

Train to Pakistan
by Khushwant Singh

PG Semester II

CC 5

Unit II

Dr. Md. Shahnawaz Alam

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"Train to Pakistan" is a historical fiction novel written about the Partition of India in 1947. It is about a small village called Mano Majra which lies on the border of India and Pakistan. The novel highlights the violence and communal tensions that erupted during Partition when Sikhs collided with Muslims.

Themes

1. Communalism and Violence: The novel records a wasteful time of violence and atrocity during Partition.

2. Humanity and Compassion: Still, besides all the chaos, the novel gives us some glimpses of humanity, compassion, and kindness among its characters.

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3. Displacement and Loss: The novel narrates the trauma and dislocation which the people faced at Partition.

Characters

1. Juggut Singh: A Sikh youth who greets himself with violence in communal clashing.

2. Iqbal Singh: A western-educated Sikh who attempts to reassert a sense of civilization into the milieu.

3. Hukum Chand: The corrupt yet cunning policeman.

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Symbolism

1. The Train: The train means the link between the two nations and also the forced movements of the people during partition.
2. The Village: Mano Majra symbolizes a miniature India where different communities lived peacefully in the pre-Partition days.

Style

It is plain yet effective writing by Khushwant Singh. The descriptions of sordid detail within which violence and chaos are encased prove to be interesting reads.

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Impact

"Train to Pakistan" is a classic in Indian literatures and one of the insightful and thought-provoking portrayals of one of the most tumultuous times in Indian history. The novel has been translated into many languages and has dotted worldwide critical acclaim.