CHAPTER-6

EXPERIENCES OF THE CHILDHOOD JOYS AND PAINS, RETROSPECTION AND INTROSPECTION.
Chapter - 6

Experiences of childhood joys and pains, retrospection and introspection

The experiences of early childhood considerably influence the individual’s attitude throughout the various stages of his life. The children will be influenced by an environment of deprivation, humiliation and degradation. It is true that the individual’s personality is influenced by a variety of social relations expands and experiences increase when facing the positive and negative situations of life; however it should be taken into consideration that the experiences of the childhood usually influence the structure of personality. Hence the future is made up of what happens in childhood. In the novel The God of Small Things Arundhati Roy reflect her own thoughts and feelings with reference to the things of her past childhood and in the novel To Kill a Mockingbird NelleHarperleeintrospectsher experiences of her past days of Maycomb of Alabama.

Arundhati Roy was born in 1961 in Kerala. Her mother, a Kerala native, was Christian; her father was a Hindu from Bengal. The marriage was unsuccessful, and Roy spent her childhood years in
Aymanam with her mother. The influence of these early permeates her writings, both thematically and structurally.

Roy's mother taught her daughter informally. This freedom from intellectual constraint allowed Roy to write, as she puts it "from within", the ability to follow her inner voice, rather than having a set of restrictive rules ingrained in her, has been an integral part of her accomplishments as an adult writer. The style of her writing, its subject matter also reflects the cultural texture of her childhood. Of Kerala she says that "it was the only place in the world where religions coincide, there's Christianity, Hinduism, Marxism and Islam and they all live together and rub each other down. I was aware of the different cultures when I was growing up and I'm still aware of them now. When you see all the competing beliefs against the same background you realize how they all wear each other down. "The deep-seated nature of Roy's activism may also be traced back to her early years, and the rural beauty of the landscape in which she spent them. At age sixteen Roy left home, and eventually enrolled at the Delhi school of Architecture. This training like her elementary education, proved instrumental in shaping her as writer.
Arundhati has made her experience of childhood visual and sensual by her genuine effort of her language. Even a casual reading would be sufficient to demonstrate her exploration and experiment. She has painted on a smaller more local canvas. Her book is rooted in the real. The reality depicted by Arundhati is so fantastic that it has the innate magical quality. In her novel her experiences of childhood joys and pains could be very easily traced joy in small things and the problem ie pain she has seen in the Keralian society of woman. Roys attempt in the novel is not only to depict the Syrian Christian women and their agonies but also the problems of women in general and hence the novel has universal relevance. She has successfully demonstrated that the converted untouchable Christians in Kerala did not benefit from the conversion. The novel is set in the southern Indian state of Kerala a place where many conflicting faiths coincide Christianity, Hinduism Islam and Marxism. There is conflict and political turbulence The Marxist procession. The trade Union marches communist slogans dreadful naxalites activities, the ruthless suppression enforced by the establishment and the Brutal police force etc. attribute to the novel the political background. Brutal police
experience, when Ammu took both kids to police station after Sophie Mole funeral treatment of police inspector was brutal. He said Kottayam police didn’t take statements from veshyas or their illegitimate children. Behind him a red and blue board said:

- Politeness
- Obedience
- Loyalty
- Intelligence
- Courtesy
- Efficiency

All this was completely absent in Kerala police, and the children saw first time their mother crying. (TGOST p8)

Arundhati’s backward review of her past time, her childhood joys and painful experience is penned down in her novel The God of Small Things. The flashback narrated by Rahel. Her latest comment on Kashmir, as calling for an Independent Kashmir, she was charged with sedition. By bitterly opposing Hindu nationalism in its violent as well as respectable forms - he would contest the difference - she has prompted a hatred that puts her in physical danger. Where from this
boldness has come from, it isn't the Indian ideal of the happy and extended family. Her mother ran away from violent father in Kerala and married the first eligible men; she met in Kolkata, a young assistant manager on a tea estate who was victim of alcoholism. They separate after three years when Arundhati had still to reach two, and she, her mother and brother moved back to Kerala, where her mother ran a private co-ed school. In her daughter's word, a "character', she would lie in a zinc tub in her courtyard while one secretary clipped her toenails and the other took down her dictation for a letter of complaint to the local municipality. She now thinks of her mother as "one of the most extraordinary people I know". But the affection is retrospective. At the time she couldn't wait to get away - "I'd had enough of this family business" - and left home for Delhi aged 17. She had no contact with either her mother or brother for several years, until one day her brother read about her appearance in a film and managed to get in touch. A surprise that contained a greater surprise: he was in seedy hotel near the railway station and she was to guess who he had with him - a man Arundhati had no memory of ever seeing, their father. Her brother had found
him in Kolkata, either on the streets or in the nearest thing to them, a home for the dying and destitute run by Mother Teresa. And so a reunion was arranged. She went, and met a ruin of a man who was "totally vacuous and completely happy". Later she said, she'd learned "to love and enjoy my father for what he was, I feel sorry that I couldn't do more for him".

Not many members of India's elite, which is what she is, have a parents who's plunged so dramatically into the social abyss. Describing political belief to personal histories is a notoriously suspect activity; remedies for cruelty and inequality can require no more than an alert morality. Roy attributes her own awakening to "living as the child of a divorced parent and a mythical father among the smug Syrian Christians of South India - and also from leaving home at 17 and living on my wits", the experiences of Arundhati's childhood in Ayemenam, where she spent 8 year of her life. The whole retrospective of the events of Ayemenam are beautifully depicted. She has written this novel not sitting at Ayemenem but through her childhood memories recollected and taken the shape of novel "The God of Small Things".
Harperleenoovel "To Kill a Mockingbird" is similarly based on the event which occurred when she was six years in April 1931 in the small Alabama town of Scottboro, the first trials began with regard to the purported rapes of two white women by nine young black men. Despite medical testimony that the women had not been raped, the all-white jury found the men guilty of the crime and sentenced all but the youngest twelve year old boy to death. Six years of subsequent trials saw most of these convictions repealed and all but one of the men freed or paroled. This case was used by Harperlee for the events in To Kill A Mocking Bird.

Harper Lee's novel published in 1960s opens with an adult Scout Finch reminiscing about her childhood. Through Scout's memories, the reader is transported into the world of a small southern town in the 1930s. Using a literary technique called flashback. Lee interrupts Scout's chronological narrative to reach back in time and enhance and amplify the story with prior events. Throughout her childhood, Scout develops and expand her values and ideas as she encounters characters who come from all levels of Maycomb's society. Justice and injustice present in the society in the
novel is the reflection of watching the trial of an African American man. She witnesses the divisions of class and race in her small town. She discovers courage; she comes to respect the diversity of the people in her community, from every event she learns about education, superstition, bravery or cowardice.

Her experience of good things her childhood friendship with Capote is also depicted in form of Dill as Scout's friend in novel. The story relates many of her experiences, usual interest of a child and events which break the sheltered world of childhood. The good and painful events of Harper Lee childhood could be easily traced out in her novel, "To Kill a Mocking Bird".

Thus both novelists have done the retrospection ie the review of past time by self-analyzing and examining i.e introspectively in their novel before the world to comment and think over in the shape of their creation Arundhati's "The God of small things" and Harperlee's "To Kill a Mocking Bird".

Arundhati Roy herself says, "The book really delves, very deep I think, into human nature. The story tells of the brutality we're capable of, but also that aching, intimate
love, and for me the twins are what that is about.... the ability to actually dream each other's dreams and to share each other happiness and pain".
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