

## EXPLORING KHALED HOSSEINI'S CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

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### ABSTRACT

Writers are going to write novels for a variety of reasons. Perspectives are elevated by the intriguing subjects that authors write about, the settings in which they write, or even the significant positions that writers represent in society through their representation of culture and science. Khaled Hosseini has consequently gained recognition for his authentic depiction of his native Afghanistan. His early childhood is eloquently portrayed in his writings, which also mirror real-world incidents. His stories are set against the backdrop of Afghanistan's history, traditions, culture, and ethnic variety. His themes—difficulties and obstacles—do not pertain exclusively to any one country or culture.

Hosseini's scientific and cultural accomplishments are all over the world the most impassioned novels, despite being categorized under several labels. These are best-selling novels written by Afghan-American authors who delved into the academic, cultural, and historical accomplishments of various ethnic groups in Afghanistan. The goal of this study is to look at the causes of scientific and cultural achievements since they are referenced in Hosseini's works. The writer's social approaches, viewpoints, and



fundamental accomplishments will be expounded upon in this essay. This issue's outcome demonstrates how social structural elements and social variables in Afghanistan society contribute to scientific and cultural accomplishments.

**Keywords:** Scientific Achievement, Novel, Culture, Factors

## Introduction

The well-known Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini writes all over the world. Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, on March 4, 1965. He was the eldest of five children raised by his parents and resided in Kabul till he was eleven years old. Khaled was born in the Afghan city of Herat, to Tajik and Pashtun parents. His mother taught Farsi and history at Kabul Senior High School. His father worked as a diplomat for the Afghan Foreign Ministry. Hosseini was raised in the wealthy Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood, which is among Kabul's oldest neighborhoods, for roughly eight years of his early life. Khaled's family relocated to Tehran, Iran, in the early 1970s when his father was assigned to a diplomatic position in the Afghan Embassy in Tehran. Their return to Kabul was in 1973.

In 1976, Khaled Hosseini and his family were relocated to Paris by the Foreign Ministry. As they prepared to leave Kabul in 1980, the merciless Soviet Army launched an invasion. Following that, Hosseini's family requested and was given political asylum in the United States. In September 1980, Hosseini and his family relocated to San Jose, California. Until recently, Khaled Hosseini has resided in Northern California. Khaled Hosseini received his senior high school diploma in 1984. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Santa Clara University. Khaled enrolled in the University of California, San Diego's School of Medicine the following year. After completing his medical education in 1993, Hosseini practiced internal medicine from 1996 until 2004. Afghan immigrant Khaled Hosseini studied in the US and managed to subtly adjust to and thrive in his new nation. His accomplishments in English literature and his later transition into an Afghan-American writer when *The Kite Runner* was published serve as proof of this. *The Kite Runner* is set in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the United States.

"*The Kite Runner*" by Khaled Hosseini is one of those exceptional stories that stays with you long after it was first published in 2001. The story was eventually translated into English in 2003 by Riverhead Books. With sales in 70 countries and more than 100 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list, this debut became an international best seller. Due to his remarkable success with *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini was designated as a "Goodwill Envoy" by the UNHCR, who also used him to travel to Afghanistan as part of their



establishment of "The Khaled Hosseini Foundation." This charitable organization supports the people of Afghanistan by offering humanitarian aid. Acknowledging The Kite Runner's remarkable accomplishments, Hosseini created "A Thousand Splendid Suns," his second book, which was published in 2007. The New York Times ranked this book as their number one read. Hosseini gave readers a fresh perspective on Afghanistan, a country that had long been cut off from the outside world.

Over ten million copies of those two novels have been sold in the United States and over thirty-eight million copies globally. Given Hosseini's enormous literary accomplishments, "The Kite Runner adapted into graphic novel" was published later in 2011. On May 21, 2013, Hosseini published his third book, "The Mountains Echoed." Khaled Hosseini's novels have been the subject of several investigations and scholarly criticisms from Afghans up to this point due to the fact that they were not published in his native tongue.

### Literature Review

The well-known Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini writes all over the world. He wrote Sea Prayer (2018), The Kite Runner (2001), The Mountains Echoed (2013), and A Thousand Splendid Sun (2007). Among the immigrants from Afghanistan is Khaled Hosseini. "who studied in Los Angeles, and subtly could adopt and develop in the host country" (Farlina, 2008). This is demonstrated by his literary achievements and rise to prominence as a writer with the publication of The Kite Runner "Hosseini is most known for his fictitious depiction of Afghanistan in The Kite Runner. Khaled Hosseini was born on March 4, 1965, in Kabul, Afghanistan. He currently lives abroad. Hosseini's love for his country is not limited to his writings. His passion for Afghanistan is demonstrated by his activism for its betterment. Since 2006, Hosseini has directed the Khaled Hosseini Foundation, which provides assistance to the Afghan people, and he has also served as a goodwill representative for the UN Refugee Agency. The establishment of the foundation followed Hosseini's 2007 tour to Afghanistan. Hosseini was deeply troubled by what he saw when he returned to his birth country after not having been there for 27 years (Hosseini, 2017).

The connection between Amir and Hassan, as they negotiate the politics of societal and familial hierarchies, serves as a vehicle for highlighting the prevalent ethnic conflict in Afghanistan in the late 20th century. "Racism and racial prejudice are two flaws in human society from the 16th through the 19th century; however, they are not considered scientific findings" (Hosseini, 2016).

Scholarly commentary on the book after its release has mostly concentrated on how the book affected western readers in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. In total, Hosseini's 2008 book A Thousand Splendid Suns and The Kite Runner sold over 10 million copies in



the US and over 38 million copies globally. Since *The Kite Runner* became an international sensation upon its release, a great deal of writing and research has been done on the book's influence on popular culture, especially in Western countries.

Hosseini portrays the complicated life in Afghanistan in an intuitive manner with regard to the cause-and-effect relationships, and he does not shun away from passing moral judgments on his characters. His realistic writing attracts the interest both of the readers and the critics. Hosseini is praised for his family appeal, realistic writing and his masculine characters.

*The novel of The Kite Runner is set in Afghanistan*, “which illustrated the social changes in Afghanistan in the last 30 years” (Yuan-yuan, 2018). *The Kite Runner* is the debut novel that became an International Best Seller after being published in English by “Riverhead Books” in 2003. It was published in seventy countries and stayed on the New York Times bestseller list for almost a hundred weeks.

Because to *The Kite Runner's* success, Hosseini was designated as a "Goodwill Envoy" by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. After visiting Afghanistan with the UNHCR, Hosseini formed the Khaled Hosseini Foundation. This non-profit group helps Afghans in need through humanitarian aid. Since his novels were not published in his mother tongue, there is no scholarly Hosseini criticism in Afghanistan. This article intends to offer an analysis of Hosseini's works from an Afghan scholar's perspective. “*The Kite Runner* is typically read by Western scholars as a novel which popularized more sympathetic depictions of Middle Eastern people at a time when American perception and media coverage was primarily negative” (Duke, 2019).

On March 4, 1965, Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. Raised by his parents, he was the oldest of five children and lived in Kabul until the age of eleven. Khaled was born in the Afghan city of Herat, to Tajik and Pashtun parents. His mother taught Farsi and history at Kabul Senior High School. His father worked as a diplomat for the Afghan Foreign Ministry. Hosseini's family was rich, and they spent about eight years of his childhood in the district of Wazir Akbar Khan, one of the most ancient areas of the capital, Kabul. Khaled's family relocated to Tehran, Iran, in the early 1970s when his father was assigned to a diplomatic position in the Afghan Embassy in Tehran. Their return to Kabul was in 1973.

The Foreign Ministry moved Khaled Hosseini and his family to Paris in 1976. In 1980, just as they were ready to return, the ruthless Soviet Army invaded Kabul. Following that, Hosseini's family requested and was given political asylum in the United States. In September 1980, Hosseini moved to San Jose, California, with his family. Until recently, Khaled Hosseini has resided in Northern California. Khaled Hosseini received his





senior high school diploma in 1984. He graduated from Santa Clara University with a bachelor's degree in biology. The next year, Khaled enrolled at the University of California, San Diego's School of Medicine. After completing his medical education in 1993, Hosseini practiced internal medicine from 1996 until 2004. With his newfound affluence, Hosseini has been able to put an end to his medical practice and use his reputation to support his fellow citizens who are in need, a cause he has deemed as important as his "literary interest." An Afghan refugee who studied in the United States, Khaled Hosseini found a subtle way to adapt and thrive in his new environment. "This is evidenced by his success in English literature and his subsequent transformation into an Afghan-American author following the publication of *The Kite Runner*" (Hansen, 2003).

*The Kite Runner* is set in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States. "This novel illustrates the story of a young Afghan boy named "Amir" and his wealthy father" (Hosseini, 2016). The section on Afghanistan covers the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods. In this book, Hosseini portrays Afghanistan as a country with a diversified population of cultures and nationalities, a challenging way of life, and people who have suffered at the hands of foreign invaders and fellow inhabitants. "The culture of Afghanistan reflects its ancient roots and position as a crossroads for invading ethnic groups and traditions" (Nedungayil, 2017). *While exploring topics like ethnic prejudice, the fallout from racial discrimination, the Soviet Union invasion, Taliban rule, the refugee crisis, the disorder of Afghan society, tribal customs, religious beliefs, religious ties, and cultural clashes, The Kite Runner tells the story of the Afghan people.* A nation on the brink of destruction is the setting for the brilliantly written story *The Kite Runner*. The plot of the work is strongly tied to ethnic groups, history, topography, the Soviet invasion, the emergence of the Taliban, 9/11, and the US invasion of Afghanistan. It covers the period from before the Soviet invasion of 1979 until the Taliban collapse and the subsequent reconstruction.

Children start to identify their true interests during the school years, and their confidence is crucial to their future growth. If their parents acknowledge and support them, kids will work hard to complete their assignments and maintain their perseverance. "When he was ten years old, Amir became interested in reading and writing" (Kaifu, 2019). But instead of offering to read the story he had written, his father simply gave him a blank stare when he went to show him. Amir felt that he was being ignored because of this. At this point, he ought to have been inspired to engage in further activities related to his passion.

Hosseini's first book, *The Kite Runner*, was published in 2001. In the end, Riverhead Books published *The Kite Runner* on May 29, 2003. This gripping tale shows Afghanistan engulfed in a



horrific war between rival factions fighting for dominance and control over the nation. This fictional narrative encompasses actual political and historical occurrences from the demise of the Afghan monarchy in the 1970s to the immediate aftermath of the Taliban. The story is based on Hosseini's personal memories of growing up in Kabul's Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood, as well as his eventual relocation in the United States. Sudesna Som acclaims Hosseini's transformation from a physician into a writer with the publication of *The Kite Runner*, "A physician by profession, Khaled Hosseini became a popular name in the field of contemporary English literature, with the publication of his first novel *The Kite Runner*" (Hosseini, 2003). The novel, which was written against the backdrop of Afghanistan, a nation that has been all but destroyed by ongoing conflict and international intervention, was well praised and remained at the top of the New York Times best-seller list for more than a year. The book was a global best-seller, released in over 70 countries. Motivated, Mark Forster directed the 2007 global premiere of the Academy Award-nominated picture of the same name.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appointed Hosseini as a Goodwill Envoy as a result of the novel's success. Hosseini subsequently traveled to Afghanistan with the UNHCR and founded The Khaled Hosseini Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to giving humanitarian help to Afghans. Inspired by the book's remarkable success, Hosseini wrote *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, which Riverhead Books released on May 22, 2007. More than ten million copies of these two novels were sold in the US and more than thirty-eight million copies worldwide. Later in 2011, Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* was turned into a graphic novel.

The way that Hosseini presents Afghanistan differs from that of other authors. The majority of authors that write about Afghanistan are more preoccupied with issues of pain, cultural shock, and solitude. In *The Kite Runner*, Hosseini presented a new cultural portrait of Afghanistan by illustrating the intricacies of the friendship-building process as well as other problems that arise in the country both during the colonial and post-colonial eras. As the writer has mentioned in article which "postcolonial literature refers to works that have been influenced by the imperial practice from colonization to present day" (Allan, 1998).

Hosseini let readers see Afghanistan through new eyes which have been closed to the outside world for a long time. Since the period before the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is largely forgotten in current Afghan history, Hosseini endeavors to write about it to refresh people's memory and to record the history. For many people in the West, Afghanistan is still associated with the Soviet war. Because of Afghan tradition, Hosseini wants to remind people that Afghans have long been able to live in peace and obscurity.



Afghan literature has a long and illustrious history. In Afghanistan, the ancient art of storytelling is still alive and well. They share Afghan folklore about life, culture, values, beliefs, and customs. In Afghan culture, classical poetry and plays play an essential part. Because the majority of Afghans are illiterate and unable to read or write folklores and legends are passed down the generations through songs and storytelling (Vaishali, 2016).

In *The Kite Runner*, the narrator tells his experience at the age of 12 when he betrayed his best friend. The shame of that betrayal causes him to repent for the rest of his life. The novel touches upon history. The novel has been translated into 42 languages. Many American scholars were initially reluctant to read what they considered “foreign” literature. It is clear that reading *The Kite Runner* is much more than overcoming geopolitical difficulties. The novel features the most heinous forms of religious ethnicity and racial prejudice. In this sense, Hosseini succeeded in influencing Westerners to modify their preconceived notions and views about Afghan society. The Afghan people are portrayed in *The Kite Runner* as a proud and independent people who have spent decades defending their territory against foreign invaders and internal conflict.

### **Khaled Hosseini’s Cultural and Scientific Achievements**

The narrative of the kite continued during the winter months when young boys competed in a kite fighting event. Afghanistan has a very popular kite tournament that is quite enjoyable for boys. Amir entered this tournament in an attempt to attract his father's attention and to show him that, despite his preference for reading poetry books and burying himself rather than watching football, his lack of fighting spirit and willingness to drop his head in the face of bullying from friends, does not negate a boy's ability. Hassan wanted to help Amir by being his kite runner because he had a natural disposition and a good instinct to follow a kite by feeling the wind. During the kite fighting tournament, Amir's kite was the last to take to the skies. When Amir emerged victorious from the competition, Hassan pursued the final kite that Amir had lost, but it was getting dusk and Hassan still hadn't returned home.

He kept the truth from Ali and Baba after they got home, even though his Baba was overjoyed and proud of Amir. Amir questioned whether Baba was aware of Hassan's valiant defense of Amir's kite. He wondered if Baba would become even more devoted to Hassan. Regretfully, Amir has always made an effort to avoid Hassan since that day. Amir felt uneasy with Hassan because of his guilty feelings. Ultimately, he accused Hassan and his father of robbing Amir of his possessions, which caused him to eject them from his home. When Hassan and Ali left, he tucked his watch and some cash beneath Hassan's mattress. Amir attempted to impose a condition by claiming that



Hassan had taken his money and watch. Even though Baba had promised to forgive them, Hassan and Ali departed Amir's house shortly after Hassan came clean.

Considering to classification human beings, “Marx classified human beings “into five groups” such as underclass, lower class, middle class, upper class, and “aristocracy” which Hosseini depends to upper class of society (Tyson 55). Therefore, Hosseini graduated from Independence High School in San Jose in 1984 and enrolled at Santa Clara University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1988. The following year, he entered the University Of California San Diego School Of Medicine, where he earned his M.D. in 1993. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles in 1997. He practiced medicine for over ten years, until a year and a half after the release of *The Kite Runner*.

In 2003, Hosseini published his first novel, *The Kite Runner*, the story of a young boy, Amir, struggling to form a deeper connection with his father and coping with memories of a traumatic childhood event. The novel is set in Afghanistan, from the fall of the monarchy until the collapse of the Taliban regime, as well as in the San Francisco Bay Area, specifically in Fremont, California. The novel was the bestselling novel of 2005 in the United States, according to Nielsen BookScan. *The Kite Runner* was also produced as an audiobook read by the author. *The Kite Runner* has been adapted into a film of the same name released in December 2007. Hosseini made a cameo appearance towards the end of the movie as a bystander, when Amir buys a kite which he later flies with Sohrab.

Hosseini's second novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, was published in 2007, and sensational novel is set in Afghanistan, "with a time span stretching from the second half of the twentieth century to the beginning of the twenty first century". (Al-Dagamseh, 2017). The story addresses many of the same issues as Hosseini's first novel, but from a female perspective. It follows the story of two women, Mariam and Laila, whose lives become entwined when Mariam's husband takes on Laila as a second wife. The story is set during Afghanistan's tumultuous thirty-year transition from Soviet occupation to Taliban control and post-Taliban rebuilding. The novel was released by Riverhead Books on May 22, 2007, at the same time as the Simon & Schuster audiobook. The adaptation rights of the novel were subsequently acquired by producer Scott Rudin and Columbia Pictures.

In his writings, Hosseini adjusts to the tastes of Western audiences both by using English (which is not Hosseini's native language) and by using conventional narrative techniques. As a result, his novels enjoy a considerable amount of success among a large English-speaking audience.





Hosseini's third novel *And the Mountains Echoed* were released on May 21, 2013. Prior to its release, Hosseini said: "I am forever drawn to family as a recurring central theme of my writing. My earlier novels were at heart tales of fatherhood and motherhood. My new novel is a multi-generational family story as well, this time revolving around brothers and sisters, and the ways in which they love, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for each other." (Hosseini, 2003)

Hosseini is currently a Goodwill Envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He has been working to provide humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan through the Khaled Hosseini Foundation. The concept for the foundation was inspired by the trip to Afghanistan that Hosseini made in 2007 with UNHCR, with the organization raising funds to build homes for refugees returning to Afghanistan.

*Sea Prayer*, an illustrated short story by Hosseini that was released in 2018, was motivated by the drowning of three-year-old Alan Kurdi, a refugee who was trying to get to Europe from Syria. Sales proceeds were donated to the Khaled Hosseini Foundation and the UNHCR.

### Result and Discussion

Examining the writer's cultural and scientific accomplishments is the aim of this study. Taking into account the literary and artistic creations of Khaled Hosseini, since it is evident that Afghanistan is a bilingual and multiethnic nation. My arguments focus on how to examine and understand the works using cultural and scientific perspectives, as well as his involvement in the establishment of this notion in society. In terms of culture, I don't dispute the idea that some of this writer's accomplishments can be set apart from others according to cultural and scientific characteristics, and that this definition—while ostensibly based on scientific observations—is true, accurate, and not too dissimilar from scientific observation. The description and analysis that follow offer a thorough rundown of viewpoints from the fields of science and culture regarding the works of Hosseini.

Hosseini writes incredibly well-crafted novels in all of their forms. Hosseini clearly loves his country and hates what has happened to it. Hosseini is succeeding in capturing moments of mild, peaceful suffering. Additionally, the novel's introduction phrases by author Khaled Hosseini are the explanation that most captivates me at the last minute: "I progressed toward becoming what I am today at twelve years old, on a freezing cloudy day in the winter of 1975." (Hosseini, 2003). Each of those items acts as a catalyst to entice me to read through all of these sections in one sitting. I am amazed by everything in this book, completely



enthralled with these volumes, and I also force myself to view most events in life through the lens of the narrative within.

Among them is Khalid Houssine, whose book *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Khaled Houssine has been analyzing women's conditions in Afghanistan within the larger historical context of the country rather than using the ideological framework of the Taliban. According to his perspective, women are essential to the reconstruction of the Afghan nation. Resurrected renown and journalistic records of persecuted Afghan women were combined with the recycling of a familiar nineteenth-century pioneer tale of sparing ladies.

An examination of ambiguous and compassionate women's activist talks is essential at a time when the neoliberal government has been uniting itself amid the period when social resistance has moved toward becoming part of the common vocabulary and NGOs and human rights activism are working to sanction social equity. The women wearing burqas are not, in a sense, protesting the activism of Western women. Separated from the autonomous Western topic, it is a dynamic expert who asks women to recognize their core abuse. Prior to now, some scholars have discussed Afghanistan's lack of progress using traditional markers of Islamic backwardness, such as well-planned romantic relationships, calls to prayer, whiskery males, and so on. In addition to these topics, women's rights, sexual orientation, and activism have all been discussed in their writings recently.

In addition to discussing the sociopolitical conditions of Afghanistan, Khaled Houssine has gone into detail into the predicament of Afghan women. In his book *The Thousand Splendid Suns*, he describes how women in Afghanistan were forced to live behind walls during a few of the nation's attacks. (Hosseini, 2007). The personas of Mariam and Laila have brought up issues related to women's liberation and sexual value. Through a tragic turn of events, their destinies are connected. Nevertheless, women's options are limited because of their social standing in society. "Mariam needed to wed Rasheed a shoemaker who is numerous years senior to her, since her dad also; his spouses constrain her to do as such" (Hosseini, 2007). Her acknowledgement is merely a ceremonial gesture. Due to her pregnancy and being stuck, Laila, the other hero, was forced to marry Rasheed. The two situations are unworkable for her target audience.

The novel raises concerns about the rights that women were denied as well as the limitations on their freedom, decision-making, and access to education that limit their great potential in a world dominated by men. Even nevertheless, women's activist understanding reflects the emergence of a far more reticent discourse, with a distinct accent of forbearance and compassion. The scholarly community and major media have



acknowledged the shortcomings of glorious women's liberation, which has given rise to this discussion. The issue of women has gained critical attention in a variety of settings, including journalistic records, diaries, basic documentaries, literature on Muslim women, and websites of supportive societies in Afghanistan. (Jefferson, 2002).

### Conclusion

Khaled Hosseini is the narrator and primary protagonist in each of these books, however as a result of these works; there are key people who develop the story. Hosseini is the affluent guy Baba's son, and both readers and critics are drawn to his genuine writing. Its place in popular culture has been extensively written about in literature and academic research, especially in Western countries. Social psychological and social structural variables organize the events in these novels. Because of the success of her works, Hosseini was selected as a Goodwill Envoy by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Hosseini founded The Khaled Hosseini Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to helping Afghans, after traveling to Afghanistan with the UNHCR. Cultural practices, scientific observation, and cultural diversity all have an impact on social structural variables. Because of their distinct religious beliefs, Afghan American novelists differ from their Western counterparts. In the meantime, a variety of societal ideas and stereotypes promote social psychological elements. One book that depicts the social changes that have occurred in Afghanistan over the past 30 years is *The Kite Runner*. Some of Khaled Hosseini's novels are regarded as exceptional and groundbreaking works in the globe because they accurately depict many concerns, which is why they have gained cultural recognition.

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