

## **How Boundaries & Borders define Trauma of displacement in Sadat Hasan Manto's TOBA TEK SINGH**

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The partition has had a Major political as well as cultural effect on the people of these two countries and in doing so, it two has affected my own understanding of the region, as trying to get a picture of the situation without much context. Besides books, news articles, it is my opinion that stories often tell the best tales of history.

It took just a moment to cleave Indian in to two. One of the world's largest migration occurred 14 million people were displaced, leading to acts of mass violena, turning Hindu, Muslims, sikh against one another. In those days manto was a Journalist & Writer. He had just been fired from his job as a screen writer at the Bambay talkies studio for being a muslim. For the sake of his family he had a little choice but to flee the city Rinding refuge in Lahore & he had never returned to the city he loved.

Toba tek singh is a symbolie comentary on the psychological trauma of the human displacement brought about by partition. manto's work started a trend of writing about mental illness & partition, latter authors followed suit. This may have helped audience to go some way towards processing their psychological trauma.

Saadat Hasan Manto used to explore human consequences from a range of different angles. manto's stories are known for his tradition of realism, verbal economy, reliance on internal elements & especially his sudden sometimes disturbingly unceration endings.

Describing the exchange of inmates of a Lahore mental asylum after partition, "Toba tek Singh" used the madness of the inmates as a mirror for the madness of the outside world As the story progresses, the reader comes to realise that the asylum inmates are in fact much more sane than the politicians controlling our destiny.

The main character Bishan Singh in this painfull struggle for identify is symbolie of the displacement suffered by millions of partition refusees Although the story is fictional, an actual exchange of pshychiatric patients betwan mental hospitals in Lahore & Amritsar took place in 1950. Bishan singh represents a symbolic commentary on the trauma of displacement. The constant questioning and demands to know about his homeland are evocative of Fractured identities and loss of sense of belonging perhaps his character is also a reflection of manto's own suffering & confusion about identify in the wake of his move to Lahore.

Manto wrote : "I found my thoughts scattered. Though I tried hard, I could not separate India from pakistan and pakistan from India." Else where He added : ' I found it impossible to decide which of the two countries was now my homeland' Manto had been implacably opposed to partition & had refused to go to the newly formed pakistan.

The realistie and robust portroyal of the events in his works mode him the most cotroversial writer of his time the themes of his works revolve around the dehu manizing effect of partition, communal riots, emotional breakdown, struggle for free nation. manto's short stories are deeply concerned with the serious repercussions of partition. His stories speak about how partition leads to

serious mental disorders! Toba tek singh recalls the darkest chapter of Indian history which led to the migration & interchange of millions of people across the border.

The partition phase was marked by brutal activities forced upon by the political forces which created devastation on the personal, emotional & intellectual fronts. One of the most common disorder with which millions of people suffered during partition is post traumatic stress disorder. The short story Toba tek singh depicts trauma in its true sense which consequently leaves reader jittery.

So what place do you come from ? is the second mandatory question for any stranger. How the strong sense of place in Manto's story gets further accentuated when it is revealed that the protagonist shares his name with that of the town. It is an example of the person with the place to which he belonged. Partition severed this relationship physically but this also led to the psychological bond getting even stronger. He shares his name with that town, it is an example of complete identification of the person with the place to which he belonged & loved.

: Works Cited :

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- Ayesha Jalal, The pity of partition