddesses of Jahilia, UZZA of the radiant visage, goddess of beauty and love, dark and obscure. MANAT, her face averted, her purposes mysterious, sifting sand between her fingers, she is in-charge of destiny. The third on is the mother goddess, Greeks called as Lato, Ilat, AL-LAT. The Goddess, her name makes her Allah's opposite and equal.

When the plane crashed in to the river, two survivors of the plane Gibreel and Saladin changed their characters as Angel Gabriel and Satan. Rushdie created these two characters as both positive and negative roles. Actual Religious character Gabriel as Gibreel, The evil force Satan as Saladin. Rushdie created the two principle characters Gibreel as a good character. He is compared with Gabriel, in this novel Rushdie used eighty characters with different settings and situations. The entire novel is filled with plots and sub plots and characters. It is not a simple reading book to grab the meaning and find out the story of the Novel. Here, two major concepts

are included. The first one is History and second is Mythology, particularly Islam and Quran. When we read The Satanic Verses first time, our focuses on the characters and the main plot, but in this novel, characters and their roles are not clear and easy to understand. The main plot or the Gist is so complexes instead of easy reading like other novels. Rushdie's main novels like Midnight's Children, The Satanic Verses, The Moors Last Sigh and The Enchantress of Florence have their own identity as well as magical power. In all these novels, Rushdie used, The History of The Ancient, Medieval and Modern India and its sub continent. The main story of this novel revolves around two magical characters Gibreel and Saladin. Both of these were Indian origins and they had strong Historical influences. Rushdie mixed up North Indian Movie Idol Amitabh Bachan and South Indian Movie Idol N.T.Rama Rao. These two actors played major historical and Mythological roles in both Hindi and Telugu movies. Rushdie compares these two heroes as Gibreel and Saladin with the same historical and magical influences on them.

The Satanic Verses Controversy

The Satanic Verses was first published in England. It created a major issue in Eastern Countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran and other Countries. The title itself created panic among Muslim community. A large number of Muslims gave slogans against Rushdie and his verses on God, The Satanic Verses. Ayatollah Khomeini, Iranian politician and a leader of Spirituality issued a fatwa to kill Rushdie for commenting and passing comments on the beliefs of Muslims. Then the Indian government took a decision to ban The Satanic Verses novel as well as Rushdie from India. Rushdie is a creative man so he doesn't care for the threats from his own community. Even though he is Muslim, he is not insisting to attack maladies of his own religion. His main aim is to provide enough scope to Man and take up his own decisions. Through this novel, Rushdie willing to inform to the world; Man should not be judged by his own religion or a written book on religion. Man has been travelled from rock age to Modern Digital Technological Age. So much of transformation has happened over the centuries. What had written hundreds of years ago should not be reality to day or applicable today society? Let him decide to follow Religion or not.. We simply cannot understand Rushdie's Novels by reading like other novels. Before begin to read any novel of Rushdie, one should mainly focus on a few literary terms. First one is Magic Realism and the second is Ancient, Medieval and Modern Indian History.

Mythological and Historical Classical books have their own identity and value, so we should concentrate the hidden meaning of those books. According to Hindu mythology, The Great Ramayana, Maha Bharatha and Bhagavad Gita are the sacred books, so a reader of those mainly concentrates on Dharma verses A dharma and not to apply Logic to it. A lot of controversy was against a book on Jesus Christ and his birth secrets. Any religion could not accept blasphemous words and their religious beliefs. Now it is time to get Ethics and Morals from all Religious Scriptures than searching for Logic and Truth in them. Basically Religious Scriptures were composed for well being of The Human kind instead of searching for logical findings and conclusions in them.

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