

### *Characterisation*

*Khushwant Singh writes of the split of a united India into a "Hindu India and a Muslim Pakistan" in his book Train to Pakistan. He talks of the time when Muslims were kicked out of the village of Mano Majra. The village is home to Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs, and it is next to the newly formed Pakistan and the divided India. Singh's characters Hukum Chand, Iqbal, and Juggut Singh represent three different sides of Partition, giving us a range of points of view. Hukum Chand is a Hindu magistrate, hence he gives a Hindu view of the Partition. He is a government worker, though, so his ideals and actions show that he cares about people rather than his dislike of Muslims. On the other hand, Juggut is a Sikh criminal. Iqbal represents all identities. His religious affiliation stays unclear and a source of disagreement until the end of the book. He represents all religious identities. Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus all use the name Iqbal. People in all three sects often preserve this name. So, it is a common emblem that the magistrate uses against him and for him. He can join all three religious groups. Iqbal doesn't have to "say what Iqbal he was." He could be a Muslim, Iqbal Muhammad, a Hindu, Iqbal Chand, or a Sikh, Iqbal Singh. In India before the division, this shared symbol was a tool. After the partition, however, such heteroglot symbols (which carry many voices) must be assigned to one group.*

*Hukumchand, Iqbal, and Jugga are the three primary characters, and they each represent a distinct way of thinking and a different society. Hukumchand, who is a magistrate and*

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Deputy Commissioner of the District, has two quite different traits. He is a seasoned and level-headed bureaucrat who keeps his administrative and bureaucratic point of view even when he hears the worst news about slaughter and mass deaths. He is a sensuous man who likes to drink, listen to music, and be with girls to have fun. He is also a young prostitute named Haseena. But the bodies on the ghost train made him shake. He was upset in both his body and mind. When he hears about the Sikh conspiracy against the train carrying Muslim refugees to Pakistan, he drinks himself to death. Iqbal is not from here. He lives in the city, likes being called "babu," and seems to be affected by Western culture. He came to Mano Majra because it was right on the border between India and Pakistan, which was "a vital point for refugee movements." He seems to have dressed like a socialist. He says he came here to stop calamity and make a sacrifice. He got off the train at Mano Majra railway station with the goal of saving the village from communalism. But he shows that he is not what he says he is. His cynicism and nihilistic attitude help the reader see that he is more of a politician than a socialist. At the end, when he heard that fanatical Sikhs were going to attack the train carrying Muslim immigrants to Pakistan, he briefly considered about making a gallant sacrifice. But after thinking about it again, he realized that this sacrifice was pointless if no one was there to observe and acknowledge his bold effort. He quickly leaves this world, lost in dreams of valor and applause. Jugga is a powerful young man who is very sensitive and sentimental. Singh uses this character to show his readers the main message of the

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book: how love, humanism, and the kindness of men can win out in times of trouble and catastrophe. Jugga is a Sikh by birth, yet he is head over heels in love with Nooran, a Muslim girl. He is going to jail for the murder of Lala Ramlal, the money lender. Iyenger calls him a "self-confessed budmash." After he gets out, he learns of the plan to assault the train going to Pakistan, much like Iqbal. His mother tells him that Nooran, who is pregnant with his child, was also meant to go on the same train. Jugga chooses to stop the attack, even if it means putting his own life at danger. He gets to the bridge, where the Sikh zealots had strung a rope across the first span of the bridge to kill the Muslim passengers who are sitting on the train's roof. Jugga starts to cut the rope up the pole. He ultimately cuts the rope and falls on the track, even though he was shot twice.