

# THE PERSON TO THE REALM: A COMMENT ON AMITAV GHOSH'S HISTORICAL FICTION, USING THE GLASS PALACE AS AN EXAMPLE

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**Abstract:** *Amitav Ghosh is well known as a verifiable writer in Indian Writing in English. From the perspective of those who were colonized, he recreates the subcontinent's colonial past. He, on the other hand, does not merely retell history. Because he wrote history with life, he is appreciated. He portrays the narrative of a person who frequently ends up being the delegate of a local area and its untold history. One such novel is The Glass Palace, which retells the colonial history of India and Burma. The life of Rajkumar, an Indian orphan who was brought to Burma by accident and is now struggling to make ends meet, is the primary focus. This paper examines the novel The Glass Palace by Ghosh to demonstrate how the protagonist's life story is used to retell a lively past.*

**Keywords:** *Palace of glass; Verifiable fiction; Identity; Individual; Self-explanation;*

## INTRODUCTION

One of the major events that had an impact on social, political, and cultural life in the subcontinent was colonialism. However, the oppressor's plight was not documented by the time by the political establishment; instead, it was eager to record history from its perspective. This bending was viewed as exceptionally huge that changing history by recounting the untold stories became one of the essential targets of the Post-Frontier development. Amitav Ghosh is one such Post-Frontier essayist, and his novel, The Glass Royal residence is one such Post-Pioneer novel. Ghosh recreates colonial history from the perspective of the colonized by narrating the life story of Raj Kumar. "Not only with colonizer and colonized, but also with both historical and contemporary relations between different colonized groups," is Ghosh's concern.

The Glass Palace by Amitav Ghosh tells the untold stories of India, Burma, and Bangladesh, which were once colonized but are now independent. The novel shows how these nations' political, social, economic, and religious institutions were affected by colonialism. The novel is mostly about a family

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drama that goes back almost a century. Ghosh wants this book to be a historical fiction that tells stories about people and recreates history. He additionally needs to show that human instinct is something similar all through the world regardless of the time, spot, and race. The story follows the lives of Rajkumar and Dolly, B.P. Dey, and Uma, members of the first generation; in this novel, Neel and Manju Ghosh, the second generation, weave a tale of many stories and characters across generations and locations. Another piece of evidence backs up the idea that Ghosh is primarily a humanist in this novel. Yet again the clever epitomizes Ghosh's motivation of composing: protesting against political oppression. Ghosh demonstrates the impact of imperialism on the subcontinent by narrating the personal stories of various characters. This novel focuses on issues of social upheaval, political instability, and displacement. Ghosh speaks out against imperialism and colonialism as forms of oppression. Ghosh excuses power control in all structures including military, financial, and social. Contrary to British discourse, the novel demonstrates how imperialism has had a negative impact on the colonies. In addition, the novel depicts Ghosh's global vision of a human community without borders. Ghosh blurs the lines that separate nations and identities by forcefully moving the characters. Borders exacerbate the issue when the residence location is uncertain. " and this compounding reveals that the boundaries are nothing more than shadow lines.

The novel's protagonist is Rajkumar. He is an Indian vagrant who is coincidentally ousted to Burma. Rajkumar's arrival in Burma exemplifies how the colonized people are treated more like objects by the rulers. In light of the atrocities committed in the name of imperialism, Rajkumar's inconsiderate treatment should only be viewed as mild and gentle. The displacement, however, does not result in Rajkumar's demise. He is determined to survive, despite the fact that he does not know anyone in the new country. He exemplifies the indomitable human spirit, which inspires individuals to endure any form of cruelty and still survive to become successful individuals. As it were, Rajkumar is the agent of millions of the colonized individuals who battle to get by despite everything.

The initial segment of the novel portrays how the English annihilated the existences of people as well as entire families with practically no contrition. There was no exception with the royal family. The British were indifferent to the plight of the royal family, even though the king and queen gave up without a fight. They annihilated any upright and social propriety in the city that individuals, being decreased to the degree of monsters, started to loot and vandalize aimlessly. When men from the British army were seen joining the looters, the cruel reality becomes clear. Rajkumar, the protagonist, was also seen among the thieves. Rajkumar met Dolly while plundering the palace, and he immediately fell in love with her.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Rajkumar was sure he would survive despite the fact that he was new to Burma and had no one to help him. Soon, a tea vendor's owner came to his aid. He was able to secure food, shelter, and employment. Rajkumar began his new life in a foreign land. Soon, others like Saya John assisted him. Rajkumar, an intelligent and shrewd man, built a business for himself with all the help he could get. Rajkumar's life

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and development as a businessman in Burma demonstrate that people can adapt to new environments despite displacement. It demonstrates how the colonized people learned to survive in addition to suffering under the colonizers. Rajkumar's survival in an alien land demonstrates the universal goodness that pervades every individual despite differences in nationality, culture, and social status.

Every human being possesses the inherent capacity to aid others. Even Rajkumar's success in marrying Dolly, with whom he had been in love for a long time, demonstrates this. One of the best examples of the universality of human kindness is Uma, the Collector's wife's intervention. Uma assisted Dolly and Rajkumar in getting married, despite the fact that the couple had some difficulties moving to Burma with Rajkumar. The marriage happens between two people - an Indian who lives in Burma as a money manager, and the other who is a Burmese living as an exile in India.

Rajkumar, like the majority of his heroes, is naturally curious. He is a decent eyewitness and a bold man who doesn't avoid facing OK challenges throughout everyday life. One of the characters in the book, Saya John, describes him as: The boy had something different about him, a kind of watchful determination. Rajkumar's life story is one of "from rags to riches." He starts out working in a tea shop but quickly moves up the corporate ladder. He is brave and bold. He is an experienced person who attempts to act more established than what his real age is. Like a traveler, he seeks to understand people and places throughout his life.

Rajkumar enters Burma as a kid. With a lot of enthusiasm and keen observation, he explores the location. However, he is homeless and does not know anyone in the area. He is able to comprehend people and their intentions because of his keen observation. For instance, he knows well that Mama Cho would give him a task despite the fact that she yells, "What is your take - I have occupations under my armpits, to cull out and hand to you?"

Rajkumar is profoundly versatile. In a matter of moments he fosters a feeling of belongingness to the spot and individuals. He has a tremendously upbeat attitude. He views obstacles as difficulties. He wants obstacles in his life so that he can overcome them and advance. He is daring and willing to take chances. He is driven to wealth and prosperity by his eagerness, intelligence, and upbeat outlook.

Rajkumar is a true hero because he started out with nothing and turned out to be a successful man with wealth, a family, and a wife and kids. He took advantage of every opportunity that came his way. He was aware of people: He made friends and sorted out assistance from others. Despite the fact that he remained an orphan with no formal education, he had some success in life.

Rajkumar establishes himself in Burma despite his poverty. He has the ability to comprehend other people's intentions and is able to achieve success in life. Rajkumar is successful because he observed people and comprehended their thoughts throughout his career, from working in the tea stall to becoming a wealthy merchant. When he looted the palace after it was taken by the British, he met his wife there. He was determined to marry her because it was love at first sight. In fact, because she was involved in so many issues, he married her after much struggle.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

On numerous occasions, Rajkumar is assisted by male and female individuals. Ma Cho, the tea vendor, was the first of many people to assist him in advancing in life. She gave him his first job. Rajkumar receives assistance from Macho's husband, Saya John, throughout his life. Rajkumar is shielded from the attackers by him: after the English rule was laid out in Burma, Burmese could have done without Indians since they felt that Indians were boldly serving the brutal English. As a result, Indians who came to Burma and were in Burma were being attacked and killed. Saya John is always the one who saves Rajkumar when he is attacked on multiple occasions. Rajkumar receives employment in his factory from him. Rajkumar uses Saya John as a friend, philosopher, and guide. He teaches him how to live successfully and survive. Rajkumar suffers through his orphanage, but with John's guidance, he grows stronger. Rajkumar could tell that... Yet, the aggravation endured just a moment and when it had blurred Rajkumar felt himself to be especially the more grounded, more ready" (Ghosh, 2000), and in order to grow his business, he takes risks in life. I will have to take some risks if I ever want this business to grow" (Ghosh, 2000). He takes chances and succeeds in business. When Rajkumar eventually makes the decision to wed Dolly, he travels to Ratnagiri in India and discovers that she is with the deported royal family. When he marries her, he faces numerous challenges, but Uma Dey, the collector's wife, assists him.

Hardship strikes Rajkumar in his advanced age. Neel, one of his two sons, passes away due to health issues. His other son, Dinu, turns away from him. Crushed by the deficiency of their child, Cart goes to a cloister. Ilongo is the result of Rajkumar's extramarital affair with a servant woman. Rajkumar is depicted by Ghosh as a typical man with all of his flaws and strengths. While Rajkumar may have been the story's hero, Ghosh does not portray him as a superhero because he did not rise from humble beginnings to become one of Burma's wealthiest businessmen. Given that this novel is a realistic portrayal of life, the moral guidelines of civilized society do not appear to apply. It is just very normal for Rajkumar to surrender to his actual necessities, with Cart pulling out into her very own universe. He continues to be an orphan with no education, as these events demonstrate." Rajkumar is as real as the businessman next door, despite the fact that he is the hero of an untold story.

Human people group is heterogeneous as it is a combination of good and malevolence. Rajkumar was excellent on the whole; He got to know people, respected them, and became friends with them. Thus, even in a foreign land, he had friends. His life demonstrates that an individual can live anywhere, locally for any reason, since people are generally something very similar.

Rajkumar believes that there is no boundary between India and Burma. For his own self, his life experiences have blurred the line between India and Burma. Dolly also demonstrates that life can exist across boundaries. She was relocated from Burma to India, just as Rajkumar was relocated from India to Burma. However, their life together was made possible by their love for one another. Ghosh beautifully

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and realistically tells this story, using the same tone to convey his idea of identity, nationality, and history, which are all separated only by fictitious shadow lines.

Humans are naturally good. They naturally tend to get along with each other. Despite all of their differences in culture, social systems, tradition, heritage, outlook, etc., they share many things. These fundamental normal human characteristics present in each individual are what compels Rajkumar look for a task from an absolutely obscure individual Mama Cho, and similar quality urges Mama Cho to utilize Rajkumar. The same quality enables John to assist Rajkumar and recognize his positive traits. People are able to express and reciprocate all of their fundamental emotions because they are the same everywhere, as evidenced by Rajkumar's love for Dolly and Dinu's attraction to Addison. Similar instances can be found in other Ghosh novels as well. He makes these human associations among his characters to emphasize the point that people are naturally fit for meeting up annihilating every one of the fanciful limits made for the sake of identity.

Rajkumar calls Burma home just as much as India. Dolly would also consider India to be as much a home as Burma. The extraneous factors' temporal differences would disappear over time, allowing two people from different backgrounds to live together in a new environment. External factors, such as political circumstances, can cause short-term differences between two people. The mediation of English in Burma is the essential driver for aggression between the Burmese and the Indians who went to Burma. Some Burmese believed that the Indians were to blame for the state of Burma becoming a British colony, which is why they attacked Rajkumar.

However, regardless of their circumstances, human beings remain fundamentally the same. In the very beginning of the book, Ghosh makes a strong case for this point. The British gave the king an order to surrender when the Burmese people gave in to the British. They desired an exile for the royal family. People saw their compliance with the British demand as an opportunity to plunder the palace's wealth. Ghosh demonstrates through looting that the British, Burmese, and even Indians are all the same. All of the priceless items were removed from the palace by the public and Burmese servants.

In addition, the British soldiers who were in charge of safely transporting the royal family into exile were looting. The palace was also looted, and Rajkumar was involved. He met his future wife, Dolly, who was taking care of the princess at the time. Ghosh never fails to highlight the noble qualities of those portrayed as looters and ruffians in his work. He agrees with the eastern idea that good looks good in bad and bad looks good in good. Contrary to Western thought, he does not subscribe to the binary system.

Ghosh portrays the biography of Rajkumar to show that public limits are fanciful lines that can be vanquished at the individual level. He makes an effort to make this possibility available to a community as a whole elsewhere in his books. Like in the book *Sea of Poppies*, where he lets the passengers of a whole ship get together and forget about all the barriers that keep them from creating a society without

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discrimination, the novel, *The Glass Castle* propounds vanishing public limits in the individual space of a person.

## **CONCLUSION**

*The Glass Palace* is more than just a fictionalized version of a historical event. It is a document that reaffirms the idea that people can fight for their lives in any situation. Additionally, it emphasizes the inherent goodness of humans. Ghosh enlivens the dry facts that line the pages of history books by narrating history through the story of an individual. The following remarks about *The Shadow Lines* apply to all of his books: Each layer of the overall story is a fusion of private lives and public events linked together to form a thematic unity. In addition, he celebrates the heroes of the colonial era by recounting previously untold tales. The novel depicts a person's life story through historical perspective. Ghosh, in such manner, has made an exceptional sort for himself in the domains of Indian Writing in English. Nevertheless, he clearly comes from his ancestors. R. K. Narayan and Shashi Deshpande are among the authors in the Indian English fiction tradition that Ghosh cultivates. Ghosh's commitment to Indian Writing in English will continuously be esteemed for its worth.

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