

# A Thousand Splendid Suns

## Essay

*by* Mark Mark

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There is fighting for equality for a woman that is compared <sup>1</sup> to all the repressed <sup>1</sup> and prejudiced groups in history. Women have been perceived for thousands of years as the inferior sex. Even the great philosopher Aristotle thought that “women were incomplete in some way” (115). In the twentieth century, the women began to realize that the concept of gender equality is achievable in all perspective. Women have made significant efforts toward equality with their male counterparts in the Western world. It is always common in most instances that women can be the breadwinners in most of their families in that they took all the family responsibilities regardless of how critical they are.

In the modern society, Women are pursuing studies up to college level and securing leadership positions. However, in some parts of the world, inequality and injustice are being faced by the women in the society. <sup>3</sup> In A Thousand Splendid Suns by <sup>1</sup> Khaled Hosseini, the character Mariam experiences crime in all her life and the final stages <sup>1</sup> fights back and stands up against oppression and sexism.

According to Mariam's, application of justice is the one that ensures equality and equal treatment to all. Mariam of all the actors in this novel understands what it is like to be mistreated and be perceived as inferior. Miriam was born out of wedlock, which is illegal and punishable by death according to Afghani culture. She stays together with her mother, far away from her new family his birth father and. The living standards

1 for her family are not high enough to send Miriam to school, so she remains isolated from the outside world and also children her age. Her father Jalil is visiting her and brought some presents as well story narration. The father does never give permission to her to go back with him, to meet her little brothers and sisters, to even see a film at his movie theater. 1 Mariam ever wanted to be as the same as everyone else, especially in her father's eyes.

All Through her whole childhood period, she is never permitted when she wants to be like an average child. The Afghani culture and values do not influence Miriam Since she is set apart from the rest of her peers. Due to this reason, 1 she develops a strong belief in equality and justice on her own. Even when her mother commits suicide and when she marries Rasheed, a bigoted, violent shoemaker, she keeps on looking for her happiness and justice despite her situation.

It took a period for Mariam to look for truth, but at the last minute, she is successful. Having got she married to 1 Rasheed, he forces her to wear a burqa and at the same time 1 hide her face. Rasheed argues to her that where he comes from, a face of 1 women can only be seen by her husband only (Hosseini, 63). While she feels suffocated and uncomfortable in the garment, "she no longer worried that people knew, with a single glance, all the shameful secrets of her past" (Hosseini, 66). Wearing the burqa made Miriam feel like ordinary women in Afghani who fit in the Afghan culture and values, which was a feeling that she had rarely experienced at all. She began to feel the same way when she became pregnant. However, her search for justice halts, after she suffered the miscarriage, and she even thinks a lot and asks 1 if she qualifies justice. She believes that her fault was her mother's suicide, and therefore she did not qualify or deserve to be

a mother. Time and time again, Mariam fails to become pregnant, which makes Rasheed get shocked, causing him to abuse her physically and treat her with little to no respect. He spits out the food she prepares and once makes her chew rocks for not boiling the rice correctly.

Mariam becomes tired of searching for justice when her husband marries another woman, Laila. She felt more inferior and therefore fails to show the woman any respect and praise her in the way his husband does. She even tells her that she can rise complain to him and he can slit her throat, but she won't do it. She also claims that she cannot be her servant. (Hosseini, 202).

Despite Laila and Miriam having issues, in the beginning, Miriam later finds herself having friendship and love in her co-wife Laila and as well as her child Aziza. Even though the girl is not hers, she feels a special connection to her, and it fills the whole in her heart where love for her child should be. Her relationship with Laila and Aziza and their love for her complete her search for justice because she finally finds a place where she is safe, and she feels equal. When Rasheed begins strangling Laila for meeting with Tariq, her former lover and the father of Aziza, Mariam saves Laila from being killed by Rasheed When bashing him over the head with a shovel. Mariam stands up for all the injustice that she has faced at the hand of Rasheed and stands up against domestic violence, oppression, and sexism. She takes all the responsibility for her actions, having known that she faces execution and that she will leave behind the other Rasheed's wife and her family. When she tells Laila that she is going to confess and Laila protests, she comforts her and tells her that for her it ends there. There is nothing more she wanted. What she wished for as a little girl she had been given. Laila and her

<sup>1</sup>  
children made Miriam euphoric. Laila and her children had given her life that she wanted as a child, and in turn, she succeeded in her search for justice.

Laila simultaneously experiences struggle for justice as Mariam does. Through the journey of these two women, one can come to realize their struggles are ones that millions of women experience in the world, specifically in the Middle East. Equality is something that women of this region dream of, and hopefully, in time, women in this region and all around the world can find their justice like Mariam. One can hope that one day, the inclined and oppressed people of the world can succeed in finding their justice.

Works cited

2

Hosseini, Khaled. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. London: Bloomsbury, 2008. Print.

Hosseini, Khaled. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. London: Bloomsbury, 2007. Internet  
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