

**The Influence of Politics in “The Inheritance of Loss”****V.P. Malathi**Assistant professor  
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Kiran Desai was born in 1971, she is an Indian author but settled in United States. She is daughter of another author, Anita Desai. Kiran left India to England with her mother for a year, then, they moved to United States. She stayed there for her secondary education, studying creative writing at Bennington College. Her first novel, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*, received numerous awards. Desai spent much time in New York, Mexico, and India for writing her second novel. The novel brings the difference between India's upper and lower class people. It also says how the character's dreams and hopes are shattered by political influence in India, especially immigrant who again caught by rigid rule in India.

**Keywords:** Immigrant, Domination, Prejudice, Colonize and Reminiscence

***The Inheritance of Loss***

The novel begins at the judge's house who is sitting along with granddaughter Sai on the corridor. Cho Oyu, the cook preparing tea for them while the judge's dog, Mutt, sleeps on the porch. A set of boys from the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) visited the judge's house and threaten him to hand over his guns and searching for any valuable things in the house. The judge doubted the cook in connection of robbery, so he sends the cook to station. The police enquired him and haunted the hut of cook and nothing was found except the letter from his son, Biju. In this, the judge reveals his superiority power attitude towards the poor was obvious.

Even in case of Biju, who tried different job in the heart of Manhattan, and forced to quit the job for not having a green card. Same atrocities he received from all restaurants owners. Both

the father and son are facing the same situation in world though they were residing in different country. But the problem is same, the peoples attitude never change where ever they visit. There a sense of domination they faced everywhere.

Another character is Sai, the orphan who is now with her grandfather in Kalimpong. The cook and a Dog Mutt were staying in that house. She is an Anglicized Indian girl who is contrasted with Biju. The author brings the inner conflict between these two characters because both are not remain in their own native. For them, there is always reminiscence between past and the present. The author discuss about the theme such as superiority, domination, suppression and rejection. The characters reflect this struggle in the plot of the novel. Some characters were exposed as a weaker one, who has lost their traditions; none of them living a satisfied life.

In America, Biju's condition is worst, he often shifting the restaurants, first he worked in an Italian restaurant, where he was fired by the owner and lost his job. Then he moves to a Chinese restaurant, the situation prevails same. He has to stay in basement in Harlem like undocumented immigrant in the country. After that, he finds job at Queen of Tarts Bakery. Biju's life is full of struggle and pain, he met a Pakistani named Saeed at the Bakery and he was wondering on the way the Saeed enjoying his life at basement. Biju starts to question himself on prejudice that they never do any harmful to anyone in India not like white people. Biju's father, the cook has been degraded by his master; the judge treats him very poorly and insulted him by giving place to stay along with other servants. But Sai was given privilege to enjoy the high social status. Actually the judge belong to peasant caste, by his hard work, he had raised his status to top class. He passed the Law degree in Cambridge and he got married to a fourteen-year-old wife, Nimi. In England, he was treated like second class citizen; he was not at all recognized by his own people in the country. He was treated odd due to his accent, so he has to concentrate on studies to complete the degree. Then, he came to India to join in the Indian Civil Service. He is clever enough to use the opportunity, rapidly increased the wealth and finally retired as a judge. In India, his life is totally changed; it is just opposite to England. Here, he leads decent life and held a higher position. After colonizing, he started exploiting the Indian. This is the difference between Indian and others country people. The author shows the difference of two cultures, the western culture with Indian culture.

Now, the author narrates the arrival of Sai to judge house unfortunately she lost her parents by bus accident. The convent nuns traced her origin and found her grandfather's address; they

prepare her to send to India. The judge was pleased to meet Sai and spoke to her with concern. Since, they belong to same culture. Sai is an excellent in search of knowledge; she needs tutor to learn more. So, judge appointed twenty years- old Gyan, jobless fellow. Both were easily attracted to each other. They started dating, they were together to visit to a different places like cultural institutions, the zoo and a monastery. Gyan told Sai about his family background and how they are fortunate to serve under British Army. Here, Indians are easily yield themselves to British people.

The cook wrote a letter to his son, Biju suggesting him to seek help from others regarding green card to settle in America. In this regard, Saeed also joined with him because both of them aiming for same cause. But they were cheated by men in van who promised to get a green card and swindled their money, after that the Bakery was closed.

In a mean time, Lola and Noni were talking about the political influence over Nepalis living in India. These natives were demanding for a separate country for having their own government. Noni is somewhat have mature thinking than Lola. But Lola sees her own prejudice by comparing with Pakistanis with the same kind of bias. Sai was celebrating Christmas with her family relations. Gyan joined in procession lead by GNLF which reflects the mentality of youth in Nepal. Next day, he started shouting at Sai for her English culture. After that, he asked apologize to Sai. Now, Sai starts tease him for being relishing western things and called him hypocrite. Gyan gave information about the judge's gun to GNLF. Here, natives were fought for their liberation because once they were under British rule. The author shows the impact of colonization in India.

The judge recollected his marriage life with Nimi; it is bitter experience for him. Once his wife used his power puff when he returned from England, for that, the whole family members teased him. He was heated and raped her. He compelled her to speak English and asked her to follow his culture, for which she refused to do. He treated her badly and cruelly attach her and went away on tour. His act reveals the male domination on women .

In spite of the cook wish, Biju wants to return to India as he realized that he is not capable of settled in foreign country .Before leaving, he purchased various things for his father but all he loses in airlines. Suppose he is not permitted to carry, Biju took his luggage and come out of the airport with desperate state. At the same time he feels solace in being in India.

The judge was very much disturbed by missing of his dog Mutt .He is furious on the cook and started to hate him. The cook met Gyan in canteen and told everything to him; Gyan

assures that he will find the solution of the problem atleast for a shake of Sai. The cook returns to Cho Oyu and tell the judge to give punishment for him. The judge least to any sympathy on him, he immediately starts to beat the cook with a slipper. Here, the cook is witnesses India's hierarchy being overturned and discarded. It recollects the past history of India from the action judge and his role in Sai and Biju's also disturbing their lives. Sai intervenes and told the cook to prepare tea. At that same time, someone is on near to the gate so the cook goes to the gate and surprise to see his son, Biju. The cook and his son hug each other with cry that breaks the silence of the mountains. The author draws the picture of inability of poor over rich people.

The setting of the story is significant, since the novel discussed the regional cultural and geographical complication. Kalimpong is a right region where Himalayas is surrounded as a background. Its look like grandeur vista and symbolized for the characters turmoil's for a freedom from their personal and political burdens. The character Sai reflects the problems arise in her relationship with people who ever come across in her life. Sai's relationship with her grandfather and her lover Gyan make her to feel alienation due to the impact of political ideology on personal relationship.

### Conclusion

One of the main themes discussed in "The Inheritance of Loss" is the struggle between cultural identity and force of globalization. There are many displacements in this novel, especially Gyan used to criticize Sai that she cannot be Indian. Because, she is neither fully belonging to British culture nor to Indian. She lost her personal identity in connection to the location of displacement. It seems like the physical exile by Biju and emotional exile by Sai , even in case of her grandfather, the judge bitter characters reflect his unfulfilled dreams leads to personal loss. The author explores the impact of displacement in a characters psyche. This internal conflict creates a tension that the characters feel who caught between the personal loss and the complexities of globalization. This novel is finest example of resilience of human beings and their struggle for growth which is universal subject.

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