

HISTORICISM IN AMITAV GHOSH'S THE CALCUTTA CHROMOSOME

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Abstract: Historicism is a kind of theory or a part of literature which is relevant to the past occurrences. Generally it's related with social life of people, believes, customs, norms, language etc. Literature and its developments are based on the past as such human developments. Margaret George, Bernard Cornwell, Jean M.Auel, Kate Akott, Sarah Dunant have handled historicism in their novels. Amitav Ghosh aims at examining historical believes and events, the way it affected or impacted on individual or group of people or communities as whole. *The Calcutta Chromosome* deals with culture-beliefs of social life, and the faith of individual. *The Calcutta Chromosome* mainly presents the real life of the victims and uncertainties.

Historicism is a genre of literature which deals with the past, past reliance, intellectualism, culture, customs and idea. Even though historicism used from the past as technique this concept developed in second half of the twentieth century primarily through the Prof. Stephen Greenblatt's *The Critic and University of California*. Human beliefs are repeated in various forms in all walks of life. It unmasks individuals or writers imaginative symbols or inventions or ideas are used in the olden days. The literary or non literary discourse circulates with us inseparably with this idea of past. At most all suggestions and ideas are have access the unchanging truths or belief or inevitable human nature.

Perplexedly *The Calcutta Chromosome* deals with the historical thoughts and reliance through the character of Antar and Murugan .Here the author untied the knock of historical reliance of Murugan by opens the historical figure of Surgeon – Major Ronald Ross, who invent the source of Malaria in Calcutta. The novel *The Calcutta Chromosome* opens with the character named Antar who struggled with his damaged identity card, who works in International Walter Council at New York. When he seeks help from Ava the other character, they accidentally find out that Murugan the clique of Antar become invisible from 1995.

When we go back neither with the author, nor like his other novels *The Calcutta Chromosome* has wide space for interpretation and criticism. He leaves so many parts of the novel unexplained which obviously undergoes so many diplomatic opines. Murugan whom known as scientist, search for the unfathomable Chromosome in Calcutta. He appears in Calcutta in August 20, The World Mosquito Day. From his voice we (readers) come to know that it's not present in all cells of human beings all the time. It is a freak chromosome, it can't be isolated as well as there is no possibility that it transfer in to other generation, and generation to generation.

Murugan calls this drift DNA carrier in brain the Calcutta Chromosome. Murugan arrives at Calcutta but unfortunately he disappears, on the curiosity of knowing about Murugan in the fickle of Antar leads to meet past and present. How he uncover the secret truth about Murugan and his searching the cells of Malaria made us to meet more characters in Egypt , India , America and finally Britain. There are some other characters we encountered named Mangala, Lutchman, Laksman from them Antar find out that Murugan find out that “counter scientific” art which is remain secret. But that discovery simply dominates the discoveries of Ross.

This was revealed by the woman named Mangala who is working as a helper of the Lutchman, and he is a servant of Ross in his Science Lab; “to know something is to change it, because as soon as something is known. It is already changed; since by then you know the history” (CC 60). From this group of people who has thirst of discovering something, Antar come to known that Murugan discovers something about the source of Malaria which is still under the research of Surgeon Ross. From these scene Amitav Ghosh describes that the intelligence of the individual was how dominated by others. It's indirectly showed us that how colonialism washes out the history.

The group of scientific people try to find out the medicine for Malaria, on its way they discover this disease causes only by female Anopheles mosquito. However the novel follows intimately Murugan the individual character more than all others. He is a Indian but who served as a American scientist. He is a symbol of rationalism of India, and the novel try to unlock the certain history of India. Even after knowing that Ross's irrationality thought of “Plasmodium B” he can't get rid of that idea. Antar thinks that there must be a forbidden history behind the research of Malaria. When Antar thirst of searching leads him to go back and smell the article which is written by Murugan, when he is in America about his research of Malaria. In that article there are too many people indulge in the search of parasite, he wishes the credits may not go to Ross alone.

Murugan a man of thin and pale looking, faded colour hair, black colour almond eyes with moon face and flat nose makes his appearance as boxer, he is man of unstoppable. His passion is only to create a history on the research on Malaria. Amitav Ghosh wanted to show how people are treated and ruined when they dare to not obey the norms which have no right track. Murugan is a man of fire as Thomas Hardy refers in his *Elegy*. No rules and powers control over him, that is why he travelled to Calcutta. This character of Murugan fuelled Antar to know about him and his research. Murugan remain not silence yet he continued his theory

of Malaria in secret. It's not only Antar and Ava's opinion but all the readers that the great scientist keeps their research in secret until they get achieved what they aim for, as like Murugan. This silence is their strength and let their victory speak of later.

At The Presidency General Hospital when Murugan was roaming in his lunch time just to pass the time, he had overheard the voice of two women accidentally. They are working as journalists in Calcutta; they came here for a literary celebration. But when a first lady Sonali questioned about something about the cook, the other one Urmila Roy revealed all the secrets. From their conversation he realises that it's not good even shares the secret to his wife. He decided to go to Calcutta without informing anyone including his wife, but later he worried for his decision.

Here again the historical belief of human played. When Murugan travels in uncongenial surrounding, he hears a voice saying "Laakhan!" in the darkness. He happened to see a phantom He feels frightened, yet he managed himself to survive in that night. When its dawn, he happened to meet the station master. The station master said that long back a man who lived in the station signal room he was young and energetic that young lad name was Laakhan. Murugan gets fainted yet he got a friendly woman in the Sealdah station. Amitav Ghosh made the wave matches to the next part with Sonali Who called Mr. Halder at 1'o clock morning. But she doesn't receive any response from him. So she is going to Ross's mansion. That was a big living room she smells something abnormal. She straight goes the upstairs and reach the balcony, the view she saw made her frozen.

In Rosés mansion the uncommon ritual was held where all community people stand humbled and together. There was a old woman chants mantras, suddenly she shouted that it was a time again to pray for our Laankhans. She felt panic and confused, and think of what is Laankhan. In the very next day morning Urmila prepare sell – fish for Halder which is offered by a young boy. She ordered him to stay there to eat but without her sense he escaped from there. She notices that the fish was wrapped in a paper of The Colonial Service Gazette, she find out that is a transfer courier. Her inner conscious instruct her that it was a silent and secret message, but she couldn't find it out. So for Urmila tries to seek help from her companion Sonali, On the way to meet Sonali, she abruptly meet Mr. Murugan and leans for his help.

Murugan knows well about that organisation of the colonial Gazette, and he revealed all the details he knows about that. He more over tell her that the special parasite in the blood of fourteen year old boy whose nationality is Egypt. Then they discuss about the spiritualists and their customs, belief of Egypt. Urmila even confuses herself that whether she believes Murugan and the uncommon ritual or the story of the station room. Murugan wishes that someone must communicate with Urmila and him in between that makes a interaction smooth and butter but unfortunately that wont happened. She thinks that Murugan and his thoughts are insane or the person who intimately follows these beliefs is having lack of sense. She thinks that mystical sects are the imagination of Murugan or else it is reality.

Murugan reveals all his experience he had with Mr. Ross when he is in the lab on the process of discovers medicine for Malaria. And how his theory of "Unique Calcutta Chromosome" obsessed by Ross. He also explains about the presence of that chromosome in Brain. If his theory of unique Calcutta chromosome get success it's easy to cure the disease. Murugan and Urmilla when reaches Ross's mansion to meet Sonali , they come to know that the ritual secretly held there was done by not only Egyptian but also Romans. And the lady who chants mantras is the land lady of India.

This is how the fantasy of secret procedure of discovering medicine of malaria travels in silence. Murugan and the group of scientists are always under the religion of silence. The sweeper woman Mangala in the Rosses building knows much better than Ross himself and even the Australian doctor Julius Von Jauregg who is the pioneer of Ross's invention. Mangala herself got affected by Malaria research and later Cunningham trained her as laboratory assistant. According to her instinct she feels that malaria affects brain and damaged it, that's the reason why people think that the patient need spiritual prayers. Amitav Ghosh here tries to convey that India has long and deep root of tradition. Like malaria diseases are easily cured on those days.

Intentionally this western dominates the Indian tradition saying full of insane, but actually Indian traditions and rituals having scientific meaning inside. These western scientists don't have that much rationalism to smell the witness inside. At times they realized the worth of the individual Indian, but they try to ruin or obsessed them with their power. Those malaria patients reacts abnormally their personality change, they start react randomly, and it's because of that cells of malaria presents in the Brain but not react always. Malaria is not a disease which is passes to the next generation.

Mangala attain more knowledge than the Ronald Ross, to honestly open up, his part of invention is just tiny box of the things analysed by the Mangala is vast. Murugan tells to Antar the current researcher that ; "Just think, a fresh think, a fresh start; when your body fails you, you leave it. You migrate – you are at least the matching symptomology of yourself. You begin all over again, another body, another beginning..... the technology let you improve yourself in your incarnation? (CC 62). After many years of research Murugan finds out that Mangala always believes that the bug which cause of malaria is always present in mind. She tries the transplantation of Calcutta chromosome once but she failed. So she required more information about the bug. In this research Ronald Ross was just a tool to take the invention in to right path. Murugan also believes that this transplantation is possible even Laakhan is a living example for this transplantation done by Mangala.

We find that the absurd historical facts are spreads all over the novel rather than the research of Ross. Amitav portrayed that Mangala is not a ordinary human, she is a goddesses who easily found the solution to cure the disease when scientists struggled to catch the right way. When she was warned by the Ronald Ross and other group of scientists and pulls them in to the wrong direction, Murugan believes her views and intelligence and stayed.

The mystical characters of Laakhan / Lutchman are the characters present in the novel abruptly appear and disappear abruptly, may be those characters are used to convey the voice of Murugan. When Urmilla receives a sell – fish, she connected that incident into the Murugan's experience of Laakhan in the train. Whether it's a physical or mental improvement of the boy changes his personality. There are too many sub plots are left unexplained by the author. This leads many interpretations on this novel. Finally, Amitav clearly has woven all the superstition, spiritual rituals into the way of finding the solution of the disease.

Antar when he come back to his thoughts in twenty- first century he remembers his all works, he has a meeting with Tara. But he urged Ava to connect him to Calcutta, Walter council office. But the reply he get from there take him to the peak of shock that Murugan ID was crushed and found in the station called Sealdah. Suddenly Antar remember that he had met a young guy whose tooth is not arranged properly named Lucky stared at him closely. He thinks that it's Laakhan whom Murugan meet in the darkness station of Sealdah. Again his thoughts are shuttered that the voice of Mangala and Ava suddenly feels same. He hear the voice of Urmilla , Sonali , Mngala, and Mrs.Aatounian near beside him and tell him that yes . We were here to help you and take you in to right path.

What happens in the station of Sealdah not explained properly by the author, but Murugan Mangala and Mrs.Aatounian are missed from there. This chapter left for reader's imagination. The whole story kindled around Murugan and the laboratory. This book suggests that how individual suffers in the field of science and invention and got deceived by superiors. There was another example of this message, Ronald Ross's friend J.W. Grigson also got accident near the station. Laakhan who may losses his body but his spirit lives in another body, the spirit not ruined. When Antar come to known that Murugan himself losses his consciousness and become psychopathic patient Antar himself feels feverish.

Amitav Ghosh novel *The Calcutta Chromosome* totally deals with the scientific theme with various themes, full of mysterious. It indirectly talking about how the tradition of one's own was destroyed and one's individualism got wasted just by the birth background. As we know Mangala and Lutchman are the low caste Hindu followers. Scottish scientist and Egyptian boy the Indian origin scientist Murugan are become invisible suddenly. There Indian journalist Sonali and Urmila are also not exceptional. *The Calcutta Chromosome* deals with the investigation of transference between the subaltern classes and high class people.

This novel travels with many stories and many characters, there are too many twist and relationships which takes the readers in to confuse. So throughout the novel readers must draw a border line between the discoverers and the other characters. Ghosh interludes so many historical thoughts and elements in the science plot, but at the end he beautifully connects it with the main theme. A perfect wise person has need single perfect moment to discover his wiseness.

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