CHAPTER VI

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
Mark Twain, the well known American author hails the Indian land and proudly writes that "This is indeed India! The land of dreams and romance, of fabulous wealth and fabulous poverty, of splendor and rags, of palaces and hovels, of famine and pestilence, of genii and giants and Aladdin lamps, of tigers and elephants, the cobra and the jungle, the country of hundred nations and a hundred tongues, of a thousand religions and two million gods, cradle of the human race, birthplace of human speech, mother of history, grandmother of legend, great-grandmother of traditions, whose yesterday's bear date with the modering antiquities for the rest of nations-the one sole country under the sun that is endowed with an imperishable interest for alien prince and alien peasant, for lettered and ignorant, wise and fool, rich and poor, bond and free, the one land that all men desire to see, and having seen once, by even a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for the shows of all the rest of the world combined".

India shining bright, Is this not every Indian's dream? On the afternoon of Independence, exactly 65 years after India's independence one is forced to admit that what clouds the heart and mind today is not a happy thought. Where on one side we have people like Aamir Khan who desperately want to make an improvement in existing state of the nation through the medium of his TV serial Satyamev Jayate. We also have on the other hand our politicians who are the law makers and ironically enough the law breakers of this nation, for whom the growth of the country is the downfall of their personal wealth systems. We have advanced tremendously in the fields of technology, economics and
humanities but have been able to fight poverty, disease and illiteracy? What do we feel when we cross the city streets in your swanky cars at midnight and find half of the nation sleeping under a flyover? Is that a picture of progressive India? Does it not move us and turn all the progressive modern thought into a live nightmare?

Well true it is that progressive India has a shady side to it and the people crawling under its shadow have nothing to look forward to, their fate is doomed in its darkness and shall continue to be so until some miracle takes them by surprise. Miracles in modern India cannot be done by magicians or fairies but the revolutionary electronic medium of communication have done the job of a Magi, transforming the lives of many who needed a miracle. It all started a decade ago when the popularity of TV was rising and it had become the easiest medium of entertainment. On one side was Ekta Kapoor religiously bringing to the big screen Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki and Kyonki Saas bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi and on the other side was Amitabh Bacchan creating history by the most popular game show Koun Banega Crorepati. The concept of this show was based on an American show ‘Who wants to be a Millionaire’ that was a success in the west. Ekta Kapoor’s audience found emotional support and Amitabh Bacchan’s audience saw hope in their hopeless lives. Through the medium of a phone call, ordinary people who possessed some general knowledge were able to come on national TV and win jackpots. This was no less than a miracle in their lives. Many contemplations and controversies surrounded the show terming it as a
gamble or a misleading concept. Whatever said and done, the popularity of the show is on the rise it goes On Air annually and once again the Indian population witnesses a magic. It is on this very concept and show that Vikas Swaroop wrote a novel *Q and A* or later named as *Slum Dog Millionaire* after that Danny Boyle made a movie on the same novel and called it Slum Dog Millionaire. Both the art forms have been a huge success and won numerous awards.

**About the Author**

A student of History, Psychology and Philosophy, Vikas Swaroop completed his education until graduation in Allahabad in a family of lawyers. He also made his mark as a champion debater, winning National level competitions. After graduating with distinction, he joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986, motivated by an interest in international relations and a desire to explore different cultures. He has travelled widely as a diplomat in various countries like Turkey, United States, Ethiopia, UK and South Africa. He is presently the Consul General of India in Osaka-Kobe, Japan. His first novel, *Q&A* was written in two months, when he was posted in London.

Ram Mohammad Thomas, a poor, uneducated youth from the slums of India makes it big. He surprisingly wins big money on a game show 'Who Wants to be a Billionaire' but at the same time is accused of cheating. He is therefore sent for a trial and it is then that we learn the story of his life and the reason for
him to be on the show. His rather eventful life has been described by him and each chapter in his life is an answer to his questions that were asked from him on the show. He retells the entire story of his life right from the time he was born an orphan and raised up by a priest, his eventual association with his friend Salim, his escape from the shackles of a beast who abuses children for money, his association with a girl called Smita whom he terms as his sister and who eventually turns out to be his lawyer as well. Two murders committed by him one for self defense and other for the love of his sister. His eventual love affair with a prostitute called Nita who for whose love he enters the game show to win a prize. In the end Ram becomes free, Nita has become free, Salim becomes a Bollywood movie star and Ram finds out that his lawyer is his long time friend, Smita.

It was nominated for the Best First Book by the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize and won South Africa’s Exclusive Books Boeke Prize 2006 as well as the Paris Book Fair's Reader's Prize, the Prix Grand Public, in 2007. It was also voted the Most Influential Book of 2008 in Taiwan, and winner of the Best Travel Read (Fiction) at the Heathrow Travel Product Award 2009. The novel has been published in 42 languages so far.

His second novel, Six Suspects, was released in the UK & Commonwealth by Trans World in August 2008. It has also sold translation rights in 30 languages. Six suspects unravel the lives and motives of six suspects who are found
possessing a gun in a party in which Vicky Rai is killed. Vivek or Vicky Rai is a son of the Home Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He was accused of murdering a bar tender girl at a restaurant because she refused to serve him a drink. After seven years he throws a party for his acquittal in which he is murdered. The six people who are the suspects give a candid picture of real contemporary India. The first suspect is a corrupt bureaucrat who claims to have become Mahatma Gandhi, second is an American tourist carried away in love by an Indian actress. Third is a Stone Age tribesman on a quest to recover a sacred stone. Fourth is a Bollywood sex symbol star that has a guilty secret. Fifth is a mobile-phone thief who dreams big and last an ambitious politician who has compromised with his conscious. Vikas Swarup's second offering is fiction at its best and is the work of a master storyteller.

Vikas also wrote a short story titled *A Great Event* to *The Children's Hours: Stories of Childhood*, a bold and moving anthology of stories about childhood to support Save the Children and raise awareness for its fight to end violence against children. He has participated in a number of book festivals held all over the globe. Vikas is the recipient of the US-India Business Council’s Lifetime Achievement Award for “Contributing to the Cultural Ties that Bind” and received the award from USIBC Chairman Indra K. Nooyi at the USIBC’s 34th Anniversary Gala Reception in Washington D.C. on June 16, 2009. He is also the recipient of a degree of Doctor of Literature & Philosophy (honoris causa) from the University of South Africa. His wife Aparna is an artist who has held
exhibitions in India and abroad. They have two sons Aditya and Varun. He is minister and deputy high commissioner of India, based in Pretoria.

Based on the book Q and A, the BBC produced a radio play which won the Gold Award for Best Drama at the Sony Radio Academy Awards 2008 and the IVCA Clarion Award 2008. The film version of Q&A, titled Slum dog Millionaire, directed by Danny Boyle, took the world by storm, winning more than 70 awards including four Golden Globes, 7 BAFTAs and a staggering 8 Oscars, including Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Picture.

About the Director

“It had eviscerated my brain, completely. I was an impressionable twenty-one-year-old guy from the sticks. My brain had not been fed and watered with great culture, you know, as art is meant to do. It had been sandblasted by the power of cinema. And that’s why cinema, despite everything we try to do, it remains a young man’s medium, really, in terms of audience.”

These were the words of an ageless, timeless boundary less crafted artist whose works speak volumes of his potential as a film maker. Danny Boyle, a name initially associated with Hollywood but now known all over the world especially after his numerous awards winning movie Slum Dog Millionaire. This not only elevated his levels of excellence but also associated Bollywood stars with the Hollywood performers and exposed the dark side of modern
India. Born and raised in a working-class Catholic environment by an English father and Irish mother, Danny Boyle remained an Altar boy in a Church for eight years of his life. His mother perhaps aimed at making him a priest but life eventually turned him around towards Drama. After leaving school he started his career in Drama at the Joint Stock Theatre Company, before moving onto the Royal Court Theatre in 1982 where he directed The Genius by Howard Brenton and Saved by Edward Bond. In 1982 Boyle started working in television as a producer for BBC Northern Ireland where he produced, amongst other TV films, Alan Clarke's controversial Elephant before becoming a director on shows such as Arise and Go Now. Boyle's love for movies started after watching Apocalypse Now. It was after this that he wanted to make a movie and his first movie came out in 1994 named Shallow Grave starring Ewan McGregor. The film was the most commercially successful British film of 1995. Working with writer John Hodge and producer Andrew Macdonald, Shallow Grave earned Boyle the Best Newcomer Award from the 1996 London Film Critics Circle. From here on started on his success story as a director. The movie received many awards and acclamations in various International Film Festivals including a BAFTA – Alexander Korda Award for best British film (shared with Andrew Macdonald). His next movie Trainspotting, based on the novel by Irvine Welsh was nominated at Oscars for best adapted screenplay.

Boyle moved to Hollywood and sought a production deal with a major US studio. He declined an offer to direct the fourth film of the Alien franchise,
instead making *A Life Less Ordinary* using British finance. His next project was an adaptation of the cult novel *The Beach*. The movie was filmed in Thailand with Leonardo Di Caprio. Casting of the film led to a feud with Ewan McGregor, star of his first three films. He then collaborated with author Alex Garland on the post-apocalyptic horror film *28 Days Later* which won him the International Fantasy Film Award for Best Director at 2003 Fantasporto, Portugal. He also directed a short film *Alien Love Triangle* (starring Kenneth Branagh), and was intended to be one of three shorts within a feature film. However the project was cancelled after the two other shorts were made into feature films: *Mimic* starring Mira Sorvino and *Impostor* starring Gary Sinise.

In 2004 Boyle directed *Millions*, scripted by Frank Cottrell Boyce. His next collaboration with Alex Garland was the science-fiction film *Sunshine*, featuring *28 Days Later* star Cillian Murphy, and was released in 2007.

In 2008 came the biggest breakthrough for Boyle as *Slumdog Millionaire*, the story of an impoverished child (Dev Patel) on the streets of Mumbai, India who competes on India's version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, for which Boyle won an Academy Award. The film won eight Academy Awards in total.

In 2010, Boyle directed the film *127 Hours*, starring James Franco, Amber Tamblyn and Kate Mara. It was based on Aron Ralston's autobiography *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*. The film got six nominations at the 83rd Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay for
Boyle and Best Actor for Franco. Boyle's next film will be another installment of the 28 Days Later franchise. Boyle has stated previously that in theory it will be a sequel titled 28 Months Later, but alluded to a film taking place somewhere else in the world he created in 28 Days Later & 28 Weeks Later. He will also help produce the upcoming film Paani. In a web chat interview with Empire Magazine, Boyle stated on more than one occasion his enthusiasm to work again with Ewan McGregor on his next feature film.

**Script v/s Screen**

Vikas Swarup's 2005 literary debut was published under the name *Q&A* originally and later as *Slum Dog Millionaire*. It fitted the genre of a fiction novel which was partly based on reality rather a reality show that took the world by storm. The author has said that he was inspired by the Hole in the Wall project which installed a computer in a Delhi slum. Young children taught themselves about the use of computers without intervention from the experimenters. In an interview with Stuart Jeffries, Vikas Swaroop mentions candidly what else inspired him to write this novel, I thought: 'Now is the time to write the novel.' But I'm not one of those writers who want to spend four pages describing a sunrise. There are so many of them in India. I'm a sucker for thrillers and I wanted to write one. I'm much more influenced by Alastair MacLean and James Hadley Chase. I'm no Arundhati Roy."
A catalyst was Major Charles Ingram, convicted for cheating his way to winning the British version of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? "If a British army major can be accused of cheating, then an ignorant tiffin boy from the world's biggest slum can definitely be accused of cheating." W3B the shortened version of ‘Who Will Win a Billion’ gives a kick start to the Novel Q and A and strangely enough as it is happens in all fiction the winner of a brainy show is an uneducated, eighteen year old orphan waiter Ram Mohammad Thomas. However, show host Prem Kumar and the producers, who do not have the money to pay him, have had him arrested for cheating by the police; they had cast Ram because they figured an uneducated street guy would not be able to answer more than a few questions at most, and they find the police more than willing to believe them. Unbelievable because it was, he is taken in police custody and accused of cheating that might have made him win the show. This is where the novel actually begins from and from here on the story of Ram Mohammad Thomas’s extraordinary eventful life begins to unravel chapter wise

“I have been arrested. For winning a quiz show, they came for me late last night, when even the stray dogs had gone off to sleep. They broke open my door, handcuffed me and marched me off to the waiting jeep with a flashing red light”.(Prologue)
The protagonist Ram Mohammad Thomas has an unusual name that stands for a Hindu, Muslim and Christian. Readers begin to learn how Ram came by the answers when he begins talking to a lawyer. As he says, "Well, wasn't I lucky they only asked those questions to which I knew the answers?"

Ram goes on to tell her how, by drawing from the experiences of his own short, yet turbulent and sometimes cruel life, he, a poor, young waiter, answered the twelve questions that led him to the jackpot. Through this device, the novel moves between Mumbai, Delhi and Agra but in a non chronological order. He recounts to her chapters of his life that have provided him with answers to the questions. His original upbringing by a English-speaking priest to his various jobs, which include working as house help for an aging Bollywood actress, a hit man, and an Australian diplomat who turns out to be in a spy ring, as well as working as a dabbawallah. How he knows what INRI on the cross stands for because a priest, who had found him in a dustbin as a baby, raised him; he worked for an actress and thus can answer a question about her; and an Australian diplomat had employed him and therefore Ram can respond to a question about a diplomatic term. His best friend is another young orphan named Salim, who plays a part in some of these adventures and later becomes a Bollywood actor. However, the key events of his life came when he worked as a tour guide at the Taj Mahal, which is when he met a young prostitute named Nita. Ram tells his lawyer that he went on the show partly in a quest to win enough money to buy Nita's freedom from her pimp and partly in a bid to get
even with the show's host, Prem Kumar, who abused and exploited Nita that had resulted in her being placed under intensive care, in a hospital. For the love of his life and for the sake of revenge he embarks this strange, eventful journey making him rise as a hero.

The novel is divided into twelve chapters and each one tells a specific story in Ram’s life in Mumbai, Delhi and Agra, so the book resembles a book of short stories in this respect. The game show is the links that interconnects all the stories. The structure of Q&A, the way it weaves back and forth from Ram’s life stories to the present day, and that it all comes together in the end, is impressive, Each chapter begins with the event in Ram’s life in which he garnered knowledge that helped him on the game show, and then goes back to Ram reviewing the game show with his lawyer, where readers learn the question Ram was asked at each stage of the game. At times it is also possible to predict what the question will be before the chapter ends. Crime, corruption and poverty, these are the backbone behind modern day India’s suffering and Vikas Swaroop very vividly and dramatically brings these themes to the readers. He also deals with homosexuality not in the elite class society but in the lower strata of it. We are presented with a rather stark reality of life in the Mumbai slums. Through the protagonist’s eyes, Swarup takes the reader on a journey through the life of people who live in big cities but barely have the means to get by. These people are often taken in by the police and questioned for no fault of theirs. They are exploited in various ways by those who are
better off than them, the life of an orphan child, ties of love and miracles that sometime happen in real life. Along with the above mentioned problems, the other major themes of the novel are Love, poverty, struggle, mistrust, chase, dilemma and the power of luck.

The novelist has had a number of characters incorporated in the novel, all of whom have been significantly important for the development of the story. Ram, as the main character, is a memorable one, daring and loving, both at the same time. After a struggle of a life time he ends the novel in a truly dramatic style. His youth is evident at a couple of points in the book. His character is a round one piled up with complications and contemplations but not impossible to read. The development of his character though is lacking. Ram is street smart in the beginning, remains lucky throughout the novel but towards the end also we find no big revelation in his character and he seems to be at the same level at which he was when we began with the story. Shankar, a youngster who cannot speak properly and is shunned by his mother is a memorable character in the book. Salim his friend from the orphanage, a dabbawalla who aspires to be an actor is the second most important character in the novel, his role is unforgettable, Nita his girlfriend, a prostitute with whom he falls in love is the reason behind him to get on the show. Gudiya, later on called Smita too is an helpless girl who claims Ram as her brother and is lost to him when he runs away from Mumbai and later enters his life again as the lawyer who defends him, Neelima the aging heroine in whose house Ram has worked as a servant,
Father Timothy, who is an embodiment of father and the contrasting father John, Prem Kumar, the host of the show who has a treacherous side to him, Godbole the cruel Police man, Gupta, who owns a juvenile house, Armaan Ali, the much controversial Bollywood actor or even Lajwanti the perfect maid who cannot resist cleaning up even when stealing are all memorable characters. All the characters included by the novelist have been finely selected as they represent not just characters but a picture of mini India in themselves. Every character is a true character and the characteristic attached to each one of them is unique and true in all its ways. After reading about these characters, we get a fragrance of reality that we see around everyday especially if you reside in India.

The structure of the plot is woven into a strict pattern, chapter by chapter except the prologue that comes from first-person narrator Ram. The chapters begin with a tale from Ram's past, which tend to go on for about 20 pages. Thereafter we find Ram rescued by his lawyer Smita who watches footage from the taping and comes to realize how the story Ram just related to her influenced his answer to the given question. The language and the pattern of the story are too simple to understand, without much use of literary language and phrases, the author has been able to weave a tightly woven plot structure, filled it with surprises and unexpected situations but conveyed it in the most effective yet impressive manner. The character dialogues however are not very well written or formed and don't always fit the situation and often come across as
obscure. However if we were to judge and analyse the novel from a literary perspective only we would have to be a little unhappy because the strength of the novel is not the literary taste but in the episodic- dramatic manner in which it is told. The story has the distinctive feel of a connect-the-dots puzzle where everything comes together in the end to make up the bigger, clearer picture. It has enough mystery in it to keep the reader glued to the book and rapidly turning pages.

It is a skillfully written dramatic story which takes the readers through the life of the protagonist almost as if they were right there in the scene. They can almost see and feel everything that is described. It is a story that makes the readers feel what the protagonist is feeling. They hurt when he is in pain and they feel joyful when he is happy. And they constantly wonder about what is going to happen next.

The book has had its share of criticism and controversy for various reasons. It has been accused of homophobia given that it has two gay characters in the book, both of them child molesters. One of them being Armaan Ali, the film star who is given the "brush of homosexuality" by a film magazine and the other being Father John. Swarup has explained in various interviews that the book is not homophobic and the issue he was getting at was exploitation of the weak by the strong.
Q&A

Chapter 1: Prologue:

The Book begins with the arrest of Ram Mohammad Thomas, a restaurant waiter who has won a Billion rupees on a famous TV show, “Who wants to be a Billionaire”. The show is yet to be telecast and the producers of the show reach out to police to help them prove that Ram has cheated on the show with the help of an accomplice. The show owners have no money to pay as a winning amount if he is not detained as a cheat. The police commissioner asks Inspector Godbole to use power to get the convict confess that he has cheated. Although the show is yet to be aired, media has the news of the event and a lawyer Smita Shah who has got the news of arrest of a reality show winner, the waiter being arrested arrives at the police station. Since no FIR has been registered against Ram, Smita takes her along and promises that she would help him if he shares the truth with her. She asks him to tell her the story behind each question.

Chapter 2: 1,000 The Death of a Hero

This chapter is set in a movie theatre in Bandra, The Chawl which they are living in. Salim, Thomas’s roommate and best friend is a huge fan of Armaan Ali. He idolises him, loves him, cries for him and cannot take a word against Armaan Ali. Salim and Thomas are watching Armaan Ali’s movie in almost empty theatre where a man comes into the movie halfway through and tries to touch Salim. Salim reacts when he tries to touch his crutch and runs after him
and pulls off the man’s fake beard and realises that it is the movie star Araman Ali.

A Significant Quote in the chapter - "Now there is Armaan Ali. The ultimate action hero. The Indian Greek God. The heart throb of millions." "Bloody mother f**ker you filthy pervert. I am going to kill you!" He screams and slaps the man hard. (Pg 43). "Armaan Ali, his hero, is dead". (Pg 44)

The first question:
Arman Ali starred with Priya Kapoor for the very first time. Was it
A) Fire B) Hero
C) Hunger or D) Betrayal

Chapter 3: 2,000 The Burden of a Priest

This chapter is set in Ram's early childhood in Delhi. This chapter covers the early years of Ram's life. It is explained that Ram was abandoned at an orphanage shortly after birth. Because of his dark skin he was not popular amongst adoptive parents. Father Timothy Francis a parish priest of St. Joseph’s Church. He brings him up as Ram Mohammad Thomas. Being brought up by a priest, Ram learns about Catholic, Hindu and Muslim religions."Because today I really became an orphan." "He was my father, just as he was a father to all those who came to this church. It was then I understood the distinction between father and Father". Before asking the second question
Prem Kumar asks Ram whether he knows what does FBI stands for, Ram says he has not heard about it but he knows INRI.

**The Second question:**

What is the sequence of letters generally inscribed on a cross?

A) IRNI  
B) INRI

C) RINI  or  D) NIRI

**Chapter 4: 5,000 A Brother's Promise**

In this chapter a new family moves into the chawl in Mumbai where Ram and Salim are staying. It turns out to be a family in which the father has lost his job and the father beats and tries to sexually harass his daughter. Once Ram visits her to hospital where he spends some time with Gudiya and she calls him his brother. Ram has never seen relationships except with Father Timothy as a fatherly figure; a sister was a new thing that happens to him. Ram promised her that he would look after her cat Pluto (who dies). At the end of the chapter, Ram kills her father, Shantaram and flees to Delhi." He is the smallest in the house so we should name him pluto". This helped him answer the third question which was: what is the smallest planet.

Ram mentions "As Mr Brave told me once, the rich people those who live in their marble and granite four bedroom flats, and they enjoy. The slum people, who live in squalid, tattered huts, they suffer. And we, who reside in the over-crowded chawls, we simply live". (Pg 70) Another Important part of this
chapter is the fact that he helped Gudiya well in time of her need who later turns up to be his lawyer in the book.

**Third question:**

Which is the smallest planet in our Solar System?

A) Pluto  
B) Mars  
B) Neptune or  
D) Mercury

**Chapter 5: 10,000 A Thought for the Crippled**

This chapter is based in juvenile home where Ram was taken after the death of father Timothy who took care of him. He meets a lot of boys like him and most importantly Salim, who later becomes his best friend. On a day long trip sponsored by an International NGO for juvenile home kids Ram gets his lucky coin from a palmist who tells them that one day Salim will become a famous actor. Later in this chapter he and Salim are chosen by Sethji (Mamman), a man known to change young people lives and takes them to Mumbai. Salim is overwhelmed to be chosen by Mamman and Gupta, deputy of the warden, Mr. Agnihotri asks Mamman to take Ram for free with Salim. In Mumbai, Ram discovers that Mamman is a gangster who shelters youngsters like him and forces them to beg. Many children are blinded and handicapped so that they can earn more. Mamman deploys a music teacher who recites and teaches Surdas ‘bhajans’ to Salim and Ram. Sensing Mamman’s plan, Ram and Salim escape from his home and flee for a new beginning.
Fourth question:

Surdas, the blind poet was devotee of which God?

A) Ram  B) Krishna
C) Shiva  or  D) Brahma

Chapter 6: 50,000 How to speak Australian

After Shantaram’s death, Ram escapes to Delhi where he finds a job in the house of an Australian Defence Attaché, Mr. Colonel Charles Taylor. Colonel Taylor is a very conspicuous man who knows every move in his house. His entire house has auto spy cameras of which none of the house mates are aware not even his wife. Ram learns Australian accent, plays scrabble, reads Australian Geographic, eats French cuisines and is the only one whom Colonel Taylor trusts. Taylor has caught his wife’s infidelity, son’s relation with a maid, daughter smoking, servants stealing and every wrongdoing at his home. One day Ram discovers Colonel Taylor’s secretly meeting Jeevan Kumar, a clerk from ministry of defence whom he bribes. Ram informs the police about their secret meetings and Taylor is declared persona non grata on being caught red handed sharing some sensitive documents with Jeevan Kumar.

Fifth question:

When the government declares a foreign diplomat persona non grata what does it mean? Is it
A) The diplomat is to be honoured  B) that the diplomat’s tenure should be extended

C) That the diplomat is grateful  or D) that the diplomat is not acceptable

Chapter 7: 100,000 Hold on your buttons

This chapter is all about the time when Ram lives in Dharavi, Mumbai, and he is working as a barman at Jimmy’s Bar. Ram learns how to up his tips by taking advantage of people’s drunkenness and getting them to buy more and more snacks and drinks. However, through this learning experience, Ram meets some unusual characters, one in particular, who tells him all about his Haitian wife, his honeymoon in Mauritius and how he discovered her darker side. The ‘poor man is in despair as he pours out his story to Ram that he stole money from his brother, and his wife, who is a voodoo priestess, makes him, Prakash Rao, a voodoo doll of his brother. Prakash Rao admits to Ram that he had the guilty pleasure of taking all his troubles out on the voodoo doll of his brother, giving him painful headaches and small heart attacks. Prakash Rao soon finds out that his brother died a week ago of a major heart attack that had been caused because of the voodoo doll. Prakash Rao tells Ram that he will take revenge from his wife for turning him into a villain, dies at Jimmy’s Bar in similar fashion in which he used to trouble his brother.
Sixth question:

What is the capital of Papua New Guinea? Is it:

A) Port Louis  B) Port-au-Prince
C) Port Moresby  or  D) Port Adelaide

Chapter 8: 200,000 Murder on the Western Express

After leaving from the Taylor’s in Delhi, Ram decides to go to Mumbai with the 50,000 rupees he has earned. In the train, he meets a family, a beautiful daughter, Meenakshi for whom he falls. He tries to impress her brother, Akshay by knowledge of gadgets and his 50,000 rupees. The train is attacked by two bandits who ask every passenger to give away their valuables and money. When the bandits leave Ram’s compartment, Akshay tells them that he has hidden 50,000 in his underwear and so he is forced to surrender in front of them. Before leaving the coach, one of the bandits tries to molest Meenakshi and hits his father; Ram fights with him and shoots him with his own pistol and jumps off the train.

Seventh question:

Who invented the revolver?

A) Samuel Colt  B) Bruce Browning
C) Dan Wesson  or  D) James Revolver
Chapter 9: 500,000 A Soldier's Tale

Living in the chawl in Ghatkopar, Mumbai, during the Kargil War, the residents of the chawl have been asked to stay in a bunker. There Ram meets Balwant Singh, a retired army man with one limb who narrates his story of the 1971 war. Balwant Singh is an accomplished storyteller and he narrates his heroism in such a fashion that within a couple of days he becomes a real life hero for the chawl residents. He tells the kids though he was never honoured with any gallantry award, he satisfies himself when he sees Amar Jyoti, the memorial to the Unknown Soldier. Later in the chapter, a team of army men visit the chawl to raise funds for Soldier's Benefit Funds. One of the army men, a Vir Chakra recipient, learns from the chawl residents that one of his colleague of Sikh Regiment who fought the 1971 war lives in the chawl. The army man meets Balwant Singh in his room and after a heated argument comes out and tells the chawl residents that Balwant Singh was a deserter who ran away from the war to see his pregnant wife. Next day, Balwant is found hanging in his room.

Eighth question:

Which is the highest award for gallantry given to Indian Armed force?

A) Mahavir Chakra  
B) Param Vir Chakra  
C) Shorya Chakra  
D) Ashok Chakra
Chapter 10: 1,000,000 Licence to Kill

The chapter is plotted in Mumbai. Ram has been out of touch with Salim ever since he fled from Mumbai after Shantaram’s death and he has decided not to meet him. One day accidentally he meets Salim at Mahalaxmi Race course. Salim relates his story after Ram left Mumbai, how he met Ahmed Khan who employed him for his household work. Ahmed Khan was only fond of cricket as he was involved in betting and a ‘Mumbai Crime Watch’ a TV series about real life crimes in Mumbai. Salim realized that parcels which came to Ahmed’s address were photographs of people whom he later saw dead in Mumbai Crime Watch. Salim understood that Ahmed Khan was a contract killer.

One day while Ahmed was busy betting on Sachin’s 37th test ton which he lost, a parcel arrives with a picture of film producer Abbas Rizvi. Salim alarmed Rizvi about the plot and Rizvi feeling indebted to Salim promised him a role in his next film. On the other end Salim replaced the picture of Mamman in the parcel. Later Ahmed too is killed by police in an encounter.

Ninth Question:

How many Test centuries has India’s greatest batsman Sachin Malvankar scored?

A) 34  B) 35
C) 36  or  D) 37
Chapter 11: 10,000,000 Tragedy Queen

The chapter is based in Mumbai where Ram worked at yesteryear's actress Neelima Kumari's residence after fleeing from Mamman's racket. Neelima Kumari lives with her mother in Vila Parle. Neelima was a National award winning actress but her personal life was full of miseries, broken relationships and loneliness. Ram shared good relationship with her as after her mother’s death only he was allowed to stay overnight at her residence although she paid the rent for Salim staying in chawl. Neelima was not being offered good roles nowadays and her strained relationship with her lover who would beat her and leave cigarette marks all over her body. She was living an artificial life, struggling to get back to her prime where she was the Tragedy Queen of cinema. Tired of her lifeless life style, her dependence on alcohol, Neelima commits suicide.

During a commercial break Prem Kumar tells Ram that he can be a National Role Model if he wins the show, and the next round was Play or Pay, either to win all or you lose all. Prem Kumar plays a prank with Ram telling him answer to a wrong question during the break and asking him another.

Tenth Question:
Neelima Kumari, the tragedy queen won National Award in which year?

A) 1984  
B) 1988  
C) 1986  
D) 1985
Chapter 12: 100,000,000 (A Love Story)

The chapter is based in Agra after the bandit’s incident in train. Ram is left with no money and starts his life afresh in Agra. In Agra, Ram becomes a famous tourist guide, Raju, where he learns history of the place and of Taj Mahal. He lived in a rented room belonging to one of the richest lady in Agra, Swapna Devi. Ram became a good friend to Shankar, a mentally challenged boy and Lajwanti, Swapna Devi’s maid. One day after assisting a group of rich boys from Delhi on their trip to Agra, he is requested to join them for dinner, drinks and then to a brothel where he meets Nita. Ram later falls in love with her and became her regular customer. As the story unfolds, Ram one day realizes that Shankar was son of Swapna Devi, whom she threw off her window when he was six years old because one day he found her sleeping with his uncle. Shankar suffers a dog bite and develops rabbis, his treatment would cost four lac rupees and at the same time Nita’s pimp demanded four lac rupees from Ram if want her to set her free with him. Ram approaches Swapna Devi, tells her that he has realized that Shankar is her son and she must help him recover from rabbis and accept him. Swapna Devi’s lifestyle and status would not allow her to accept a mentally unstable Shankar as her son so she refuses to take any responsibility of him. Shankar dies in pain as Ram could not afford his medication. One day a customer calls Shyam, Nita’s pimp for a girl and Shyam sends Nita to a Five Star Hotel to entertain his customer. The customer beats Nita and ruins her face and body with cigarette marks. Ram decided to break
into Swapna Devi’s house and steal all he can to pay it to Shyam in order to free Nita who is his love.

Ram steals around four lakh rupees and rushes to the hospital to give all this money to set Nita free from prostitution. Shyam tells him that her face would require plastic surgery recover her wounds which means he needs additional two lakhs to get his love. Disheartened Ram gives four lakh rupees to a man who begs him as his son is dying from rabies. The man gives Ram his visiting card if could help him.

Eleventh question:

In which play by Shakespeare we find the character Costard?

A) King Lear  B) The Merchant of Venice
C) Love Labour’s Lost  or  D) Othello

Having no idea of English Literature, Ram uses his life line to call a friend; he finds the visiting card of Utpal Chatterjee, English teacher in his pocket, the same man he gave four lac rupees to save his son. He helps Ram with the correct choice of question.

Chapter 13: 1,000,000,000 The Thirteenth Question

On the final question of one billion rupees, Perm Kumar asks him “What is the name of Mumtaz Mehal’s father. Answering such a question would require someone with MA in Medieval history, during a break Ram tells Prem Kumar
that he knows the answer since he has been a tourist guide in Agra for two
years. Prem Kuamr plays another prank and post commercial break he said the
question asked was just a promotional stunt for one of the sponsors of the show
Mumtaz Tea. Prem Kumar asks another question for the final Play or Pay
round:

**Twelfth Question:**

Beethoven’s Piano Sonata No. 29 Opus 106, also known as the
‘Hammerklavier Sonata’ is in which key?

A) B Flat Major    B) G minor

C) E Flat major    D) C minor

Ram asks for a toilet break, in the washroom he is all alone with Prem Kumar
where he pulls off a gun on Prem Kumar’s forehead and tells him that he came
to the show to take revenge and not to win. He told him that he recognizes him
as the same man who used to visit Neelima Kumari and the same man who was
responsible for Nita. Prem Kumar begs him to save his life and in return he
promises to drop him hint to answer the final question. Ram could not kill him;
he uses his last life line half and half and manages to answer the correct option.
He wins a billion rupees. Later Smita reveals why she helped Ram in getting
out of the police station was because she was Gudiya the girl whom he met in
the chawl.
Chapter 14: Epilogue

Six months on, Smita manages to prove Ram a legitimate winner of the show. Prem Kumar committed suicide; Ram marries Nita and is a silent producer of Salim’s film. On a walk with Smita he asks her why she didn’t reveal that she was Gudiya in the police station itself, she says because she wanted to know the truth first. Ram threw his lucky coin in the sea, luck comes from within.

Slumdog Millionaire
**Production Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directed by</th>
<th>Danny Boyle</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Produced By</td>
<td>Christian Colson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written by</td>
<td>Simon Beaufoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music by</td>
<td>A. R. Rahman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screenplay</td>
<td>Simon Beaufoy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Running Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
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<td>Initial Release</td>
<td>12 November 2008</td>
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**Cast**

Dev Patel as Jamal Malik

Ayush Mahesh Khedekar as Younger Jamal

Tanay Chheda as Early Teenage Jamal

Freida Pinto as Latika

Rubina Ali as Younger Latika

Tanvi Ganesh Lonkar as Early Teenage Latika

Madhur Mittal as Salim Malik, Jamal's elder brother

Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail as Younger Salim

Ashutosh Lobo Gajiwala as Early Teenage Salim

Anil Kapoor as Prem Kumar

Irrfan Khan as the Police Inspector

Saurabh Shukla as Constable Srinivas
Mahesh Manjrekar as Javed
Ankur Vikal as Maman
Rajendranath Zutshi as the Millionaire show producer
Sanchita Choudhary as Jamal's mother
Shah Rukh Munshi as a slum kid
Mozhim Shakim Sheikh Qureshi as a crippled slum kid
Janet de Vigne as the German tourist at the Taj Mahal
Devesh Rawal as the boy in costume as the God Rama, painted blue

British director Danny Boyle takes another intriguing career turn with this heartfelt underdog tale. Jamal Malik (Dev Patel) is a street kid or a "slumdog" who has landed an appearance on India's slums. Working in India with co-director Loveleen Tandan, he has brought to screen unmatched wit, spunk and passion. Every scene of the movie is an audio visual treat. Slumdog Millionaire seems twice as alive when compared to other movies.

Plot set in 2006, the first shot of the movie is a closed shot of the protagonist Jamal Malik (Dev Patel), a former slum dog from Mumbai. The film opens in medias res in Mumbai with a policeman Godbole (Saurabh Shukla) torturing the protagonist. The opening scene presents a title card that reads, "Jamal Malik is one question away from winning 20 million rupees. How did he do it? (A) He cheated, (B) He's lucky, (C) He's a genius, (D) it's written." Jamal is a
contestant on the Indian version of “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” hosted by Prem Kumar (Anil Kapoor).

Anil Kapoor is not presented as a pleasant host in the movie like Amitabh Bacchhan in Kaun Banega Crorepati is. He gives the first introduction about Jamal that is rather a derogatory one. Jamal has already won 10,000,000 rupees and has made it to the final question, for 20,000,000 rupees, scheduled for the next day. It seems practically impossible for the show’s host and team to believe that a “chaiwallah” from the slums of Mumbai has made it so large. How could a boy from the slums, without any formal education win crores of rupees in this show which other educated people could not? Following up on a tip-off from Prem Kumar, the police now suspect Jamal of cheating, because the other possibilities—that he has a vast knowledge, or that he is very lucky—seem unlikely. For almost every question, Jamal had a life experience that
enabled him to answer it. We see Irfan Khan the police Inspector for the first time in the movie. He plays a major role in revelation of Jamal’s innocence.

The movie then captures the slums of Mumbai through a number of long moving shots and we are given a fair picture of the “real India”.

His flashback journey then begins and the answer to his first question related to the super star Amitabh Bacchan is revealed. This includes scenes of his obtaining Bachchan's autograph. The scene then shifts to the show and Jamal wins one thousand rupees for it. The scene then shifts to the Police Station and his journey is continued, next in his life is the death of his mother during anti-Muslim violence and how he and his brother Salim (Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail) became friends with Latika (Rubina Ali). He refers to Salim and himself as Athos and Porthos, and Latika as the third of the The Three Musketeers, the name of whom they never knew. This story they had learnt when studying in a
school in the slums. Further in his flashback, the children are eventually discovered by Maman (Ankur Vikal) while they are living in the trash heaps after having escaped the riots in which their mother was killed. Maman is a gangster who pretends to run an orphanage in order to train street children so that he can use them to beg for money for him. A scene takes place in his orphanage where we get to know that Salim and Latika do not like each other much and Jamal seems to be fond of her. Salim is a very energetic and violent boy much to Maman likes. We then witness the most horrifying scene of the movie in which we see Maman blinding a child by acid so that he may sing songs of Surdas (blind poet) and earn more money by begging. Salim is a witness to it and is sent to summon Jamal so that he may also be blinded in the same ruthless manner. Salim protects his brother and the three children try to escape but only he and Jamal are able to do so, catching up to a train which is departing. Latika catches up and takes Salim's hand, but Salim purposely lets go, and she is recaptured by the gangsters as the train moves on.

The brothers make a living, travelling on top of trains, selling goods, picking pockets, and cheating naïve tourists at the Taj Mahal by pretending to be tour guides. Here we witness “real India” again and the camera takes us to a journey that toggles between Agra and Mumbai. Police station and the Studio. Jamal consistently insists that they return to Mumbai since he wishes to find Latika, his lost childhood love. This annoys Salim but they do take up a journey towards Mumbai where they work as waiters in a restaurant.
Jamal here meets Arvind (Mozhim Shakim Sheikh Qureshi, the boy who had been blinded by Maman) who is found in a subway singing songs of Surdas. Jamal gives him a dollar and the boy recognizes it by the feeling the photo of Benjamin Franklin, this information serves as the answer to his question about the picture on America’s currency. Arvind also gives him the information about Latika’s whereabouts. They eventually find her on ‘Peela street’, discovering that she had been raised by Maman to be a culturally talented prostitute whose virginity will fetch him a high price. The brothers attempt to rescue her, but Maman intrudes and in the resulting conflict Salim draws a gun and kills Maman. Salim then uses the fact that he killed Maman to obtain a job with Javed (Mahesh Manjrekar), a rival gangster. Salim returns to the room where the three were staying and orders Jamal to leave. Jamal, knowing his brother is here to claim Latika as his own, attacks his brother violently before being overturned by Salim and gets confronted by a revolver as Salim threatens to kill him. Latika intervenes and tells Jamal to leave, breaking his heart and
sacrificing herself to keep him safe. With Maman's men searching for Salim, Salim and Latika flee to an unknown location and Jamal is left alone to fend for himself.

Years later, Jamal has a position as a "chai wallah" (tea server) at a call centre. When he is asked to cover for a co-worker for a couple of minutes, he searches the database for Salim and Latika and succeeds in getting in touch with Salim, who has now become Javed's most successful gun man.

Jamal meets Salim on tense terms on a high rise building that is under construction. He shows him the place where they once lived and how it has now been converted into modern society area. Once again Jamal asks him about Latika. Salim, annoyed and bewildered by this care, responds that she is "long gone." Salim invites Jamal to live with him, and after Jamal follows him to Javed's house, he sees Latika (Freida Pinto) there, and she also notices him.
He bluffs his way in, pretending initially to be a chef and then later a dishwasher. Jamal and Latika have an emotional reunion, but elation quickly turns to despair. She is Javed’s keep who ill treats her. Every evening, Jamal waits for Latika at 5 P.M at Mumbai's largest train station, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST), hoping that she would come to meet him. After Salim discovers that Latika is involved with Jamal and has gone to meet him, he gets her back to Javed. Javed slashes her cheek with a knife as Salim drives off, leaving a furious Jamal behind with a crowd of onlookers.

Jamal again loses contact with Latika when Javed moves to another house outside of Mumbai. In another attempt to find Latika, Jamal tries out for the popular game show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, because he knows she'll be watching. He makes it to the final question, despite the hostile attitude of the host Anil Kapoor who hints Jamal a wrong answer during a break. He writes a wrong answer on the mist of the mirror in the washroom but Jamal manages to give the right answer about Jack Hobbs. After this question we are taken back to the Police station where we find Irfan Khan, the Police Inspector, acquitting Jamal for the lack of any evidence against him. At Javed's safe house, Latika watches the news coverage of Jamal's miraculous run on the show. Salim suddenly becomes helpful towards Latika, gives her his phone and the keys to his car. He urges her to run away and to "forgive me for what I have done." Shortly after Latika has left, Salim fills the bathtub full of cash and sits in the tub, waiting for his death. The final question asked of Jamal is to name the
third musketeer in the story of The Three Musketeers. When Jamal uses his Phone-A-Friend lifeline to call Salim, Latika barely succeeds in answering the phone in time and they reconnect. She does not know the answer to the final question, but she tells Jamal that she is safe before the phone connection cuts off. She too does not know the answer to it. Jamal simply guesses the correct answer (Aramis) to the question of the one musketeer whose name they never learned, and wins the grand prize. Simultaneously, it is discovered that Salim has helped Latika to escape. Javed and his men break down the bathroom door and Salim shoots Javed. Javed's men then come in and shoot Salim multiple times. Salim's last words are "God is great." Later that night, Jamal and Latika meet at the railway station and they share a kiss. It is then revealed that the correct answer to the opening question is "D, it is written", implying that it is destiny. During the closing credits, Jamal and Latika—along with hundreds of bystanders and even the younger versions of themselves—dance in the CST train station to the song "Jai Ho".
The narrative structure of Slum dog Millionaire is perfect for a restless director like Boyle, allowing him to fast-forward between dramatic episodes at will and freeing him from the need to dwell too intimately on the finer shades of characters' personalities. The number of characters in the movie is far less than the novel and the movement quite different. The movement of the plot remains more or less similar when we compare the book with the movie except the fact that in the novel the story is told by Ram Mohammad Thomas to his lawyer Smita whereas in the movie we find Jamal Malik narrating the story to the policeman (Irfan Khan). Comparing the text and the movie, we find that both are masterpieces in their own respect. The text has a fast moving plot that swiftly moves forth and back. It is filled with a number of characters who have a world attached to their lives. The author has been able to narrate every story and sum it up in one chapter beautifully. The pattern followed in each chapter is simple and easy where the question asked in the game show is asked at the end of the chapter after revealing the clue to which the answer was attached. The plot is closely knit and fast moving but not followed chronologically. The movie too follows a similar pattern but in a chronological order of his life's events. This adjustment of literary time is a trait of a good screenwriter. “Clarity of chronology is the default in classical film storytelling.”

We see ample use of the flashback technique that gives the ultimate goal more prominence, creating a parallel track for the entire film to move along and arouses lot of suspense. Flashbacks are also a long-standing storytelling device,
as I was saying here last week. A canonical situation is the police interrogation that frames the past events. Flashbacks can also remind us of things we’ve seen before, as when Jamal recalls the night he and Salim left Latika behind to Maman’s band and themselves escaped for the sake of their own lives. In this movie, we also see a technique of flash forward being used. Flash forwards are less and more intriguing. This concept too came up in 1960’s. We witness a scene in the movie where Jamal is being tormented by the police. In between that scene we see an image of Salim in a bathtub, in another instance we see an image of Latika standing at the station. At this point we do not know who she is or why she is there but this technique definitely increases our curiosity and we relate those images as being symbolic of some theme. We eventually see that scene towards the end but flash forward helps us form new symbolic ideas. Latika’s image for example is a symbol of love that runs throughout the movie.

The novel has several minor threads of action, but the film concentrates solely on Jamal’s love of Latika. The Novel introduces two major female characters, Smita (the lawyer and his sister) and Nita (his love) whereas in the movie we get to see only Latika who enters the movie in the beginning itself. This choice of characters makes the plot of the movie relatively simpler. Unlike the movie, Latika is not Jamal’s childhood friend in the book but rather a prostitute named Nita with whom Ram falls in love with when he visits a brothel at age of 17. Also, his motivation to go on the show is not to find Nita but to save her. On the contrary we find that Jamal Malik is immersed in Latika’s love and from
the time from where he loses her till the extreme end of the movie he remains in her search. His love for her is unconditional and absolutely true. The underlying idea behind the movie and the novel is the same as both of them aim at revealing an unusual story of luck and love. The major themes are revolving around love, not only of the main character but also the filial love and the love that binds the two brothers/friends together. It is certainly a mirror to the society that reflects the deplorable conditions of the slums, the dirt and the filth that brings up children of all castes and religions. It is not just a story of one “chai whala” who made it to the big show but the dreams of millions of Indians who ever wanted to reach that platform.

Hollywood movies have mostly followed the concept of a double plotline, a concept where the main plotline revolves around the love of the protagonist and the minor plotline around his relationships with others like work, family etc. We witness similar concept in this movie as well and the two plotlines, one relating Latika and the second about the game show have been interlinked and at times juxtaposed wonderfully. The assortment of characters and the twists in the original novel are squeezed down to the two sorts of plotlines. Beaufoy has sharpened the plot by giving Jamal a basic goal: to unite with Latika. The quiz episodes form a means to that end: the boy goes on the show because he knows she watches it. The double plotline gives us a hero bent on finding and rescuing his beloved; the under-plot gives us a shadier figure who finds redemption by
risking his life a final time to help his friends. Jamal emerges ebullient from a sea of shit, but Salim dies drowned in the money he identified with power.

Q & A. Swarup’s novel begins: “I have been arrested, for winning a quiz show”. The moment the novel opens, we question, How, Why or When? This is the story writer’s technique to build up a series of questions and then eventually provide answers for these questions towards the climax. Noël Carroll states that “narratives engage us by positing questions, either explicitly or implicitly. Stories in popular media, he suggests, induce the reader to ask rather clear-cut ones, and these will get reframed, deferred, toyed with, and in the short or long run answered”.

Slumdog Millionaire too accepts this tradition. The director presents us with a number of questions to link its scenes and increase our involvement in the movie. Numerous questions keep sweeping the mind of the audience, Will Jamal ever find Latika or what is going to be Salim’s fate after he lets go off Latika or even will the two survive the wretched life of a beggar? Both the book and the movie build up the inquisitiveness of the audience by this technique of questioning and providing us with the answers every now and then. The movie however builds up this technique through the medium of multiple type questions faced in the game show. However the final answer to the question or the final revelation is seen only towards the climax or the denouement where the lovers unite.
David Bordwell, writes in his blogs that “The whole edifice is built on a
cinematic technique about a hundred years old: parallel editing. Up to the
climax, we alternate between three time frames. The police interrogation takes
place in the present, the game show in the recent past (shifting from the video
replay to the scenes themselves), and Jamal’s life in the more distant past. Any
one of these time streams may be punctuated, as we’ve seen, by brief
flashbacks. So the problem is how to manage the transitions between scenes in
any one time frame and the transitions among time frames.” ¹⁷

We see that the linking bridge between the time scenes is the sound effects or
more particularly the dialogues. In the climax scene, all the three time frames
come together to create a present. We know that Jamal is going to be faced
with the final question, Latika is watching the show and should be united with
him but Salim, and the third major character should sacrifice him for the sake
of the other two. We see the three plotlines going on simultaneously reaching
the climax together where Salim shoots himself in a bathtub and Jamal unites
with Latika. All the remaining lines of action—Jamal, Latika, and the
multitudes—assemble and then disperse in a classic ending: lovers turning
from the camera and walking into their future, leaving us behind.

Needless to say, the award winning movie has reached perfection as far as the
cinematographic element is concerned. It moves faster than a bullet, hits you
and leaves you wondering. Danny Boyle’s fast moving pace is not new as he has made ample use of it before but the extra success of this movie is attributed to the combination of all the possible shots available in a camera and the angles that are presented to the audience in 2700 shots and in about 60 scenes in a time span of less than two hours. We get harsh cuts, slow motion, distended wide-angle compositions, faces split by the screen edge, hurtling camerawork, canted angles, dazzling montage sequences, zones of coloured light, fast motion, stepped motion and reverse motion as well.

The original score and songs were composed by A. R. Rahman, who planned the score in two months and completed it in two weeks. The soundtrack has won the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score, BAFTA Award for Best Film Music, and two Academy Awards, one for Best Original Music Score and the other for Best Original Song for "Jai Ho". Rahman has stated that he was aiming at "mixing modern India and the old India". The song “Jai Ho” has been a super hit number and the soundtrack on the whole has added a lot to the beauty of the almost technically flawless movie.

The much debated word “Slum dog” has been a reason behind the success and criticism of the movie. Beaufoy claims to have invented the word “Slumdog,” though Ram is called a dog at one point in the novel. Many patriots have felt that the movie was a negative portrayal of India and have criticized it. Most frequently quoted is megastar Amitabh Bachchan’s blog entry. “If SM projects
India as a Third World dirty underbelly developing nation and causes pain and
disgust among nationalists and patriots, let it be known that a murky underbelly
exists and thrives even in the most developed nations.”

Later Bachchan explained that he wasn’t giving his own view points but
summarizing the comments of the correspondents. When an Indian makes a
movie about poverty or slums in Mumbai no one objects but when a British
director like Danny Boyle does it, he becomes the object of criticism and many
critics go up to the extent of calling the movie “poverty porn”. Well porn does
not imply vulgarity here but means exploitation. Just the way porn exploits an
existence, Slumdog exploits Indian culture for money. The exploiter here is
being Hollywood. Slumdog also invites criticism from the Post Colonial critics
as it is accused of being Imperialistic. The British director makes a movie on
the present day conditions of the once subjugated nation India and the audience
that enjoys this condition is a mix of the developed and underdeveloped
nations. Well this Post Colonial perspective if not taken into extremes can
better be termed as a phenomenon of globalization where any country’s culture
forms a part of any other country’s culture or thought process.

David Bordwell in his blog argues that a movie like Slumdog should not be
judged only on the basis of Cultural diversity or the Post Colonial perspective
and he states that “If I were to sketch an ideological interpretation of Slumdog,
I’d return to the issue of how money is represented in an economy that traffics
in maimed children, virgins, and robotic employees. Money is filthy, associated with blood, death, and commercial corruption. The beggar barracks, the brothel, the call centre, and the quiz show lie along a continuum. So to stay pure and childlike one must act without concern for cash. The Slumdog Millionaire doesn’t want the treasure, only the princess, and we never see him collect his ten million rupees. (An American movie loves to see the loser write a check.) To invoke Neorealism again, we seem to have something like Miracle in Milan—realism of local colour alongside a plot that is frankly magical.”

Slumdog Millionaire is as it is clear-eyed about the brutal power dynamics in modern-day Mumbai. But, at the same time what makes it so warming and what has been inspiring audiences all across the world to cheer at its rousing ending. In terms of events and happenings we also find that there is no mention of the Bombay Hindu-Muslim riots in the book as the ethnic or the religious heritage of the main character is uncertain. In the book, the central character is instead named ‘Ram Mohammad Thomas’ by the village elders, choosing a Hindu name, Muslim name, and Christian name to maintain the balance among all the religious communities after his mother abandons him at birth. Ram grows up in an orphanage, and his only 'brothers' are his fellow orphans. Moreover in the novel a fragmented biography emerges where Salim is the protagonist’s best friend. Salim dreams of, and ends up being, a Bollywood actor, which is very different from the movie, where Salim is Jamal Malik’s brother who ends up being an underworld don’s dog. He is a brother to Jamal
and one of the lead protagonists in the movie. Ram was adopted by a Christian priest as a youth, which is how he learns English, and then is nearly molested, by a visiting priest. The priest scenes are not included in the film script, and the film does not explain how Jamal and Salim learn fluent English. In the movie Jamal is shown as a Muslim living in the slums of Mumbai who were sent to the school forcefully until their mother died and they were then sent to an orphanage. However their life in Agra is a little similar but there too the events and happenings are different.

Although the novel *Q and A* was turned into a best seller only after the success of the movie, both managed to retain their entertainment quotient very well. Undoubtedly, the movie has created history in Indian as well as international cinema. It is an almost flawless movie and to limit its creativity only to a comparison with its printed version will be an unfair judgment. Both should be viewed as independent artistic achievements complete in themselves.
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