CHAPTER 4

AMERICAN DIASPORA: THE GOLDEN GATE

Vikram Seth is an extremely versatile writer and as a student of economics novelist, poet and translator he has had a world wide reputation. Be siding his education in India, he stayed for two years at the University of Beijing for his study and also in California and England for the same purpose. Vikram Seth is a kind of person who has after been victim to unfavorable comments and criticism for his unconventional development as a writer and thereby collecting a lot of money against the good sale of his books all over the world. His books are extremely successful and they have made his a rich man quite soon. Further more there is the problem of his national identity should he be considered an Indian writer as he has spent most of the times of his literary career in foreign countries. It is really a very provocative question to consider his aas writer of so called Indian Diaspora when gore vial has called his novel, the Golden Gate, the great Californian novel. But we have not to bother about is what we find in Seth is that he isa an artist at home with the world, absorbing influences from various cultural backgrounds. Were on the one hand his prose and poetic works are having the impact of English Literature upon them on the other hand, his translating of three poets from the Jang Period are very much influenced by the Chinese traditions and conventions:

"If it is well recognized fact that in the 19th century Indian poets using english as their expressive means relied heavily on the Romantic poets of the period seth our contemporary and a sophisticated writh, moves with great ease and nonohelance between
different styles handling modes and the conventions of different periods and different lands will extreme Elegance and wit.”

After having publisher an extremely sensitive book of poems, The Humble Administratives Garden in 1986, Vikram Seth wrote the Golden Gate, A Novel in Verse, dering to challenge his reads hallmark of the pos modern element in contemporary culture and art is a sense of the merging and simultancy of various culturese. Actually cultural hybridity is highlighted in most of the post modern literary verntures, so far as the work of Vkram Seth are concerned, they highlight the post modern espects of various cultures of the places where he has lived and identified himself with.

In the Golden Gate Seth has wred, many references of various authrs and their books and made them a part of his novel establishing its identity in the world of fiction Linda Hutchon, a noted critic and author says:

“No text is without its inter texts”

The reference of Pushkin’s Engine Oregin is quite perceptible in the Golden Gate of Vikram Seth. The with or himself says in the novel:

“How can I (careless of time) use the dusty bread molds of Onegin/ in the brave bakery of Reagon?”

Of course it the sonnet forms of Pushkin which has inspired Seth to write a novel like this in verse. However, there is also continuity between Pushkin’s fictional world and that of Seth implied in the relevance of the some form to render both worlds fictionally – love, infidelity, a quarrel between two men over a women, suffering, loss, death, social interaction in parties eating and drinking as social habits form the subject of both novels. Actually it is Pushkin’s Eugene Onegin which provides a kind of perspective to the
Golden Gate through which we can fully understand the spirit of Vikram Seth enabling him to create a fictional world of his own. Following lines can also be added in onport of the lines quoted above:

"The leaves will surely fail to rise on else go state before my eyes the truth is, I can’t justify it but as no shroud of critical terms can save my corpse from boring worms I may as well have fun and try it. if it works, good; and if not well A theory won’t postpone its knell."4

The plot of the Golden Gate basically revolves around John who is an ordinary young man of middle class. John represents a well educated, typical well to do American person in the novel. Despite his prosperous and rich condition he is extremely frustrated almost sunk into the state of despair. Mean which he comes in contact with one of his old friends getting inspirations from whom he places an ad in a local newspaper and after many attempts he succeeds in finding a companion of his choice. His companion, Liz Dorati, an intelligent charming lawyer who belongs to a family which is down-to-earth a wine growing family. Johns relation with Liz Dorati becomes deeper and deeper so much so that they are deciding to purchase a house ‘a sedate Queen Anne Victorian building, slightly ludicrous but ‘potential’ as Liz comments, when disaster strikes with the mock heroic battle of charlemagne, Liz’s can who does not tolerate the presence of John in the house and considers him as an intender over there:

"breach the bounds of his domain usurp his realm, or to be cruder to rape his solitary reign." 5

Unfortunately the relationship between John and Liz does not stay longer and broaks in between because of sudden jealousy of John. Consequently both of them are separated
from each other. Thus Johns dream of getting rewaral out of a life of love is shattered and he is again, taken to the state of depression which continues till he succeeds in getting his new love with a lady named Janet, an artist of Japanese origin. Janet actually happens to be John’s former lover whom he has once lost in a stupid banal car accident. They tie there again with the points thread of marriage because every human being needs a companion i.e. somebody to rely upon and partake his or her feelings of pain and pleasure. It is only this time when John realizes fully will the importance of his marital relationship with Janet, the sculptress from whom he had separated himself previously. Now hi begins to love her deeper and depler and regrets very deeply for his and her failure to express their feeling for union. This the author expresses in the following words:

“The emulation of casual conduct, light and bland ”6

This state of affair can be said to be the sign of California Diaspora.

Actually, it is not easy for someone to accept his or her unfortunate past. But John as a bold and course aqueous person welcomes his past by uniting himself with his previous love. Janet the sculptress and, gradually and gradually collects strength to face the present hurdles by getting new meaning in life. The Struggles very hard to learn how to go indirection in the various walks of life. Thus, the character of John in the book, The Golden gate represents a true Californian character. Like a true Californian his metal is again tested when he is invited to become godfather of Liz’s child, and also he has to face the deaths of so many people connected with him i.e. the deaths of Janet, Mrs. Dorati and the doctor Hutt Lamont.
While writing this novel, Seth seems to have in mind George Eliot's. The mill on the Foss besides Pushkin's Eugene Oregen. It is to because the last chapter of Eliots novel, the Mill on the Foss is titled, 'The Golden Gates are Passed; As pe the plot I the last chapter of Eliots novel, Mr. Tulliver is note bed of his Mill and entire property and all this is taken away by waken, the lawyer. As a result of which Mr. Tulliver becomes victim to a severe stroke. Tom, the son of Miller has to leave his school and study. The children's furniture becomes grim and sullen. Very appropriately Eliot writes:

"they had gone forth together into their life of sorrow, and they ould never more, see the sunshine undreamed by remembered cares. They had entered the thorny wilderness and the 'Golden Gates' of their childhood had forever closed behind them"7

The Mill in Eliot's novel stands for a state of permanence like that of an overflowing river whereas The Golden Gate seems to be rising above the sea level but without being in a disconnected state. It mean to say that there in the novel one finds an interlooking relationship between art/artistic time and life. This is clearly seen when John after a certain gap of time accepts the love of Janet the sealptress and unites himself with her in life thread so far as the characters of the Golden Gate are concerned, they have got full experience of all the phases of life right from the childhood state of purity and innocence to the adulthood state of turmoils and tears, pain and joy, frustration and hope, loss and profit. A central character named, Philip in the Golden Gate, married to a lawyer named Liz is true reminder of Philip wakem, a lawyers son in the novel to titled The Mill on' the Floss by George Eliot. In Seth's novel Liz is original the girl friend of John who loses her to Philip and Philipin Eliot's novel has to say good bye to Maggie Tulliver in favour of Stephen Guest. This is what we call a kind of role reversal. In the Golden Gate major
focus is an the element of death and loss i.e. the recurring theme of the novel so is seen in the Mill on the Floss by George Eliot. Untimely dies the young artist, Janet in the Golden Gate so happens with Maggie and Tom in the Mill on the Floss. Thus, Vikram Seth, originally an Indian, depicts a true picture of life lived by the people of California and represents the real thread of California Diaspora.

That, the Golden Gate has been written under the impact of the Bible, cannot go unnoticed. It is found that most of the fictional character in the novel appear not have followed the dictum to moral beliefs already preached in the Bible. Most of them are actually alienated from the older set of moral beliefs. Talking about the love making of Liz and John, Seth writes:

“The loving pain has bet the apple of mortal knowledge” 18

The above statement of Seth in connection with the love affair of Liz and John reminds us of the biblical reference of the forbidden fruit’ in the Bible where Adam is led to pluck the fruit from the forbidden tree by Eve. Another biblical reference is of homosexual advances made by Phil which are summarily rejected by Ed. Who says in the following manner-

“The Bible says, if a man lies with a man, he must surely die” 9

An anti nuclear speech of Father O’Hare is directly referred to Lord Christ and his sacrifice that he has done for the emancipation of entire humankind Father O’Hare says:

“By Christ’s own sacrifice and passion we cannot flinch” 10

In this way the Bible, The Golden Gate, is considered to be a true representative of a long lasting cultural influence on the Western civilization to a great extent. Not only this, it
seems to be teaching a kind of lesson concerning moral manner and mode of living to the modern people especially living in the western part of the globe.

The Californian characters and the intensity of their life experiences have been very brilliantly portrayed throughout the novel through the references of various authors such as Dostoevsky Mann Bede etc. This is clearly seen when Belinda Beale watches Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, a play by Williams and is full of troubled steamy passions in the company of John. When wasp Bluestocking watches Macbeth, a play by Shakespeare on the persuasion of John, he makes mention of ‘appearance and reality themes’ and concludes his experience in the following manner:

“The third murderer is in fact the central figure of each act”11

The Golden Gate is in fact is California Diaspora because most of the characters portrayed in the novel by Seth seem be exploring the visions of reality and illusions already found in the lives of Californians. In the Golden Gate sometimes major characters are replaced by the minor characters and vice-versa.

The reference of Shakespeare’s King Lear is very clearly seen in the sonnet 2.24 through a letter written by Anne T. Friese, i.e. Janet addressed as ‘the kings third daughter’. This is a direct reference to Cordelia, the third and the youngest daughteter of King Lear in the play King Lear by William Shakespeare. Corderra, actually is such a type of Shakespearean heroine who stands for a high ideal womanhood which cannot be found in the modern times. Such an ideal character of womanhood is almost impossible for John to find in the contemporary Californian society. And, of course it is so because the expectation of having Shakespeare’s literary set up is very difficult for us to get in Seth’s consumer culture of postmodernism. This sonnet also refers to a great classic of America
written by Margaret Matehell under the title, 'Gene' with the wind in which the tears and turrets caused by the American Civil War have been made mention of very effectively. The following lines bear the witness for the same:

"She's just as name brought by the marl, gone with the wind."12

The miseries and misfortunes to which the characters of the novel The Golden Gate are victims and also their struggles to rehabilitate and survive are quite similar to the problems faced by the common Californians.

"The turmoiled times of the America civil war desribed in Margaret Mitchell's gone with the wind-the havoc and tribulations in the lives of the characters and their attempts to rehabilitate themselves -become identified with the modern experience of the characters of the Golden Gate."13

"The Golden Gate" is actually a great literary masterpiece by Vikram Seth. This book comprises thirteen chapters covering three hundred and seven pages. It consists of five hundred and ninety four sonnets including table contents acknowledgement dedication and the author's autobiographical notes.

"It is a rare and arguably anachronistic commodity a novel in verse"14

As a great Californian novel as Gore Vidal calls it, it deals with a narrative of heart break and forgiveness about a particular group of friends living in San Francisco. Describing the conditions of the Californian people living in the 1980's the novel deals basically with love and various mishaps that take place in their lives. The main theme of the novel is characterized by the element of estrangement and isolation prevailing in the contemporary Californian life. It can be called a kind of man's Endeavour to find out something of noble note in the various spheres of life. In the very beginning the author
depicts very beautifully a succession of romantic relationship which includes homosexuality and anti-war demonstrations. John Brown, the hero of the novel is a white angle saxon protestant who is, no doubt, well mannered but conservative. As a successful computer programmer in Silicon Valley he elicits respect from all and each but unfortunately lands a life of aloofness. While walking across Golden Gate Park, he expresses his feelings very sadly:

“If I died who’d be sad? Who’d weep? Who’d gloat? Would anybody?”

Deeply pained and frustrated and dejected, he feels and while ruminating like this, he reaches a conclusion that nobody needs him,. He is needed wanted and respected only for his work. Out of great frustration and disappointment he contemplates over modern scientific and technological advancement which also cannot provide him any relief or mental place. Knowing no appropriate cause of his new erotic state of mind he expresses in following manner.

“I’m young, I’m played healthy ambitions, sound solvent, self made self possessed. but all my symptoms are pernicious The Don, Jones of my hearts depressed.”

Janet Hayaykawa, who is a Drummer and chiefly a scepter by profession, is in a close contest with him. Janet as the only female friend of John, is whole head staidly devoted to her act during some serious negotiations with John, she reaches a conclusion that his new tic state of mind can be renewed, if he succeeds in establishing a stable relationship in life and herself takes the responsibility of finding out a suitable life-companion for John. Eventually Janet places a personal advertisement on John’s behalf to find a suitable girl as a result of which he selects three girls but finally meets Elizabeth Dorati alias Liz with whom he falls in love.
Another important character, whose role is very memorable in the novel, is Phil Weiss, a finish robotician. John’s fellow computer professional and chum, Phil is aged twenty eight and after giving up his bright career in Dataronics he decades to work as an environmentalist. Because of separation from his wife Claire out of misunderstanding he also leads an alienated life like John. Just to give him peace and comfort he, once, attends the music concert organized by John and Liz in which the sister of Liz whose name is Sue, is the Chief performer. There in the concert he comes in contact with Ed. Liz’s brother. Here from begins homosexual relationship between the two. On and off they indulge themselves in such an illicit relationship of homosexuality. But everything has a limit. Ultimately date conscience does not allow him proceed further in a dirty relationship like this. On religious and moral grounds he feels guilty but does not cease to love Phil as his love for him (Phil) is quite sincere and genuine.

Things do not go all alike. Meanwhile some differences take place between John and Liz. All this is can bed by charlemgne Liz’s cat who is not now friendly to John. John also does not feel comfortable in the company of Liz and Charlemagne. Due to this, his life becomes miserable. Even Liz is also not willing to say good bye to the cat for the sake of johns relationship. She has also learned of the affair between her brother Ed and Phil and has accepted it, but this becomes a major bone of contention with John who finds this relationship disgusted and illegal. As a result he breaks his relationship from Phil and decides to place his marriage proposal to Liz, who accepts but not so soon. He is gating greatly surprised when he happens to see a letter in Liz’s hand from Phil and decides to cut off his relation with Liz. After this Phil and Liz are married together. It is not the element of love that has motivated them to marry each other, but it is sense of
companionship that compels them to be connected with the thread marriage. Now John is alone and feels fully aluminates but every now and than recalls to his memory his old love with Janet, the architect. As soon as he makes up his mind to bring her back in his life, he hears of her demise caused by an accident and is completely broken and smitten. Thus, he is befoult of his reunion with her and memories the last words of Janet that his ears have once heard of:

“I’m with you, John you’re not alone. trust me, my friend; there is the phone it isn’t me you are obeying pay what are your own hearts arrears now clear your throat; and dry these teers.”17

As is quite clear that one cannot be always revengeful to the fury of fate and, ultimately has to accept her verdict. John, in this way, starts living a fresh with the old but sweet memories of his sweet heart Janet and says good bye to the state of isolation and aloofness.

It is not only with John the hero of the novel but also with most of the people, living in California in America who, in modern times are broken and smitten by the cruel judgments of fate but like Hemingway heroes can be broken but not defeated in the Golden Gate Vikram Seth as an efficient literary architect and artist-has very truly, delineated the picture of the complexities of human nature. As a matter of fact those values that shape and reshape the society and human relationship stongly are declining gradually and gradually and have no solid base to stay longer.

“.... The individual is not only isolated from society he is isolated from everyone he knows even his own love partner.”18
Most of the American especially Californians as Seth depicts are unwilling to tenounce anything for their mental peace and inner comfort. In this respect John as representative of the dilemma of modern American man, is not the only example. There is an immediate break in the relationship of John and Janet when something serious and untoward begins to take place, Psychologically speaking it is a “relationship anxiety”, which is called a feeling of refusal that develops slowly and slowly in a mature relationship. But when Janet dies, a feeling like this gets end completely Phil also suffers from such a mental worry when he is separated from his wife Claire but after marrying Liz he has nothing to do with that state of mind, and feels quote safe and secure in the permanent marital relationship with Liz. The anxiety of Ed., who has been once in a homosexual relationship with Phil is of some special kind. It is quite typical and different Ed actually does not know what he truly wants and with what he would be completely satisfied so that he might live comfortable in Californian society. It is very cleary seen that every major character including John in the novel has be come victim to this kind of anxiety. Briefly speaking the get their freedom and enjoy sealed the state of liberty only by keeping themselves within the walls of separation and lonelier around them. They need is it were no society and no company. They relish more and more in the state of alienation rather totally away from human touch and society.

Another thing of the American life and society that the novel focuses on is directly related with the problem of homosexuality.

“Though homosexuality is by no means an American invention but due to its prevalence in American society it has required almost a cult status there is is evident that the culture of homosexuality is more developed in America that any other nation.”19
The in the novel is shown having homosexual relation with Ed. And later on he disconnects himself from the same considering it to be improper. He is not at all punished for this unnatural deed. Instead he enjoys a very prosperous and comfortable life at the end. Quite contrary as the case of John who always condemns and hates the homosexual relation between Phil and Ed. And doesn’t like it all, but at the end, he leads a miserable and hopeless life. His beloved Janet is killed in an accident and he is left to live alone only with the old and sweet memories of his sweet heart. It does not mean that the naval, the Golden Gate has been written with a view point to encourage the tendency of homosexuality in America. Neither to encourage nor to consider it a vicious attitude, the novelist has talked of a particular cult of American society which is establishing itself through not rapidly but slowly and slowly, in the lives of the people there, Vikram Seth is artistically so a skilled writer who has depicted homosexual relationship in the novel as a casual sex and a way of American life: if socially permitted, so for so good, and if not makes no difference and may harm no one.

*The Golden Gate* offers an amusing yet sensitive look at the 1980's Yuppie lifestyle in northern California. Young and prosperous but bored and lonely, the characters in the novel search for meaning and happiness. Bisexual Phil is attracted as is already mentioned above, towards gay Ed. But Ed, a devout Catholic is tormented by sexual guilt, while Phil is gradually learning to understand and accept his sexuality, he gets attracted towards Liz, Ed’s sister, and they marry lurking beneath the novels gentle satire and the Californian ethos is Seth’s message that sexual self acceptance meaningfull commitment sincere love and stable friendship are the basis of an authentic life. In a suitable Boy (1993) where Seth projects an epic vision of the Indian life of the 1950’s,
homosexuality is merely hinted at in one of the novel’s numerous plots, there is a suggestion that two male characters—mean Kapoor and Firoj Khan were once lovers.

Seth’s tale of four California yuppies is as fully dimensional as a good novel and twice as interesting. In this witty compressed style he gives us fully delineated characters”, John, a Silicon Valley executive seeking solace in a meaningful amatory relationship, his friend and ex-lover Janet an artist and musician in a raucous rock band, Liz whose parents produce superior Californian wine her brother Ed, floundering between sin and religion and Johns Paul Phil abandoned by his scientific career at lung less labs a scene of anti-nuclear protests and rallies. It is an engaging story of the pangs and passions of love, in terraced with serious, ruminations on homosexuality and religion and on the future of the earth in the atomic age and some comic scenes of feline behavior bumper sticker, responded to personal arts and other facets of the contemporary scene, as refracted through Californian lifestyle. Phil in “The Golden Gate”, is always presented against a backdrop of the natural environment, in the midst of a group of like minded friends who like a large family enjoy rituals such as olive picking and pickling, Sunday morning community breakfasts and stady one another in times of crises. A certain warm and fecund energy characterizes Phil. His openness in sex timing of their sexual bonding.

“Why Ed? These are n’t the middle ages this is the twentieth century what facet of our love outrages your puritanical purity your church itself is strict or lenient according to what’s most convenient.”

Their relationship is doomed to a break up because Ed’s insistent guilt corrects acceptance and love.
“How long will you keep contemplating The Universe in Gothic? ed you just don’t know what you want that’s what is so exasperating, one day we we’re lovers and the next, I am gagged with sacramental text.”

One more dominant theme of the “The Golden Gate” in that of nuclear warfare. A lengthy segments the novel deals with anti-war demonstration. Nuclear is anoty the theme of the novel and the novel itself dels with the life of America. America is the only country where people are aware enough to protest the acquisition of nuclear weapons. The novel shows that Phil, who proves as rigid in his sight wing pro-bomb politics as he is in his dislike of Liz’s cat, leaves his promising career of Nuclear science and joins another job. Liz participates in the anti-war demonstration and gives a persuasive speech against the arms race. The seventh chapter of the novel is devoted entirely to the protest march against the bomb eighteen sonnets of which form Father O’Hare’s impansonioned speech. A description of the heterogeneous group of protestors with their different playcards united against the Lab’s policies and its “bright crew-cut Zombies” who” will efface all human kind’ and yet ‘ talk not of ‘death’ but ‘optimising effective yield’ (78) reads uncannily like the many protests in the last couple of years against the U.S. attack on Iraq.

“Fatigues down jackests, and bandannas, Handicapped veterens in wheelchairs, American flags and rainbow banners, A band for Sousa, Priests for prayers, a replica of the grim reaper, placards- I am my brother’s keeper” “Nice folks don’t use nukes” “work for life, not death,” and a huge “Strive with stufe”- quarreling, warring, wrangling, singing, the lively un-unanimous throng, two thousand minds, two thousand strong,
submerge their disagreements, bringing common concern and hope to bear against the
smithy of “hardware” 22
The spokes woman for “Lungless Labs” responds to the protest in the following words
“These games cost the taxpayer dearly, and have a minimal effect attack upon an
institution that serves the nations perverse, quixotic, petulant, or Worse, an un Americal
resolution as every president can attest what we do here is for the best.” 23
Father O’Hare’s long speech marked by biblical eloquence seems Omunously relevant
ever twenty years after the novel was published intodays unipolar context, when the
world fall’s escalating international conflict as the result of contemporary Americal
policy:
“Hate is a subtle weed vagaries of soil and time give it now growth, only the food of
hatred varies. england and Germany were both om bitterest enemies, we hated each one
of them ... ... ... ... even before we’d reach Berlin. Moscow was our new sump of sin.” 24
The protect march is conceived in a Gandhian manner where the can paigners peacefully
break law, court voluntary arrest and plead guilty forcing the prosecutors into a position
whereby they have to watch how:
“..... the embattled jailbirds, bedraggled but unclipped, sang their way out to their own
script.” 25
Liz his pet cat in a pram, support the cause and her unexpected presence and help is
instrumental in strengtharing the basis of her relationship with Phil.
John Brown a graduate of Berkley is a successful but extremely lonely computer
executive in silicon valley Employed in the high-tech computer and electronics industry,
he works in the area of nuclear research. Workaholic John:
"Kneels bareheaded and unshod before chip, a jealous God." 26 "John’s looks are good his dress is formal, his voice is low. His mind is sound, his appetite for works abnormal, a plastic name tag hangs around. his collar like a notive necklace though well paid, he Infar from reckless, pays his rent promptly jogs, does not broke cigarette, and reach pot eschews both church and heavy drinking, enjoys his garden, likes to read electrically from Mann to Bede (A surrogate some say, for thinking) friends claim he’s grown aloof and prim (His boss though is well pleased with him).” 27

John as is depicted by Seth in the novel follows conservative politics. He is open about his opposition to the ant-nuclear war-peace campaigns. He refuses realize the implications of the kind of work, he is involved in until the end of the book when he faces the monants of self doubt Mala Pandurang says that John does not question the ideo-logical apparatus that contract his conscious as an ideal person to have co-opted the subject. This thing comes very clear from the following lines:

"Those who devised these weapons, decant adjusted family minded fold...... he chooses to ignore can’t hurt him something’s are his concern some not his politics have strongly, slowly, Rigidified." 28

Through all these voices Seth has devoted considerable time and space to address this issue. The central idea of the nuclear insanity is that this fatal event effects not only human beings but also all nature’s creation. War has made earth’s beautiful creation ‘a viros in the mergue of space’. Nuclear war can only end in total homicide thus nuclear weapons must not be used.

The other issue raised by Seth in the novel is connected with the role of American woman in modern American society. Seth has portrayed the character of an independent
woman who has always shown great success in surviving in the male dominated world, they have been pioneers in every field Liz who is a lawyer is the epitome of the successful career woman. She is so confident that she can deliver a strong speech to save the life from the nuclear abyss. She participates very actively in the acti nuclear demonstration organized by the protesters. She eloquently speaks against the lungers labs and nuclear bombs. Initially she is unwilling to conmaot and to risk her career, but eventually gives a spirited reply in court and behalf of the protesters.

"Her gold hands fashioned not severely, into to a bun, from a gold chain a single pearl suspended clearly, allures his eye, John, once, again can't speak for wonder and confusion: a woman, or divine illusion? he overcomes his vertigo and st and. He mutters, "Liz, hello. I hope....... was it a hassle finding this place? His voice facts. he sits down, Liz says. "you're nervous, my Brown, Don't worry , I too need reminding that this is real." In an unplanned gesture of warmth she take his hand"29.

Liz's romantic relationship with John in the novel has been satirized. It is found that is a blind ners and lack of clarity in their love which bodes impermanence. To begin, it is chance and accident that gets them together. Their meeting is the result of an advertisement. Their immediate violent attraction for each other is physical even before a word is spoken between them they register pull of physical magnetism and their minds seem to have little room for rational thought:

"The days pass in a picoseconds—the days pars slowly each a year—depending on how tone is reckoured. liz floating in the stratosphere of daydreams, seem the hours go flying; for John they linger, amplifying, The interval til' the meet."30
However, once the passion to satiated differences crop up between than, Hohn, who is shown to be conservative, intolerant and narrow minded in his opinions on a range of issues, Liz’s pet, her diets, her political stand on the march for the non-proliferation of nuclear arms and her support of her brothers homosexuality, soon lose, Liz’s love and respect. Like a bold American woman Liz, leaves John and marries Phil with whom her married life truly sustains because this relationship between them is fully supported by reason and thought. Phil confuses to Liz.

"I now, years loss for heart attacks, passion’s angina, and loves blindness then company and warmth and kindness, perhaps I’m harder to disarm, and cherish courage more than charm.”31

When Liz’s father, worried about his daughter rather quick decision to marry Phil, enquires if she loves him:

"......Liz, I believe that you’re aware of what you are doing, I’d hate to see you sad, or ruing the day that you became a wife..... you do love Phil? Not on your life!” Liz giggles: “Oh, Dad, don’t look gloomy I like him, though.”32 Liz, like a modern courageous woman of America reflects thus: “Wheather it’s love or not means nothing much. love by itself; a tightening tether, a habit-forming drug, a crutch..... I like Phil, and he likes and needs me.”33

Seth’s profoundly anti-romantic stance is in keeping with the novel of manners which takes an objective perspective on social mores and institutions.

Another female character who has challenged the male dominated society of America is Janet, a sculptor and drummer. She is personified as an artistic American woman. It is said that she is kind of woman who has joined her vocation with her avocation. She has
enough confidence in her artistic ability to pursue her career whole heartedly even though success has eluded her till now. Seth has beautifully described the mental state of the American women through the female characters of the novels. He shows that Janet and Liz both have pet cats which indicates that the isolated American woman keep pets to illuminate their loneliness to some extent.

Janet Hawakaya is of Japanese decent and the only ethnic presence in the novel. She was John’s girl friend in the past, becomes his confidant and in due course once again becomes his lover. The sensitive and artistically gifted Janet is passionately involved with her sculpting of-

“Ma Hen, her maiden work in stone.”34

She is also a drummer in the punk band “Liquid sheep.” Janet plays a pivotal role in this novel. The day is set in motion when she takes the initiative to place a personal advertisement in a newspaper with the intention of easing John’s loneliness. It is to the message written by her that Liz responds more importantly John arrives towards a possible re-conditioning of John’s narrow perspectives. She reacts angrily to Johns demeaning sexist remarks by reprimanding him for his intolerance of women and says:

“Johnny Boy, your mind needs clearing of the debris of prejudice.”35 “John stands beside his phone, recalling Janets warm beauty, smiling calm, her dark eyes, high boned features falling black ponytail, her vagrant charm. he thinks “I guess I’ll be the wiser for talking a sound advises.”36

Janet in a gesture characteristic of her kindness and affections for John, seeks him and unobtrusively draws him out of his loneliness, she wonders why she doesn’t dislike him since she knows:
“Politically he’s close to Nero, for tolerance he scores a zero despite his catacombs of books am I just turned on by his looks?” 37

Concluding that she likes him because he loved her once, she briskly embarks one strategy to save John from himself. She takes him out to panics on peaceful Sunday afternoons, and drives along the boy. These must be the spots beloved of Seth during his student days at Stanford. One can pick up similarities between descriptions here and the poems in Mappings, the Humble Administrator’s Garden and All you who Sleep Tonight. John is gradually restored to sanity, and with the coming of spring time, feels his heart come alive again with love for Janet. Jane puts up an exhibition of her work which the critics tear to pieces. Unhappy and first rated as she is by the severe attacks of the critics, she invites Phil and Liz to a party simply to establish reconciliation between John and Phil. In a night of prospective shocks John finds himself hosting the party alone waiting for Janet to arrive thinking that she is late as usual. He then finds Phil and Liz at the door and is forced to take heed of than in a slow build up of anxiety for Janet he is finally confronted with the news of her death in a car accident. She is killed along with Matt and Joan from whom she had taken ‘lift in the same. John is bereft and completely shattered by this loss. He expresses his felings of deep love for her in the following words:

“The knowledge that he never mentioned his love for her or heard her say that she loved him – his well intentioned. design to keep all pain at bay, to shield him from the agitation of passion with the insulation of casual conduct light and bland- hurts like a nail torn from his hand. she died alone, with no one near her. wretched to thank he could not go
into her room he feels that though she could not hear him or he hear her, if somehow he had said a word of love, she would have somehow heard."38

like one crazed by grief he thinks of her all his walking moments and dreams of his loss when asleep. Finally going through her desk one day he finds his own letter sent to Anne T. Friese and realizes that Janet had loved him all the way through. This proof that she loved him and seeing through his evasions knew his love for her is redemption. The crutch too, hot on the heels of human insereest stories of Janet’s death in the newspapers flock to her exhibiting still on display and turn aroung Janus faced to revise their judgment:

"... what some call aridity in Hayakawa’s work (and there are untrained eyes that deem it bare) seen rightly, is a tense fluidity, a classic leanness that at length will be applauded for its shrength"39

Really speaking, the average American women is a victim of the extreme modernization of life and consequently, she is selfish like Claire Phil’s first wife, who leaves him for another man without being concerned for her son, Paul. A natural corollary to the disintegrated persons of the American woman is a disfunctional family life. As the traditional home maker, woman is the firmest foundation of home who keeps the family together. But the American woman is too emancipated to be tried down by any rules, and if her quest for freedom and self satisfaction entails leaving in her wake a trail of broken marriages, broken homes, maladjusted children, then it is a small price to pay.

The Golden Gate has an all American east of characters and it offers a perspective look at the 1980’s yuppie life-style in northern California. The term Yuppie has now come to be referred to more than just a demographic profile, it is also a psychographic profile. It
describes a set of behavioral and psychographic attributes that have come to constitute a commonly believed stereotypes. According to this story type Yuppies are more conservative that the proceeding hippie generation. Dispensing of the social causes of their more passionate parents (who themselves shed traditional values) Yuppies trend to be 9.5 professional workers. Yuppies tend to value material goods especially trendy new things. In particular this can apply to their staocks, imported automobiles Cage, BMW, Lexus and Mercedes-Benz, sport utilities, development houses and technological gadgets, particularly cell, phones. Unfortunately the fast paced pursuit of these material goods he’s unintended consequences & usually in a hurry they seek convenience goods and services. Being turns poor’ their family relations can be come difficult to sustain, Maintaining their way of life is mentally exhausting. Some times they will more every few years to where their job goes training their family the fast paces lifestyle has been termed a rat race. Heavily influenced be a competitive corporate environment, they often value those behaviors that have found useful in gaining upward mobile their corporate values home their spouses and ain air of informality about them yet an entire their activities from goal and terms to lunch at cocktail and sushi bars.

In the novel, “The Golden Gate” Seth has tried his tried his utmost to delincate an intimate Californian life style. He is of opinion that, “……… it was not his detachment but rather his love of California that was the most valuable to him in writing the book. one cannot come with a cold and objective eye from outside and the write with affection about a place. One must have lived years in that place and not just observed for years.”40
There are a number of details that range from the seemingly inconsequential to more serious social issues open to debate such as contemporary sexual manes and nuclear ornaments. Socializing activities include house aiming parties, winemaking panics, weakest grants followed by symptoms breakfasts and gestalt group parties. The characters of the novel shark exclusive relationship with their pets which include a Siamese cat called Charlemagne and an iguana called Schwarzenegger. Past turns range from a child’s addiction to the star wars to art exhibitions. And classical symphonics as also performances of a rancous band called ‘Liquid Sleep’. Seth has worked hard to include as many culture specific in dicators as possible so that the reader may have no reason to suspect that this is a non-Californian doing the writing:

“Anne Gunn, who draws delight from sketching the unearthlier products of the earth decide, that Schwarz is “rather fetching” the others give him widest borth some leave to play footbass or footsie, some for a matinee of Tootsie, to watch a high school terms match or tend their vegetable patch, study statistics, skunks, or Serbia, shop sail or swine, stretch out and snooze, or smoke a joint or Shum the blues, repair the doodads of suburbia plan out the lung less labs campaign or dream of real estate in Spain.”

Commenting to and from work on the high way. John Brawn, one of the central characters, notices policeman chasing “little Bugs and harmless Hondas and sensational head lines that screen “The president is a lesbhian spy.” Billbord stogans and bumper stickers convey requests to motonists to “Honk for Jesus” and “to chug year whole today” leslse suggests that the text is filled with details about California that “natives sometimes overlook because of excessive familiaretyard Crag tapping comments if the work might be considered in terms of Vikram Seth:
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“returning the gaze that has so offer found India exotic, on that most exotic hot house of late 20th Century captelist culture - California” 42

The novel is in a sense, a literary curiosity. Not only does it unify poetry with fiction, it brings together a 19th century Russian antecedent with a modern American present. Set in the most modern, the most sought after locations of California that has come to sepreset mere or lea, the aspirations of the Yuppies whose lives indeed substantiate the story, the novel spins an identifiable and popular yarn in old fashioned metrical and shymed verse. In this sense it bridges a charm between the academic and the popular, giving vicarious satisfactions of both to each. Seth enters into the culture of his American world completely and is aboe to write about the lives of a specific calls of Americans with great cultural in teriority making invisible his own Indian self. A borderless and multicultural world is conjured up by the novel and by the facts surrounding its inspiration and its author. The final topping to this layered pie as, of course, Seth’s jaunty obliviousness to current academic critical fashions. The worlds “Liminal” and “hybrid” tremble for attention, but in vain, Seth for one will make no gesture towards theory either in the content of his novel or in the form that he adopts. Seth has said elsewhere that after the introspection worlds of boarding school and Oxford, he discovered a happiness he had not known before in California.

“I loved the sunshine, the feel of northern- California, so beautiful so divorce ethnically and in terms of lifestyle. The freedom, the sense of ease in the personalities. I learned how to fun.” 43

Much oof the insouciance and ease seen in the narration of the story is perhaps a result of this familiarity with the customs, the values and the mind set all reflected in the language
of the particular class of society which he represents situated with in a particular historical context. Gore Vidal, not surprisingly declared in the “great California novel”. The profounder social and psychological issue that could have made the novel a truer exploration of manners are left untapped, Seth fills in an astonishing number of realistic detains into the terrain of his novel from billboards, restaurants, shops and bars to clothers and furniture houses and landscapes, but the metropolital city if San Francisco comes alive only in a few sonnets.

Dealing with the contemporary Californian life style the novel portrays the relationships of a group of young professional. It is a life of love and list, told with wit, restraint and intelligence and includes white American characters with just one character of partly Japanese element. It is an Americans where people from all over the world and not just from western Europe-shed theory ethnic dimensions after sometime and require a new Ameican identity when Seth was asked why he writes about at his reply was “one can’t quarrel with inspiration.” The Golden Gate, actually is the story of a man who is unable to sustain love and companionship in his life and ends up much the same way as he begins-a lonely and depressed human being. Yet, at the end we realize that catharsis and in lightment has taken false for John. His life has come full circle and his biter sweet experience of life has made him a mature and better human being. There is every hope that a new chapter to his life might still yet begin:

“To make a start more swift than weighty, hail More, Dear Reader once upon a time say Circa 1980 there lived a man, His name was John successful in his field though only twenty six respected lonely....... ......Across the pine serrated sky dragged from his care
not knowing why, he fills an urgent riptide drawing him far out where, caught in the kelp of loneliness he cries for help"44

when the novel opens we realize that Johns mother is dead and he is "caught in the kelp of lonelinesss." The novel deals with personal relations, love, loss and morality with an acuteness and delicacy of per caption a humorous yet compassionate and a very healthy understanding of human being particularly in difference in generations not conflicts but just stances desires Seth deals with two sorts- the order, modern kind of living feeling and thinking and the sometimes crippling freedom of the post modern period where the old monogamous love between sexes are now a part of a rosy past. It is different and heartless. The Golden Gate is witty but it is all heart.

The bard does not hesitate to interrupt history time to time, to explain a change in the course of events or to comment upon the structure of his narration as he defends himself against critics who would accuse him of folly in writing an entire novel in the sonnet form. Inspired by the marvelous swift metre of Pushkin's Eugene Onegin, Seth performs imaginative acrobatic jests quips and sums, delivering his social commentary with spirit and verse, ini spite of some passages where he veers towards the maudling and bathetic Seth's experiment is a resounding success:

John notes the late spetember showers have tinged the blond hills round the aby with a new pre-winter bloom. The way that when he was a child, the mysteries of San Fransiscos restless history kindled in him an answering spark wrested from old dunes by the westward thrust of the green bold to the slow pacific swell his footsteps to but it is late. The birds fly westward toward the sunset and the are of darkness drifts across the part." 45
The novel ranges through all the important facets of human life love marriage birth and death. An exploration of these vital issues brings to the fore problems still by and large peculiar to affluent societies of the West, the Americans in particular such as unhappy marriages broken homes single parenthood, divorce and homosexuality.

John webbed of mothers love, devoid of a family to cushion his solitude, no sibling no children he is advised by his former love, Janet who is still a friend to him to insert matrimonial advertisement in the papers. The responses it evokes from various women, the event that follow thereafter provide a touch of comedy along with wit and irony. After in interaction with a couple of women, John liberally fears for Elizabeth Dorati “Sweet Liz” who is also a little lonely except for her infamous cat Charlemagne who has remarkable simulation with another famous and notorious cat who goves by the name of Garfield (the well known cartoon character) with her golden hair “and” vibranal verse” Liz Charms John who in his elation cannot figure out whether she is women or “divine elusion”. The loving pair is enveloped in an “ignores mist” for a time, their heads surrounded by a hale rosy light. John has a last fount a new home and someone to love in “life’s brief game,” He and Liz cohabit for a while enjoying the bliss of togetherness until the storm blons that makes them realize that “all life’s a shaky dream” constant friction between the two on a accunt of the each and Liz’s Sudden decision to many Phil drives John are “embittered according/against the cosmos” pain “mangles” John who believe he is “duped” by love. “Lonely and injured in his pride/his sourrous feasters.” He is lost in savage transportation of grievance.” Then follows a time when he even gets “resigned/To loneliness.” It is when Johns friendships have all dissipated that he thinks of his former love, Janet Hawakaya whom he has treated “Less than ideally.
John who at one time was “mad” about him and “could hardly think of life without him” responds to his friendly everitues and makes an attempt at a comeback. The two slowly stop back to their old days of “fire and smoke”. Nowa “Quilt of Peace” surrounds John he derams of nothing and is even “free of all voliting”. St. stends him to think how little the eminity of the crazy world, its ficklailness bothers him.

As time passes Janet intant upon patehng up differences between erstudue friends John Liz and Phil invites the letter home to party. But as desting would have it even as the guests are arriving for the night’s revels, news of jan’s envolination in a car accident ‘ravels, news of Jan’s involvement in a CAR accident’ reaches John leaving him absolutely shattered Jans fouds, the humanate for due in the earch baving their little son the rold survivor of the accidents John who is completely shattered by this unexpected disaster becomes a nervous wreck. Haunted by the images and memovies of Jan it seems as if he cannot out love this pain. The readers feel for him as:

“He treaves to wring meaning from things that have no meaning and scrapes at rusted words that yield., few glints of nisight”46

In his grief John indulges in meditations of a philosophical nature which have an echo of Hamlets ruminations and even allows himself to an expression of “prayer” so as to finda potter in or cure for Jan’s death.

“As if some random psychedeli drumikord or lunatic or chil hed left a deubed and reckless sal on his mind’s walls, with brought and wil and unaccumsitabel regularity” -so foreable in their vividit that his perceptions seemed unhinged old images of Jan unhinge on his demmed life. At work or drivin to work, or after work at horn the seemed to be with him, to com to him (thus brckenly surviving like a rich revenant of life seizing a
chisel or a knife”4 but is fate ordains one has to live accordingly found life must go on and so his requests him to be the godfather to her newborn son whom she has chosen to call John.

*The Golden Gate* concludes with John poignantlly herring Jan’s voice saying to him

I am with you John your are not alone trust me, my friend, there is the phon it isn’t one you are obeyin pay what are your own kearts arrears now clear your thront; and dry these tears.” 4 thus bringing to has “explorative Voyage” to an end. The wheel has come full circle “what did not last in life has now possessed John wholly “it looks as if the invisible bridg man is destined to build ….. to reach outern…… to reach across……… to people an not any concrete one that city of San Francisco bests of”49

In the final analysis, the five important character are either handed gifts if spouse children, pets and togetherness or left lonely and unloved, according to the degree of their fidelity to family values, their adaptability and their ability to take on responsibility for themselves and others Phil and Liz clearly come out winners; in their marriage the two different kinds of families too come together and this is spelt out clearly in the mixed brood they inherit. Poor Janet is killed, John obdurate as he is, could only be taught by death. But some redemption is possible for John even as he grieves. There is the knowledge of Janet love that sustains him the friendship extended by Phil and Liz and the prospect of being God father to their baby. Babies and children are important to seth as his other novels reveal, and he rewards his event character with some association without.
To be sure, Seth includes the traffic in the circumference of his experience. It was seen a little earlier that he is able to accretion extent, accommodate the desolateness of loss, but only a very tiny extent; consolations for low thick and fast on the tracks of tragedy. John finds his redemption, the boy chick is suitably adopted and too soo it seems all is well that ends well not that only unful experiences mark great literature; but how unful experiences are treated is a surer test. This novel, which blends ant romantic satire of the gentle kind with sentiment, belongs more truly to the genie of popular art described as ‘family entertainment’ with something for each member of the bourgeois famil.

“Seth has said of the Golden Gate that there was no attempt at deliberate sentiment and that his characters are not there only to be made fun of or as playthings of his whimsical imagination” 50 Quoted form Guardian Talk.

This is true. Even John is not the butt of his author’s ridicule. There is an expiation provided for his rigid inflexibility that pusher the novel into the sentimental. As a novel of meanness, if it could have managed a more candid portrayal of the family, a less rosy picture of human nature, a more profound understanding of characters and their situations, The Golden Gate might well have crossed the divide between the popular and the great.

Actually the novel is a reflection of all the conceptions of Californian life which Seth had experienced while living in California chouleur says about The Golden Gate

“The great San Franciscan novel the unique masterpiece that succeeded in capturing the flacon and th spell of that fabulous city.”5 in a queet manner, Seth ships the glamour from American Yuppedom. There is more to this life than sunshine an Californian,
wine. In San Francisco, the east and the west do not only meet but actually blend. *The Golden Gate* shows the relative proximity of the east and sharing the same ocean with the west. Here Seth points the city of San Francisco in all its colorful glory, delineating all the minute things that constitute the heart beat of the city and California itself is the place in America for migrant and expatriate multicultural sin. The book is however very much a Diasporas narrative seen point of view of an Englishman who has gone to Stanford to get a PhD. And moves in the Yuppie circles of second generation Japanese artists Hungarian economists Jewish atheists green activists women lawyers and gay advertising executives from Italian wire growing families and high tech researchers in silicon valley:

“The society like the poetry is poised self aware even slick and the point is that style (life style) is part of the brittle protective barriers erected by an atomized secularized community against, disquieting invasion-not from foreign culture since that is all post of the multinationala post moder pot pourni=but from uncool angst of loneliness passion commitment and above all anorality”

The setting of the novel is San Francisco the city of Saint Francis, “The loveliest city an the world” “light pearled” “fog fingured” “pinnacled” with its famous bay -the “unruffled daughter of the Pacific” glommeung in the evening with light from the golden globes of its street lamps – “like sequinson black velvet nobes.” In short, San Francisco comes alive in this novel in cerse. Alongwith these vivid triches and beautiful descriptions the milieu and other of life lived there of Yuppies and urban officials, or artists and ordinary people also tets successfully evoked. Seth has vividly captured the people and the places in the city –especially its Yuppiness’ that has since multiplied.
The novel as an quite portrayal of an educated, hip typically San Franciscan circle of friends and their highly entangled love affairs.

"Patron of your beloved city, O San Francisco, saint of love, co-sufferer in searing pity of all our grief shown from above birds would alight on, singing feeding within your hands-hands pierced and bleeding with christs own signs-who signatized as dupe and clown apostrophized the sum in its white ablisting stankness as brother, and the blostered moon as sister, and who, blind at noon opened your heart and sang in darkness and where it was sowed light, look down solace the sorrows of your town"53

San francisco is the spot nearest to Asia, in the continent adjoinging united states. The presence of Asia can be seen in the novel with the images of prayer wheel two statues of Buddha, restaurants with names like The Shu Jing, Clopstioke and poems by wang wer.

The Hindu and Buddhist nation of impermanence is well brought in the book. Seth's characters do every thing like Californians- they jog, play with frishees, like ice-cream and popcorn, believe in ecology and electronics and side the cable cars. Thease feareses highlight a picture of the in the composition city of San Francisco which represents the entire state of California in miniature. The familiarity with America can also be seen in the command of the language, which is replete with the colour and idiom of American English. This both linguistically and thematically the novel in a American novel which beautifully reflects the saga of American life through the life style of Californian people.

It is interesting to note here the acceptance of the golden Gate by American reviewers who acknowledge the text as an “American product”, recognize its “American in intention” and a “guinteasential California novel: Gore udal states tha the book is the great Californian novel” while a New yourk Times reviewer calls it "asplendid
achievement” and “a thoroughly Californian novel peopled by unmistakably callifornian characters.”

It is under the structure of Diaspora that we can assemble such different works as Bye-Bye Blackbird (Aruta Desai, 1971) The Golden Gate and Wife (Bharati Mukherji, 1975) Vikram Seth’s bridge and his detailed sign of the social and physical landscape constitute to structures that simultaneously suggest belonging and distance continuity and the movality of the individual making The Golden Gate California Diaspora. In this respect the respecting:

“Judging by his novel, “The Golden Gate” it is hard to see how Vikram Seth can be considered and Indian writer, except by accident of birth. There are few Indian references in the text such as the “taste of honly” and the chariotees metaphor and the non vident attitude of the peace marchers has obvious Ghandhian connections.... But there is nothing that California has not possessed for a long time. The book is in fact, a totally Californian novel but what does perhaps result from the authoer being an adopted son of that state is a close of gloating (the insistence of the accepted out sider on his belonging) in his celebrations of the Californian way of life, which can be irritating to anyone who has been exposed to the Californian Claim to represent the vanguard of humanity in moderns and know how.” 54

Stylistically innovative and normatively ingraining, The Golden Gate however of free little in terms of exploration of the post modern conditions of totality and absorption of all experience. If, as Aijaz ahmed quoting Lyotard states that:-
“Post modernism is a set of tendencies within late modernism...... Itself which disting
wishes itself primarily by celebrating human neability to experience reality. as a totality
over and beyond its fragmants.”55

The Golden Gate appears to remain a testament to the modernist sentiment by which
stress the predominance of raluclers relationships, of the absurd ennal of contemporary
existence in which:

“A lineless node no spouse or sibling no children, John wonders alone into an ice-cream
parlour”56

That angst is a predominant state of being I this narrative is evident in the almost in the
almost evistnitial journey of john who walks into a parlour alone and is finally Raft as:
“he tries stop using meaning from things that have no meaning from things that have no
meaning. “57

This meaninglessness of contemporary existences is, however, limited within the
framework of American society as there are few indications of its being tradicament of
the general human condition.

The Golden Gate appears, in the field of experimentation as the most dramatic of all
fictions written by Indian expatriate writers composed in the form of a sonnet in
tetrameters reminiscent of both Dante and Pushkin. The novel has its central theme the
solitariness of American Yupiedom. Innovative and even delightfully moving, The
Golden Gate has brittle beyond the sheer novelty of from the common it. Form and
theme are related, as the form of a narrative must largely be indicative of the central
concerns of a creative, work. In this case however, the innovativeness of the sonnet from
brings with it, neither the sense if a lost world, not the promise of an dyllic ixistance of
Dentin proportion but serves merely to focus upon the nullity, absurd dilemma and absence of values in a moral world. A fusion of word and meaning is missing in this novel-in-verse which ostensibly deals with the evicent conditions of man who:

"Caught in the keep of loneliness cries for help."58

Throughout this reading, there is a sense of the equity of the writer dreaming attention upon himself, rather than to existential angst ridden condition of his protagonist Seth defends his Chosen form as an attempt to raise it over the mere.

"hudibrastic tricks" to which it has resend but much of Seth’s own verse appears to achieve little else. In this respect the novel remains trite innovative but extremer' self conscious. Allan Hollinghurst speaks of Seths virtuosity in The Golden Gate lacking a soul and a purpose and concludes that:-

"It is very hard in the end to state what one thinks of this book except that such sharp-eyed and sophisticated talent can go on to do something even more extra ordinary, perhaps something which strikes more unhesitatingly to the heart of the matter."59

In this way it can be very authoritatively a said that The Golden Gate is novel written by Vikram Seth (an Indian in origin) owing largely to its firm American locate especially of California, proving it to be a California Diaspora.
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