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HISTORICAL ELEMENT IN SALMON RUSHDIE'S MYSTICAL NOVEL "THE ENCHANTRESS OF FLORENCE"



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ABSTRACT

The Enchantress of Florence is a Mystical Novel of Rushdie. He himself stated that, he took years and years of reading Indian Historical and Mythological books to compose a master piece. It is like a Research Document where each and every word, sentence, paragraph, characters and characterization is clearly crafted. The most powerful word Enchantress was taken from American Comic Books published by D.C. Comics as well as D.C. Entertainment organized by Warner Brothers later they became an Icon of Holly Wood Movie Industry. Enchantress is a fictional anti hero character who dominates other roles with her powerful voice and fearful looks. She dominates the scenes with her mystical powers.

KEYWORDS :Enchantress, Florence, Mystical Novel, Mughal Dynasty, Fathepur Sikri, Historical Element

INTRODUCTION

The second word Florence is taken from Italian province of Florence. The city is famous for its History, Business, and Arts. It is called as the region of Literary Renaissance. Florence is a beautiful city where every year thousands of tourists visit the place for its beautiful scenes. Rushdie choose these two charming words to narrate a literary master piece. The Enchantress of Florence is a gift for his son who is away from him. Before begin to read this novel, a reader should keep some important elements in his mind. It is the Novel narrated based upon Indian History, Mystics, Aesthetics, and Mysticism. The Novel begins with a Traveler who wishes to enjoy the beauty of Fathepur Sikri located at Agra District in Uttar

Pradesh State of India. The City was identified and developed by the king Akbar the Great. He was the third powerful king of Mughal Dynasty. His father was Humayun and his Grand Father was Babur who was the founder of Mughal Dynasty in India. Akbar was an artist so he showed much interest in Art and Culture. He developed Fathepur Sikri, as Literary and Artistic Hub of Central India. Akbar took initiative and developed a huge Library with volumes of Literature written in Persian, Arabic, Latin, Greek, Sanskrit and Hindi. He appointed Linguistic, Literary Scholars as well as Calligraphers to translate The Ancient Classical Books in to Arabic and Indian Languages.

The Novel begins with a Traveler who visits to the famous Shrine, Fathepur Sikri, and the glorious city of the Mughals. He wants to meet the king Akbar to inform him a story which is not known to him as well as the people of his own Dynasty for years of time. He is enthusiastic to utter the information, only to the King because it is a secret one. The unknown Traveler's name was Mogor dell Amore. He was able to speak Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Persian, Russian, Portuguese and English. He was a quick learner of Languages automatically because he used to travel from one Race to another Race, like a Tourist Guide. The story is about the history two cities of the East and West. Rushdie uses his Magic Realism element to connect the two major historical Giants, Akbar the Great as well as his contemporary Machiavelli of the 16 century. Akbar got the throne from his father Humayun who was an inexperienced ruler but a noble man with passion in arts, literature, and painting. When Akbar became the ruler, gradually, he expanded his kingdom from north to south India. He was the ruler who implemented the centralized administration system. His political, economic reforms made him a successful leader. Very soon Non-Muslim communities believe him as their true leader. Akbar was a great lover of books. He had volumes of Classical books written in Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Latin and Greek. He invited Literary Scholars from East as well west to translate the classics in to Indian Languages to preserve the wealth of the World. He gave messages to the Scholars from East to West and North to South to translate the books. Akbar's Palace Fathepur Sikri became the centre of Art and Literature. Thus Sanskrit Literature was translated in to Greek and Latin as well as Persian, Greek and Latin Literature was translated in to Indian Languages. The period was named as the Renaissance of Indian Literature.

Here, Rushdie highlight the portrait of Akbar for his outstanding contribution to the Literature and Art. In other side, remind the powerful and Italian Politian, historian and a talented artist Machiavelli whose contribution to the western society and also much influenced to the rest of the world. For several years he worked as diplomat in Florentine of Italy. Rushdie mixed up realistic historical events with fictional characters. Unless we know the deep roots of Mythological and Historical Characters and Characterizations it is highly difficult to understand Rushdie's Novels.

Post Modern Writers use a separate style of writing instead of following their Ancestors. They mix up technology with historical evidences. Post Colonialism is the source of modern writers highlights the major issues of the people of the same Race. Cultural, Economic, Historical, Social and Psychological order of their own Country. The main purpose of the writing is to expose these common people basic needs and act as mirror of the society. Now days Research in Literature is a large scope to extend the Characters and their roles in broader perspective. India, a Colonial country, for hundreds of years it was under the rule of British Dynasty. They came to India for Trade so their main focus was on Business. They focused on Administration, Mineral and Natural wealth instead of look in to the roots of Indian History. Ours is a ancient historical, cultural, religious based country so Indian Historians, Writers go in to deep study of our classics which were composed in Sanskrit Language. The novel travels from Italy to India. These two nations prioritized Art and Literature. It is Rushdie's 11 Novel mingled with History and Magical Realism. Rushdie took years of time to bring out the Historical Master piece of Fiction. It is a

Fiction but with History of the Past and Present. He presented the story with Imaginary Characters with powerful settings. Rushdie has a particular type of narration; he never speaks the main point through his Roles. He never bothers for the theme of the Novel. His Characters speak and Act for their own purpose. So Readers of Rushdie's Novels read and enjoy the Art of Fiction instead of searching for the logical meanings of the issues. He is an Author who writes for his own satisfaction. His Characters and themes jump one character to another, one theme to another. Simply witnesses his imaginary roles with Historical and real life situations. Rushdie's popular novel, Booker as well as Booker of the Booker Novel "Midnight's Children" begins with first person narrative, gradually transfer to third person. He could not mainly focus on theme but transform magical elements, beautiful situations, Post Colonial findings and the sufferers of the Modern Indian and rest of the World. This is a Novel, blend with reality with fantasy. The settings and scenes of the novel moves from Mughal Court to Florence of Italy. Rushdie visited Fatehpur Sikri, which had a hidden treasure of Art and Literature. In the end of the novel, Rushdie provide an eight page Bibliography not only for booklovers and also for outside world. He compared the city of Florence with the city of Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri in his own point of view.

He felt that Akbar had a great vision to build up Modern Indian on the basis of Art, Culture and Literature. Rushdie changed his mindset to create a new novel which is beyond Political, Religious and Controversial boundaries. Rushdie is known to the World with his Classics, Midnight's Children and the most controversial Novel the Satanic Versus. But in this novel, he gave importance to History, Fine arts; this is a novel which recollects of the past glories of India and particularly Mughal Emperors and their ruling. The Traveler wished to remind the secret of Jodha, an imaginary lady who was accompanied with Akbar as his beloved, actually there was no such type of Character's name written in History records. The word Jodha had received from the Hindu Mythology. Akbar showed much tolerance, Religious freedom in his regime. Rushdie wanted to inform to the East, he is a serious Fiction writer, nothing else. . Rushdie was banished from East due to his controversial argument against God. The religious chauvinists could not digest the issue so he landed on the West. For years, he has been in English Countries and writing Fiction, Non-Fiction in English Language. Even though he is in Western Countries his

Soul is in India and its subcontinent. Rushdie never write in Indian Languages like Hindi, Marathi and Kashmiri. He always preferred English for his Novels because his aim is to bring out the hidden historical, cultural, political, economical and social issues of India to the outer world. Rushdie is a separate personality among other Post colonial writers. The fascinating and exuberant Novel begins with the theme of the 16th century India and the rest of the World. Rushdie is a master story teller. His characters simply move us to imaginary World. He gave voice for the poor and neglected minority communities for centuries. He brings out the truths of the British Imperial India. Minorities always become sufferers in any Country like The Muslim Communities in India as well as The Hindus in Pakistan. Many authors looked at the Historical background as well as Post Structural ideas with fictional thoughts as their major resource for their novel writings. They simply transform History to Literature. Instead of providing dates and events of raw details of the past events, post modern authors add human soul to the events through characters and powerful settings.

The Enchantress of Florece is a powerful story narrated by Rushdie on the basis of History as well as Art. `The Novel begins with an unknown traveler approaching Fatehpur Sikri of the court of Akbar. The beautiful city is laid on the river bank. At the time of setting the sun, the palace glittering likes gold. He was stopped at the gate because it is so late to meet the Emperor so as he wanted to meet the king the other day. He had the message to tell the king which was given by the British Queen Elizabeth. He stayed that night in the brothel house which was called as Skandra. The traveler, Florentine landed

on India on a Scottish Pirate ship. The stranger said that he was the son of a princess of the Kingdom named as Qara Koz, a lady with beautiful face, glittering eyes with charming personality. She had some kind of special magical powers like a witch craft. The traveler's name was changed as Uccello. Uccello was a great painter of Florence. He was the initiator for the Renaissance of Italian Art and Painting. Uccello had the other name, Mogor dell Amore which means, the child of unmarried Woman of Mughal Dynasty. He informed the authorities his original name was Niccolo Vespucci instead of Mogor dell Amore

Rushdie never tells the truth directly. His characters give enough scope to the readers to understand and imagine with the full length of the historical incidents. The traveler came from the west to tell a secret to the king is the main element in this Novel. It gives enough scope to compare with India to the Eastern Countries. The traveler had information which, he got it from The Queen shows that it is a sign between the relationships India to the rest of India. The Enchantress of Florence is a novel based up on Indian History, Culture, Art and Literature at the time period of Akbar the Great. It moves from Italy to India brought out the glories of the past.

It is a Frame Narrative in which each and every chapter itself is a particular story. Every character and every situation is unique. The novel has different stories of the east and west. The first few chapters keep us in to the world of Fantasies and historical identities. The other chapters shows that the west and its history and culture.

By this novel, Rushdie proves that he a Man of Letters. His early life in India, very particularly in the business city of Bombay, religious and cultural intolerance in the over populated Bombay City. Rushdie re collects the glorious periods of the ancient rulers and their kingdoms. History is represented through this master piece. It is not book to read and find out the gist of the novel. It is about generations of Indian history. When Rushdie was banned from East, he was much depressed due to the freedom of expression and the rights of an Individual in a democratic country. While writing Midnight's Children, The Enchantress of Florence, Non-Fiction like East and West, Homeland Stories, Rushdie Looks at the World as two major divisions. West, as The Countries the countries where much freedom for an Artist to bring out the best. The other side of his views about India, Pakistan and Bangladesh as East. In these countries Writers could not survive because of the age old Customs and Political and Religious systems. By composing such a powerful, Historical based novel, Rushdie recollects the ancient India and the Rulers and The Ruled.

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