

ISSN: 2395-4132

THE EXPRESSION

An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

Bi-Monthly Refereed & Indexed Open Access e-Journal



Vol. 3 Issue 1 Feb. 2017

Impact Factor 1.854

Editor-in-Chief : Dr. Bijender Singh

Email : editor@expressionjournal.com

www.expressionjournal.com

The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 1.854)

www.expressionjournal.com

ISSN: 2395-4132



THE STUDY OF BRIT'S PSYCHOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION IN FIRDAUS KANGA'S *TRYING TO GROW*

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Abstract

Trying to Grow dramatizes in effective fictional terms, the protagonist's journey to adult life. Written with compelling honesty, the narrative offers a slice of Parsee life. Brit's efforts to escape from an atmosphere of intellectual aridity, to discover his real self constitute the core of the novel. It is a significant work in Parsee fiction for it tells us much about family life, and social milieu in the post-colonial period. This paper aims to deal with the maturation of Brit, the Protagonist and his development of an awareness of his place in the world, who seems to be an imaginative invalid who passionately tries to grow.

Key-Words

Osteo, Obsolete, Ideologies, Psyche, Sexuality.

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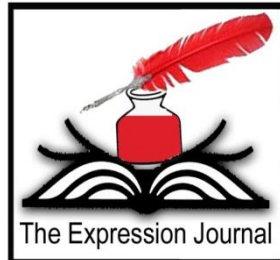
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This novel dramatizes the maturation of the protagonist and the way he develops an awareness of his own place in the world. But the protagonist is an imaginative invalid who passionately tries to grow. Right from his childhood Brit struggle for his self and tries to grab the actual space meaningfully in spite of his physical condition. The action he does are filtered in his mind and forms internal. Since Brit is lacking in his physical growth he tries to grow mentally in order to get compensated with his growth. His parents play a vital role in the mental growth of Brit. Broken in body, he wishes to be alive and active in spirit. Even though the procession of finding a cure to Brit's Osteo fails, he feels great of himself being different from others. He wishes to have his own separate imaginative world, filled with fantasies and fancies where he finds himself the king of his own world. His world of fantasies gives him much pleasure, where he identifies him as a grown human.

When he was called that he isn't a man his whole world of fantasies shatters. This forms the base in the process of his internal growth. This is where he is pointed of his inability, which gives him an initiation. His cheerfulness becomes a mask which hides his weeping heart. He becomes a brave one who learns to smile in his adversity. Madame Manekshew advises Brit of various perspectives which helps him to view things differently. Brit begins to view himself in a different light. He enjoys his zest for life in a way he can. It is this way of perspectives initiates Brit in the process of self-development. The dichotomy

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between the real and the ideal overwhelms. This helps him to accept people as they are, with all their strengths & limitations. His parents viewed his problems from opposite point of view. Sam his father feels that his son would not be able to compete with young men 'bursting with energy'. Sera his mother on the other hand is an optimist who block him from encountering the reality. It is she who blocks him from his self-discovery. The budding sexuality creates problems for Brit where he begins to look for new excitements in life. He becomes painfully conscious of the fact that he would be left alone to face the world, and he attempts to conquer loneliness. Brit's life takes a turn after the arrival of Cyrus into his life.

Earlier Brit was considered by everyone around him as an unable, inactive but for the first time he was treated as an individual by Cyrus. This gives him a great feeling that he himself witnessed himself as a whole. Brit feels complete when he was with Cyrus. Presence of Cyrus made him to feel intoxic. Ideas and ideologies of Brit are shaped by his literary obsessions. Brit's perception of reality is the result of his imagination. After his encounter with Cyrus the imagination that he builds was about to shatter. He was made to face the truth, which is the real world. Brit realizes that Cyrus knows the secret of his inner life that, he isn't good enough to be a genius but he is trying to prove himself to be smart. Brit dislikes the way being treated as child by his mother. He wants himself to be shown as a grown man. He feels that his parents treatment as a child towards him from growing individually. His struggle to evolve mentally and emotionally fails to evoke a sympathetic response in his parents. His parents fail to realize that what he requires is confidence, hope and not sympathy and affection. Brit's parents wants him to be in his imaginary world as they find his encounter with reality or adulthood world never be easy. In this case Cyrus plays a major role in the evolution of Brit's consciousness. He thus becomes an inseparable element in Brit's life. Both become partners in their doings.

Cyrus feels that talking to Brit is like talking to an intelligent woman. Brit's growing confidence can be seen from his brave attempt to swim. Brit wants himself to be associated with the real life as every other individual, and so he is aggravated of his parents act. When his parents direct or warn him from doing things, he protests as, "I'm right to myself. And it's awful to you to go on thinking I'm not." He attempts to assert in order to make himself strong in the eyes of his parents.

Brit's work on to be a creative writer brought him confidence, which enables him to conquer loneliness and the publication of his story inspires him to be successful. His failure to connect the real and the ideal world is due to his imprisoned imagination. The death of Sam exposes Brit to encounter the obsolete realities of life. His brutal death fills Brit with a sense of awe. It is a moment of great loss, but it is the place where Brit stands exposed to life. He admits that "I felt as if all my life I'd been bundled up against the wind, and now one by one my woolies were being taken from me"

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Brit's encounter with Jerry made him to learn lessons that, reduces the gap between his immature past and his fluid present. Brit wishes to live on his own, without depending on others, both physically and mentally. When Amy says that he should not hesitate to rely on others, when needed, he remarks as

“My problem is that I forget I have problem. Then when I have to ask someone for help, I feel as awful as you'd feel if you had to be lifted into this cab”.

Brit's first confrontation with evil happens when he was about to meet face his drunken servant. It is this incident forms as a battle to his strength of mind. The fight with his servant made him to realize that he is no longer a boy with Osteo, but a man, an individual. He observes, “I know I couldn't hide behind my bones much conger”. Amy's help and her rescue act at the theatre causes more pain in him then the insult of a stronger. However, he accepts the limitations with humility. The reflection of him in the mirror sickens him of his stature. It is not what he wants to perceive of him, but what he wishes to avoid. His helplessness taunts and torments him. For the first time he cries like a man. Brit, who remains a prisoner of imagination, begins to view the world with an eye for the looks. He outgrows Osteo and fells that people do not live only in their bodies but have inside themselves. After the absurd death of his mother, he was successful as a creative writer. He attains an identity as a human individual and faces life with optimism. He realizes that “I want to be what I really am, no more acts, no more reaching of things, I am too short to reach”. His eventual acceptance of things and of his image in the mirror is in a way sign of his mature acceptance of his limitations. He says, “These are something we just can't believe. I like the way I looked”. He steps into the real world of reality with hope and his success as a creative writer is an indication of the growth of his mind, though these is very little physical growth. The relationship failures offer him mental growth.

Brit learns to face life alone. He was made strong enough to encounter the reality. He begins to look forward to life. He looks at life in a different way, without sharing any self-pity, where at a point he comes to a definite decision of his own. Brit's conscious shift from self-absorption to self-actualization shows his enlargement of his mind and thoughts. His recognition of his role, his self, his being in the world becomes the peak of his growth.

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