



**AMBITION, DOES IT LEAD TO SUCCESS?
EXPLORATIONS IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S *REVOLUTION 2020***

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ABSTARCT

Ambition mixed with indomitable Will to succeed, corruption backed up with power politics, a languorous love story interpolated with sweet slices of amorous acts leading to height of things where one tries to win over the other.

Revolution 2020 is the story of three childhood friends: Gopal, Raghav, and Aarti. Aarti is Gopal's closest friend and love interest. The story is set in the holy-city of Varanasi. Gopal comes from a middle class family. Raghav is from an almost well to do family, where as Aarti comes from a kind of bureaucratic and political family. Three of them have their own ambitions in life. Gopal wants to be a rich man, Raghav wants to change the world and Aarti wants to become an airhostess. Therefore, love, ambition and power become the dominating features of *Revolution 2020*.

Chetan Bhagat through this work tried to expose corruption in an explicit manner. Raghav takes up the onus of exorcising the evil of corruption. He starts this with Revolution 2020 that created terror in the lives of corrupt leaders. In this odyssey of exposing the corrupt politicians, he loses so many things except his ambition to free the society from the clutches of corruption.

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Chetan Bhagat, born 22 April 1974, is an Indian author, columnist, and speaker. Bhagat is the author of five bestselling novels, Five Point Someone (2004), One Night @ the Call Center (2005), The 3 Mistakes of My Life (2008), 2 States (2009) & Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition (2011). Two of his books have been made Cinemas (including the hit film 3 Idiots). In 2008, The New York Times called Bhagat "the biggest selling English language novelist in India's history" Bhagat, an alumni of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad, is seen more as a youth icon than as an author. Time magazine named him as one

of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. Bhagat writes columns for English and Hindi newspapers, including The Guardian, The Times of India and Dainik Bhaskar, focusing on youth, career and issues based on national development. Bhagat is also a motivational speaker and has given talks in leading multinational corporations and other institutions. He bid adieu to his career in 2009. Chetan Bhagat is known for his exposition of reality in the contemporary society especially in India. All his works are designed in such a way that they speak of social issues and evils, which damage the development of the individual and the society.

Revolution 2020 speaks about the corruption in the socio-political and educational sectors. Of course, this is dealt with by three childhood friends. They form the basis of the story. They are like three pillars on which the story has been constructed. They are Gopal, Raghav and Aarti. They reflect society in one way on the other they are the representatives of their category.

Gopal comes from a middle class family. Raghav is from an almost well to do family, where as Aarti comes from a kind of bureaucratic and political family. Three of them have their own ambitions in life. Gopal wants to be a rich man, Raghav wants to change the world and Aarti wants to become an airhostess. Therefore, love, ambition and power become the dominating features of *Revolution 2020*. "Lazy parents, bread-butter again, Gopal grumbled, shutting blue plastic tiffin in the second row. Raghav and Gopal moved to the next desk. Gopal's eyes darted from one bag to another. This one Gopal said, pointing to a pink imported rucksack in the first row. "That bag looks expensive. She must be getting good food. Come". (Bhagat, 2011: 12)

Raghav and Gopal rushed to the target's seat. Gopal grabbed the Barbie bag, unzipped the front flap and found a red shiny, rectangular tiffin. The cover had a spoon compartment. Fancy box! Gopal said, clicking the lid open.

"Idlis, a little box of chutney and a large piece of chocolate cake. We'd hit the jackpot.

I only want the cake, I said as I lifted the huge slice.

Don't take the whole thing. It's not fair, Raghav said.

If I eat only a bit, she will get to know, I scowled...

I shut the red Tiffin box and placed it back in the Barbie bag.

Who sits here anyway? Raghav said.

I fumbled through the pink rucksack and found a brown-paper-covered notebook. I read out the label on the cover, 'Aarti pratap Pradhan, Subject: Maths, Class 5, Section C, Age 10, Roll number 1, sunbeam School' (P: 10). Anyway, that's how I, Gopal Mishra, met the great Aarti Pratap Pradhan. ". (P:12)

Gopal thought if "I could give some laddoos to drama queen Aarti as compensation for the cake. I wanted to buy a chocolate cake and slam it on her desk. However, I didn't have money for that. My father didn't give me any pocket money, and he didn't have much money in his own pocket. My mother's illness had wiped out all his savings. She

died two weeks after I turned four... After her death the land dispute started. Dubey uncle had become a frequent visitor to our house for this reason...My grandfather had left his two sons thirty acres of agricultural land on the Lucknow Highway, to be divided equally. Soon after my grandfather's death, Ghanshyam uncle took a loan from the bank and mortgaged Baba's half of the property, forging the papers with wrong plot numbers bribing the bank officer". (P: 14-15).

The above lines give an account of how Gopal has become poor even though his father seem to be having a good agricultural land. This also show how uncles try to take the land or confiscate the land if people are not healthy enough to fight for it. Here we have a case where Gopal's uncle took loan on the land of his father. This in turn made Gopal's father sick of the land since he being a son of a good agriculturalist. It throws light on how crooked people are in their thinking. They want to enjoy their life at the cost of others. Here the readers are given a bird's eye view of what happened to Gopal, Aarti and Raghav. Until now the readers are only aware of who Gopal is, now the readers are given a glimpse of who Aarti is.

"However, two years ago when she turned fifteen, the whole school started talking about her. Statements such as the most beautiful girl in Sunbeam School', 'she should be an actress', or 'she can apply for Miss India' became increasingly common. Some of it came from people trying to please her. After all, a senior IAS officer father and a prominent ex-politician grandfather meant people wanted to be in her good books." (P21). This paragraph gives a clear picture about the charm of Aarti and her family background.

"I've not met Raghav for so long,' Aarti said.

'Let's go. I will watch you play.'

'You will meet him at tuitions tomorrow,' Gopal said curtly. 'Go home now'. (P 22)

Here as Aarti asks about Raghav then the author discloses the family details of Raghav. The teacher called out Raghav Kashyap, and held up an answer-sheet. Raghav, Aarti and Gopal had joined one of the famous coaching classes in Durgakund to prepare for the engineering entrance exams. Raghav walked past the forty students in the crammed classroom to collect his answer-sheet.

"Sixty-six out of eighty. Well done, Raghav', the teacher said.

IIT material', a boy whispered as Raghav walked past. He is a topper from Sunbeam". (P. 23)

Gopal could totally see Raghav follow in the footsteps of his IITian father, an engineer in BHEL. Now it is the turn of Gopal. Gopal scored only fifty out of eighty, a borderline performance. "Aarti Pradhan! the teacher called out 'twenty out of eighty is funny?' the teacher frowned". (P. 23) At this juncture Aarti reveals that she has no desire to join engineering. The above lines give a clear picture of three friends. Raghav seems to be very intelligent and serious about his studies, while Gopal does not seem to fit in this competition of studies, even though he seem to be working hard to get good rank which is good enough to secure him a seat in one of the IITs. Aarti is not at all serious with all these coaching classes and exams she wants to be an Air hostess not an engineer.

The land line rang at the midnight; Aarti called Gopal to chat with him. Gopal picked it up

"I'm sleepy, Aarti; I said.
You don't sleep till one. Stop fibbing.
What's up?
Nothing just felt like chatting.
Chat with someone else, I said
Aha she said. I know what is bothering you.
Bye Aarti I said. (P.27)

As she speaks with Gopal she remembers Raghav and shares that with him. Hey wait I found some of Raghav's jokes funny. That's all. You are still my best friend.

From the above lines the readers are given an opportunity to look into the meanings of the words uttered by Aarti. This also made Gopal suspicious about her relationship with Raghav. Gopal seems to be bit worried. His exams are at hand. Aarti, Raghav and Gopal's father wished Gopal all the best before his entrance examination.

Now that the exams are over all are waiting for their results and as days went on so fast the date for the results are announced. Gopal was the first person to notice the online results. Gopal said, "I did get the rank... 52043" He came to Raghav's house in Shivpur. They have logged on to the AIEEE website. '5820', Raghav said reading from the computer monitor. As Raghav is sure of getting a seat in one of the IIT's people around him are so eager to know where he would join.

Which IIT? Gopal asked Raghav,
'I will join IT-BHU. I will get a good branch and be in Varanasi too', Raghav said.

IT-BHU, the Institute of Technology at the Banaras Hindu University, was the most prestigious college in Varanasi. It conducted its admission process through the JEE. However, it didn't have the same brand equity as an IIT.

Why BHU? Gopal asked Raghav,
"I want to do journalism part-time. I have contacts in newspapers here", Raghav said.

'you will give up an IIT for a hobby?'
Gopal asked.

'It is not a hobby. Journalism is my passion'.
'Why are you doing engineering then?'
Dad. Why else? Oh, I have told him I am taking BHU because I will get a better branch like Computer Science". (P.40)

It is here that Raghav reveals his desire to study Journalism. Through the above lines the author indirectly or directly seems to be saying how parents thrust their opinions on their children even though children don't like it and waste their valuable time. Raghav is the best example to this kind of so called encouragement by parents.

After all this Gopal left the room crestfallen to his house where his father asked him, "Aren't the AIEEE results due today?" After a little conversation Gopal reveals his rank to his father. His father after understanding that his son failed to secure a good rank to get a seat joins him in another institute for further preparation.

Gopal, Raghav and Aarti reflect society in one way on the other they are the representatives of their category. Gopal represents middle class; his life is always perturbed with the problems concerning money and his father's life long desire to see his son as a well-settled person. Gopal could not secure good rank in the competitive examination and so his father sends him to coaching classes to improve Gopal's rank in the examination so that he can join good Institutes of repute and be well-settled afterwards. Again, Gopal could not get through the so-called entrance examination, which enables him study in good college where his future will be secure. He fails to reach up to the expectation of his father.

In the process of providing his son quality education and save some money for his further studies he neglects his health which ultimately results in his death.

On the other side, his friend Raghav who secured seat in BHU is really doing well and becomes the talk of the college with his writing and speaking skills. He is also more favoured by Aarti than Gopal. Raghav

wants to bring about a change by his abilities. He takes up writing to change the world. He begins with the pamphlet called "Revolution 2020" A fluorescent pink A3-sized sheet which had a masthead like a newspaper. A letter from the editor, head lined 'Because Enough is Enough'.

"What do you say about a society whose top leaders are the biggest crooks? What do you do in a system where almost anyone with power is corrupt? India has suffered enough. From childhood we are told India is a poor country. Why? There are countries in this world where an average person makes more than fifty times that an average Indian makes. Fifty times? Are their people fifty times more capable than us? Does an Indian farmer not work hard? Does an Indian student not study? Do we not want to do well? Why, why are we then doomed to be poor?" (P: 205). This has to stop. "We have to clean the system...It could take Ten years. I call it Revolution 2020, the movement that finally shake the muck of India...When Indian will get justice and the guilty will be punished. And it will all begin in Varanasi" (P: 206).

He uses this as a weapon to reduce corruption and to create terror in the minds of the corrupt people and politicians. In one of his pamphlets, he writes about the local politician who swindled the money in the name of a project.

"MLA makes the money by making Holy River filthy! said the head line. 25 crores sanctioned for Dimnapura Sewage treatment Plant. MLA pockets 20 crores"... Built at a cost of 25 crores, the plant remained dysfunctional for years. When finally made operational, it never cleaned the water" (Pp: 234-235).

It created terror in the political front. This news brought defamation of the local leader Shukla- ji. In Another incident, where Shukla- ji used his influence to get the permission for the farming land into Ganga Technical College has been exposed by Raghav. These events almost brought Shukla- ji's political career to a standstill. This incident brought down the name and fame of the college and the corrupt leaders with whose support Gopal established the college.

At the sudden turn of the events, realization seems to have dawned upon Gopal, which makes him think what he really is doing. He realizes that it is essential to look for the long lasting things that give happiness than to look for these ephemeral things. He talks to his friend Raghav and makes him realize that his aim of reducing corruption can be realized only if he has the support of a political party this makes Raghav to take the hand of Aarthi. This deal seems to have shifted the gear in his favour.

As we come to the end of the book in the epilogue we find Gopal saying "Raghav is contesting. His picture is on election posters all over the city... He will be a better MLA than me. What would I have done? Made more money. With him, there is a chance, he could change something". (P: 294). The words of Gopal at the juncture of observing a poster give a clear picture of what Raghav can do if he becomes a politician.

Gopal seems to be convinced that Raghav can be a role model for the future generations. He seems to be convinced that our nation require people like Raghav who are pertinacious and perspicacious to lead the nation. People like this kind of nature enter politics then at least some rust can be cleared and become an effective pesticide to the politicians who try to be power mongers and not doing any kind of service to the nation. This is possible only with young generation who are ready to battle it out till the last minute. Because youth has this kind of spark in them once it is kindled then it can enkindle many who are in the dark searching for a ray of hope.

Towards the end enlightenment seem to have dawned into the mind of Gopal as he realizes that "Once Ganga Tech becomes big, I will try to fix the system. I am sick of giving envelopes to people. We have to change the things". (P: 295). May be at this juncture it is good to quote Miltonic words about a leader which he attributes to the character of Satan in Paradise Lost. A great leader should have great qualities of character. A person should have courage, resourcefulness and an indomitable will to succeed. Above all, he should be a man of action.

To find success through correct means in the corrupt society is a Herculean task for an ordinary man but, if youth start striving for this victory will knock at the door automatically as we in the case of Raghav. There may be trials and tribulations before the success but one who is steadfast in his actions can always be a winner and be successful. It is neither ambition nor hard work, which makes one to be successful but is making a right move at the right time that make people to achieve their goals and it should be firmly backed up by the hard work. It is ultimately indomitable will of a person which makes one a successful person.

But, this change to take place there should be realization first in the people. This realization should be tinged with sacrifice. This may not happen in a day or two but the revolution will come. We will have a better nation one day. Let us all wait in hope for that day.

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