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**TRANSFORMATION OF THE PROTAGONIST AS AN INHUMAN IN  
*THE INHERITANCE OF LOSS***

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**ABSTRACT**

Today the world has become a global village due to communication revolution. In the age of liberalization, privatization the entire socio-cultural life has been totally changed. Being a sensitive part of the society literature cannot be remained untouched by it. All the contemporary literary personalities endeavor to mirror it. The way in which Indian women writers have projected physical, psychological and sociological problems can be tackled in an interesting manner. The Indian women writers have touched the core of these issues. The world has made the village man away from each other. When he goes far away from his family, he feels isolated. In such period others uncivil behavior with them may convert them as they didn't use to. They are transformed. Reading the novel very passionately we may say that any human being does not change his ethics himself. He changes, perhaps due to the force of the circumstances created by their own companions. Such transformed people might be or may be compelled by someone directly or indirectly to be insolent with others to take revenge of the situation dealt with them by others. By birth nobody is debauched or abhorrent but their daily experiences give them wide exposure to such situations. Jemu, the protagonist of the novel by Kiran Desai, too was not of that kind person by birth but the wrong treatment of Englishmen turned a table against his personal moral and ethics and converted him as a wild animal.

Key words: Transformation, Inhuman, Cross-culture

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Today the world has become a global village due to communication revolution. In the age of globalization, liberalization and privatization the entire socio-cultural life has been totally changed. As literature represents the life as it is or some time in better ways this theme too didn't remain unnoticed by the literary personalities of the contemporary society. But the way in which Indian women writers have projected physical, psychological and sociological problems it can be tackled in an interesting manner. The Indian women writers have touched the core of these issues- cross cultural conflicts between the two cultures. In the changed

situation feeling of anguish, loneliness and ruthlessness or homelessness can be observed to examine these facts. The tension in their life has increased due to their actual circumstances. Despite of their assimilation they cannot escape from these problems of realization. The world has become global and it has made the village man away from each other. When he goes far away from his family and society, he feels isolated and lonely. It is observed that the isolation and loneliness has been creating many problems in the new social system. In the new age, social relationship has been changing due to cultural alienation and desperation. All these

aspects have led to complex the situation, which is dealt here. Modern world's that kind of attitude has disturbed our society. Human beings are not as they used to have been. They are transformed. Reading the novel very passionately we may say that any human being does not change his ethics or human values, won't like to keep them aside to live a better life. Even though they have been transforming themselves from endurable to unendurable despite knowing that their new lives will never be welcomed by any one. They change, perhaps due to force of the circumstances created by their own companions. Such transformed people might be or may be compelled by someone directly or indirectly to be insolent with others to take revenge of the situation dealt with them by others. If in such situation they are not taken care of they may transform themselves as Jemu has transformed himself as a beast. The false minded people are may be the outcome of it. By birth nobody is debauched or abhorrent but their routine work or daily experiences give them wide exposure to such situations that they turn themselves to such critical and offensive situation. Jemu too was not of that kind person by birth but the wrong treatment of Englishmen turned a table against his personal moral and ethics and converted him as a wild animal. His physical torture to his wife after returning back from UK is a justifiable example of it.

Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* is a tale of losses and predicaments of immigrants in an alien land with the conflicting Indian identities in colonial India and in post-colonial period of globalizations. The novelist has rocked the world with her realistic and sensitive writing about an illusionary dream of globalization. Although, her upbringings in American ethics and culture is embedded with traditional Indian culture and inheritance. She tries to present the suppression and exploitation of immigrants by America.

The novel unfolds the life of an young orphan child Sai who is from a convent school and comes to live with Anglophile grandfather Jemubhai Patel in Kalimpong, a town in West Bengal. Jamubhai is a retired Judge who used to serve in the colonial empire. He used to live in a house built by a Scotsman. Now the house is diminished but he lives

in the style of British. Biju is son of an old cook Pannalal who went to America for better life and good fortune. He was blinded with the materialistic life. He explored America to earn more to live comfortable and healthy life achieving his goal. Most of the Eastern people think like Biju that the western land is a magic place full of happiness which showers all is pleasure on its own land. Brightened by the outer glittering life of America, Biju left East for the West and entered into illegally. The saddened life of illegal immigrant is depicted through the life of Biju. He performs his life so restlessly there and finds himself so lucky enough for finding opportunities for earning his livelihood for a smooth life. He starts to work in an Indian restaurant for money. He is not paid as per his work as he is an illegal immigrant, the owner has been exploiting him. Here we could see that in modern life brotherhood concept is only on paper. If it does real work, instead of rendering his help, an Indian businessman might not have exploited his own brother, I mean an Indian who is alone, in need of someone's help. Here the novelist has illuminated the pain of exile, the endless endeavor for better life. The ambiguity of characters and the impact of colonialism on Indians are a great and everlasting. The western people are embodiment of the dominance. Due to which the migrated people to America have to suffer a lot. Indian become victim of it, so they try to hide their reality suppresses their will. They suffer due to inferiority complex. In the story we could see that the judge from India went to England has to suffer a lot. He is treated there in such a way that his attitude towards other becomes so aggressive. He went there to earn the degree in Law which he could, but he could not accept other of his status when he returned back. He neglects his family members including his wife. His inner bitterness leads him to the level of discard of his wife, end of his marital relationship with his wife. When he was in U.K. he was given inferior treatment which was resulted in bitterness saturated in his mind and heart. For the degree in law he paid very high fees, quite uncountable in the form of self respect and all joy of life. The treatment stretched away his feelings of love, affection and laugh. It dried his social life. His outer look presents his Indianness but so far inner

personality is concerned, it's totally changed due to westernized treatment to him. There he faced hesitant and became nervous to go out to talk and deal with people comfortably. He was made conscious of his brown colour, Indian traditional culture, pronunciations and above all their racial attitude. He was hiding himself in the library to be away from the class girls' teasing at her and coating his face with talcum powder to be whitened.

Biju met with unhappy encounter in USA. He was often cheated by his employees there. So he decided to leave the alien place. He experienced humiliation in such a way that he decided to leave the place, even he may have to live as a poor Indian.

In India, still most of the people likes western countries. They are blinded by the outer glittering of the worldliness of the western countries and due to this they hate their native or feel discomfortable with it. Jamubhai too was the same. Jamubhai has seen and appreciated sovereignty of British as his father sent him to the convent school. He was impressed by the statue of the queen as he says, "In the entrance to the school building was a portrait of Queen Victoria in a dress like a flouncy curtain a fringed cape of Jamubhai was respective for imperial force but in his life he never give respect to his mother and a peculiar hat with fatherly arrows shooting out." Even though he is an Indian and it's an Indian culture to worship all the Ladies, he never feels proud of his mother or wife. Perhaps as they have been doing household works, their power might not have been seen by him. Such ladies traditional look with inner greatness could not impress him while that queen's outer appearance captivated him at very first sight. He might have thought as the outer personality of the woman is so powerful, the place she belongs to might too be so powerful and well advanced which belongings would give him comfortable status in India after his return from U.K. Our women's modesty was proved of no value to him. Perhaps due to such attitude, people will have to suffer a lot on the other land. People's increasing greediness to gain more comfortable life and earning better status have made them aliens even in mass. Despite they know the danger of the up rootedness; they try to be settled in the dark

countries where modesty with immigrants is an illusion or a dream.

Jamubhai becomes the slave of the western superiority and power as he took his education in convent school and learnt an English culture. "He found her froggy expression compelling and felt deeply impressed that a woman so plain could also have been so powerful. The more his respect for and the English grew". Jamubhai's father has not been having a good and acceptable status in the society as used to produce false witness in the court to earn livelihood. As his father could not make his present status so remarkable, he thought to send his son abroad so that his family would earn a noticeable position in the Indian society. His father thinks that higher education in Britain is a unique opportunity for social ascension," His son might, might could occupy the seat faced by the father, proud disrupter of the system, lowest in the hierarchy of the court. He might be a district commissioner. Or a high court judge." Jamubhai worked hard to be successful in fulfilling his father's dream true. From England he returns with the success of civil service. He has achieved a higher rank in the judiciary system and thus given proud to his father to recompense for his father's marginal status. Reading this mentality we come to know that all of us are interested to make our appearance in the world striking. At the same time always ready to shorten someone's successful high graph to our by cutting their graph line instead of involving us in the work of their level with total commitment and dedication. We never like to give up such mean work to make our position higher and acceptable. On the contrary we become dependent on other to do something to hide our sins or rollback our misdeed so behind with their good cover up. Still we do have high respect to the foreign return. We are least concern of their type of job or duty over there. We get impressed by their living style and changed status after their return to our country. In giving then honour sometimes we do forget our self-respect too. The present globalization is to weave different cultures together encouraging ideas and traditions from one culture to bond and blend with others. But I think this multi-culturanism has left the people totally deprived of an healthy culture, particularly Indians.

Directly or indirectly our Indians are exploited on the other land. They are used rather than helped. Jamubhai's one more experience is an example of it. "He visited twenty-two homes before he arrived at the doorstep of Mrs. Rice on Thornton Road. She didn't want him either but she needed the money and her house was so situated on the other side of the train station from the University she was concerned she wouldn't be able to find a lodger at all." Thus he was welcomed as the owner wanted to earn her leaving by giving her room on rent to Jemu. Racial superiority of English mentality and sublevel treatment has fractured his identity. He became strange to himself, thinks himself ugly animal who is away from culture and good manners of life. His inferiority complex has reached at the level of psychological imbalance." He forgot how to laugh .... He held his hand over his mouth, because he couldn't bear anyone to see his gums his teeth... He began to wash obsessively concerned he would be accused of smelling and each morning, he scrubbed off the thick milky scent of sleep the barnyard smell that wreathed him when he woke and impregnated the fabric of his pajamas. To the end of his life he would never be seen without his socks and shoes and would prefer shadow to light, faded days to sunny, for he was suspicious that sunlight might reveal him in his hideousness, all too clearly." Not only this has, but also his humiliation isolated him from others. Instead of the blended advantageous culture, the European culture was proved hell to him. Nobody had accepted him as his/her friend so he started to be distorted. To save from such pathetic condition he kept himself hidden in the library. "For entire days nobody spoke to him at all his throat jammed with words unuttered, his heart and mind turned in to blunt aching." He finds the lower ethnic status and becomes unable to cope with white culture. Not only the boys but girls to mock at him. He says, "The young and beautiful were no kinder girls held their noses and giggled."

Thus the Britain has shown its hypocritical culture. He went there to have a new incredible identity of himself getting higher degree in laws. But instead of it, it gave him the great loss of his own identity rooted in Indian culture too. Those people were so rude with not only him but also with others.

He recalls suddenly one such incident. "Then he remembers a worse incident. Another Indian boy he didn't know, but no doubt someone just like himself, just like Bose was being kicked and beaten behind the pub at the corner." His personality has become bitter, developed a sense of defeat, inferiority complex among white people and a hatred and apathy for the native Indians. The encounter with the white society in England left him rootless man and identity less personality. The concept of beauty has been also changed for him. He didn't like Indian girls also. He thinks they are not energetic and beautiful like English girls so all the concept of life has been changed." He did not like his wife's face.... An Indian girl could never be as beautiful as an English one." Jemu has paid large amount of fees in the form of his happiness of life and even the human aspirations so it was a great loss for him, "Those ridiculous Indians who couldn't rid themselves of what they had broken their souls to learn." He hated his wife for his illiteracy. He feels ashamed for his illiterate wife so as he was not with him, he never took her anywhere. As she has stolen his powder puff it was not simple thing for an embittered judge to leave her unpunished. It was violation of his privacy. So it has risen hatred in such a way that he called her 'You Filth.' He used to apply the powder on his face and body to cover up his brown skin to save from the mockery at him by white men as they were so racial to such people.

He became out of control. His suppression by English people and sue to which wrath comes out suddenly. He tried to be calm down using his hands on his own wife which normally happens in many families. He chased her down and raped her brutally, a physical violence. He repeated it again and again. He made his own wife like living corpse. His hatred, cruelty and difference of attitude for her turned into barely human being. "He wanted to teach her the same lessons of loneliness and shame he has learned himself in public, he never spoke to or looked in her direction." Gradually, her life became bitter and meaningless. She seemed almost distorted. It's a good example to prove the man's brutality and dominance over women in India. It's rightly said that man likes to share his happy and unhappy moments with women, directly or

indirectly happily or unhappily using her body without considering her mood or giving respect. Here we can see that he didn't stop all these just after all these. When he was posted in the district of Boda, he went there with his wife Nimi. There he hired a lady to teach English language and etiquette to his wife. We can see that due to which he has completely felt distorted, still wanted to repeat with his wife. Still his impression as an English culture is superior one has been flowing in his mind so forcefully that he starts his all efforts to improve his wife as an English wife. When his wife becomes rebellious and denied to learn it, he becomes furious. He makes her feel lonely and neglected due to the suffocation given to him by the Britain and his wife's rejection to learn the language and Manner. His self respect gets hurt. To punish her, his servants too were asked to insult her. His irritation was beyond tolerance. Physical violence became the routine of their life. The novelist says, "....with an undercurrent of moral and humanitarian vision tries to explore the insecurity born out of colonialism. Focus on the oppressive privacy of judge and his disgusting behavior with his wife and his subsequent obsessive indifference to his granddaughter Sai, are the external manifestations of the psychic impact of oppressive colonial forces." Bitterness, hatred, loneliness and distrust spoiled their life. When judge was away from Boda on a tour, his wife joined a rally organized by the contemporary Congress Party to welcome Nehru at railway station. He thought this act would harm his professional reputation as he was engaged in Colonial Govt. service, he hated her saying, "You are following the script of a village idiot. You are unsuitable to be my wife." Again this becomes a good example of a wife's suppression by her own husband in this patriarchal society. Here we can see that she is not free to live her own life. Her husband is free to go to UK to satisfy his hunger, to stay over there in spite of a big insult and humiliated treatment to him and force his wife to live a life as he wishes. We can notice here that a human has completely become inhuman. His heart is transformed with animal instincts due to subjugation to him by English people. This phenomena is proved a root cause of his transformation as an animal. He could not forget the

rough behavior of the Great Britain with him. So to take revenge of his saddened past he deals with his wife in such a way as if she enforced him to visit UK to have better future and social reputation to conceal his father's false works.

He has tortured her mentally and physically. Once she told him, "You are the one who is stupid." Which was later resulted in a physical violence? Jemubhai, "emptied his glass on her head, sent a jug of water swinging into the face he no longer found beautiful, filled her ears with leaping soda water. Then when this wasn't enough to assure his rage, he hammered down with his fists, raising his arms to bring them down on her again and again rhythmically.... Stupid bitch dirty bitch! The mere he swore the harder he found he could hit." Then he sends her to his maternal family home which was indirectly a great loss to his life.

After six months, he is informed about a baby girl birth by his wife but he avoids to go to see his wife and daughter. He is trying to keep himself alienated but in doing this he lost his own identity both as native Indian as well as human being too. He is transformed from human being too inhuman. He has lost all the ethics and moral values as a human being. It is said that higher education explores and expand a deep understanding capability in a human being but here we find it quite reverse. Due to ill treat gained by him in England as an immigrant, he become irritated lost his native Indian culture and civilization which later makes him inhuman to his own. He was impressed by the Englishness in such a way that he finds it digested in with whom he encounters. He becomes a foreigner in his won country. He had learned to take refuge in the third person and to keep everyone at bay, to keep even himself like the Queen. He has purposefully left his family. Even his father requested to take his family with him but he already became best and inhuman. He lost his human identity. For the sake of false life and status, he devoted everything to acquire glitter of money and decisive identity and status that is completely fragile and temporary. Basically human life longs for culture, home land and family life but Jemu becomes as embittered as his sense of humanity has been lost in the gutter of western education and manners. He has been turned into

animal due to the inhuman treatment he received during his migrated life in England to conceive detailed knowledge in Laws. He becomes deprived of the reality of his like and for the sake of so called healthy professional status in the society; he abolishes his relations with all the people of his native and who used to be with him at his heart. Physically he seems alive but inwardly he is dead. His longing to live, love and be human to be helpful the need been discarded and distorted for the fake life and status. He becomes completely inhuman. In society human being is considered as a social animal but as he has lost his prime features of human lives, he remains as animal only. He doesn't like to be involved even with his near and dear one family. He feels ashamed of them and everything that is Indian. Even he feels ashamed of his own identity as an Indian. He is blinded by the European culture, so eventhough he had been humiliated there while his stay over there, he digested the culture in his blood. The retired judge adores the British imperialist culture so much that he readily abandons his native Gujarati rituals and customs that eventually leads to merital discord in his.

Thus, we can say that he lost each and everything, even his identity as a human being. But still he prefers all to follow English culture. The novelist rightly says that it is the bitter reality that, "In the room it was a fact accepted by all that, Indians were willing to undergo any kind of humiliation to get into States. You could heap rubbish on their heads and yet they would be begging to come crawling in." Today's globalization becomes full of hatred, unsolved dilemmas, bitter memories and maledicts of underground economy of world power. It becomes like a dark wood in which the powerful has been taking pleasure suppressing and exploiting the weak. Poor becomes more poor and rich more rich.

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