



# A PROBE INTO THE META PHYSICAL WORLD OF MARIAM AND LAILA DEPICTED BY KHALED HOSSEINI

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## **Abstract:**

*Khaled Hosseini is a master of emotions, all his protagonists stay eternal in our hearts for a long span. His second novel 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' narrates the tale of two woman Mariam and Laila and travels to make their lives entwined. Their early life, their love, their dreams, their marriage everything is shattered and the pitiable condition of Afghan woman is portrayed in an explicit way by the novelist. Afghanistan under the Soviet, Afghanistan under the Taliban is all vividly pictured by Khaled Hosseini. This paper tries to eke out the meta physical quality that yokes two dissimilar people together.*

*Key words: (metaphysical, pitiable, yoked)*

## **MARIAM AND LAILA'S CHILDHOOD:**

Mariam is born in Heart, in Afghanistan. Her father Jalil, is a very strict businessman and her mother Nana is a strict mother. Mariam is an illegitimate child. She likes her father Jalil very much but she could find him only once a week. Jalil lives in another house with his three wives and children. Mariam wants to be with them all and goes to that house where she is sent out by Jalil and Mariam sleeps on the pavement. Nana commits suicide and only then Jalil allows Mariam inside his house.



Laila is an intelligent girl, she has two brothers. War between Afghanistan and Soviet ruin her childhood. Her two brothers join Army but both of them die in the war. She lives amidst bomb blast and bloodshed. Laila's parents decide to leave Afghanistan. But when they are packing up, a rocket bomb hit their car and they die. Laila survives but with innumerable wounds.

#### **MARIAM AND LAILA'S LOVE & MARRIAGE:**

Mariam is married to a widower named Rasheed, a shoe maker by profession but thirty years elder to Mariam. Mariam gets pregnant seven times but all the time she has miscarriage and she could not deliver a baby. Rasheed hurts her physically and mentally. He uses abusive language against Mariam.

Laila is in love with Tariq who has lost his leg when he was a child. Laila and Tariq are in love and the family of Tariq decides to leave the city, Laila and Tariq consummate on that parting day. Laila becomes pregnant of that. She decides to meet Tariq and get united but she is informed that Tariq is dead.

#### **MARIAM AND LAILA ENTWINED:**

Rasheed, husband of Mariam comes to know that Laila is left all alone and approaches her to marry him. He wants a son through her. Laila who is already pregnant decides that Rasheed could be the man whom she can rely upon. Laila Marries Rasheed. Laila gives birth to a girl Aziza. Rasheed is furious and beats her up. He is rude at her. Mariam consoles Laila and they share a special bondage, they are victims of fate! Laila after few years gives birth to a child, names him Zalmai. She is shocked to find a man near the house, he is Tariq. She understands that Rasheed has made a trap to win her. Laila and Tariq spend time together. Rasheed who comes to know that Laila has met Tariq becomes inhuman and hits her with weapons. To save Laila, Mariam kills Rasheed. Mariam is punished by Talibans. She is hanged in Public. Tariq and Laila start a new life in Pakistan, when a girl child is born Laila names the child as Mariam in memory of her friend, who sacrificed her life for her.

#### **Conclusion:**

Khaled Hosseini has beautifully entwined the lives of two women who were under the clutches of male chauvinistic society. Both woman their sufferings, are depicted so perfectly by Khaled Hosseini. One can easily eke out the pitiable state of womanhood in Afghan. The pain they endure and their silent sufferings make Laila and Mariam eternal in our minds.



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