

Miscegenation: A Mixture of races Portrayed in Vikram Seth's "Two Lives"**M. Vasanth**

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Abstract:

The focal thought of this paper is breaking down the depiction of miscegenation in Vikram Seth's "Two Lives." Vikram Seth is one of the famous Indian English writers. He has written several works of arts in the genres like novel, poetry and so on. He has won awards like as **Padma Shri, Sahitya Akademi Award, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, WH Smith Literary Award and Crossword Book Award.**His collections of poetry such as **Mappings** and **Beastly tales** are notable endowments to the Indian English language poetry Canon. He has published **Two Lives** in 2005, a biography written at the suggestion of his mother, which focuses on the lives of his great-uncle (Shanti Behari Seth) and German-Jewish great aunt (Henny Caro) who met in Berlin in the early 1930s. Comparing with **From Heaven Lake**, **Two Lives** contains much autobiography aspects of Vikram Seth. Miscegenation means the amalgamation of people considered to be of different ethnic types. It is the blending of various racial gatherings through marriage, dwelling together, sexual relations, or reproduction. Because of the term's historical use in contexts that typically implied disapproval, more unambiguously neutral terms such as

interracial, interethnic, or cross-cultural are more common in contemporary usage. This term has been utilized since the nineteenth century to make reference to interracial marriage and interracial sexual relations and all for the most part to the undertaking of hereditary admixture. Truly, miscegenation has been utilized in the topic of laws forbidding interracial marriage and sex, known as against miscegenation laws. This article worries about how Vikram Seth's "Two Lives" verifiably manages the subject of miscegenation.

Keywords: Miscegenation, Second World War, Jewish-German

Introduction:

Vikram Seth is an Indian poet, novelist, travel writer, librettist, children's writer, biographer and memoirist. During the course of his doctorate studies at Stanford, he did his field work in China and translated Hindi and Chinese poetry into English. He returned to Delhi via Xinjiang and Tibet which led to a travel narrative *From Heaven Lake: Travels through Sinkiang and Tibet* (1983) which won the Thomas Cook Travel Book Award.

The Golden Gate: A Novel in Verse (1986) was his first novel describing the experiences of a group of friends who live in California. *A Suitable Boy* (1993), an epic of Indian life set in the 1950s, got him the WH Smith Literary Award and the Commonwealth Writers Prize.

His poetry includes *The Humble Administrator's Garden* (1985) and *All You Who Sleep Tonight* (1990). His *Beastly Tales from Here and There* (1992) is children's book consisting of ten stories in verse about animals.

In 2005, he has published *Two Lives*, a family memoir written at the suggestion of his mother, which focuses on the lives of his great-uncle (Shanti Behari Seth) and German-Jewish

great aunt (Henny Caro) who met in Berlin in the early 1930s while Shanti was a student there and with whom Seth stayed extensively on going to England at age 17 for school. As with From Heaven Lake, *Two Lives* contains much autobiography.

Miscegenation

Miscegenation implies the hybridizing of individuals viewed as of various ethnic sorts. It is the blending of various racial gatherings through marriage, living together, sexual relations, or reproduction. In light of the term's recorded use in settings that regularly suggested dissatisfaction, all the more unambiguously impartial terms, for example, interracial, interethnic, or culturally diverse are more normal in contemporary utilization. This term has been utilized since the nineteenth century to make reference to interracial marriage and interracial sexual relations and all the more by and large to the undertaking of hereditary admixture. Generally, miscegenation has been utilized in the topic of laws forbidding interracial marriage and sex, known as hostile to miscegenation laws.

In talking about miscegenation, it is essential to take note of the authentic trouble that interracial connections have confronted, particularly in America. There, Anti-Miscegenatory laws dug in bigot thoughts regarding interracial blending in the very arrangement of organization. At a certain point or another, forty U.S. states "established laws against 'racially blended' associations and relationships." Furthermore, "despite the fact that the classes prohibited to wed in the different states were not in any manner predictable, all denied marriage among high contrast individuals". The recommendation here, obviously, is that individuals of color were seen as an outright other, as something to be evaded and to stay separate from more than some other racial gathering.

Croly first authored the term in quite a while leaflet entitled *Miscegenation: The Theory of the Blending of the Races Applied to the American White and Negro*. Deriving from the Latin words “miscere” (to mix) and “genus” (race), miscegenation literally means “to mix races” (Croly 2). Thus, miscegenation referred to, in a biological sense, the mixing of racially, biologically different types of people, often focusing on one of two components – the act of mixing interracially, and the products of such interracial couplings.

England had an a lot littler populace of slaves, and canceled bondage sooner than America (1833 and 1865, individually). This, combined with America's situation as a state turned-country and Britain's situation as colonizing nation, implied that Britain had an a lot littler populace of individuals of color in the eighteenth and nineteenth hundreds of years. During the 1700s Edward Long discredited miscegenation "because high contrast individuals have a place with various animal varieties, that half breeds between them are inevitably fruitless, and that individuals of color are nearer to chimps than man".

Robert Young’s *Excellent Colonial Desire: Hybridity in Theory, Culture and Race* outlines the main historical views on miscegenation. finds the primary verifiable perspectives on miscegenation. England's Edward Long (1770s) and the American Josiah Nott (1843) both trusted in the "direct polygenist species contention" which comprised of "the refusal that various individuals can blend by any means" and that "any result of a joining between them is fruitless or barren after an age or two; so that even where individuals mix genuinely, they hold their own disparities".

Miscegenation portrayed in Vikram Seth’s “TwoLives”:

Vikram Seth's second verifiable work, *Two Lives*, is the account of a century and of a relationship over an ethnic partition. As the name proposes, it is an account of two unprecedented carries on with, that of his distant uncle, Shanti Behari Seth, and of his German Jewish distant auntie, Hennerle Gerda Caro. *Two Lives* is isolated into five sections, starting with the adolescent creator going to live with his uncle and auntie in England for higher investigations at the Ton Connect School. His first year is trailed by exceptional travel in Europe. In the wake of finishing his A-levels, Seth proceeds onward to proceed with his training at Oxford and Stanford, at the same time staying in contact with his gatekeeper uncle and aunt. The story dives complicatedly into the high points and low points of the lives of his uncle and auntie. The content is often blended with photos, letters, accounts dependent on Shanti's meetings with the creator, and different sources.

Among the five sections, the qualities of miscegenation rose up out of the main part onwards. In the principal part, Vikram Seth described about his investigation to England at seventeen years old as follows;

“When I was seventeen I went to live with my great-uncle and great- aunt in England. He was Indian by origin, she German. They were both sixty. I hardly knew them at the time.”... (3)

From the above lines of the main section of "*Two Lives*" Seth portrays the miscegenation happens in his family as well. He told that his uncle is an Indian and his auntie is a German. Both were hitched and live respectively when he went to England for higher examinations. This connection between an Indian and a German uncovers miscegenation.

Another element of miscegenation uncovered in the part 3.17 as the author portrayed some past about his distant auntie Henny's companions circle. They are as per the following lines;

I have included a brief description of Henny's circle of family and friends in Berlin in an appendix to this book. Lili was part of this circle. But after the war, Henny got the sense from other friends that Lili's attitudes and views on the events of the time had greatly changed. One such comment came from Rose, the Christian wife of Jazko Rabau, who, as mentioned earlier, was a Christian convert but Jewish by birth and therefore classified as such by the Nazis. He had been Rose's teacher at the Abendgymnasium; they had fallen in love and married.... (296)

The above paragraph written by the author portrays the traits of miscegenation.

Conclusion:

Henceforth the term miscegenation implies culture of blending of individuals viewed as of various racial gatherings. In this memoir composed by Vikram Seth certainly manages event of miscegenation in the general public by the impacts of Second World War and the globalization. This memoir is about the creator's distant uncle and auntie. In this work he additionally included portrayal about their companions' circle and the letters got by his auntie from her companions after the Second World War. Through that letters readers can discover the attributes of miscegenation energetically depicted in this account "Two Lives".

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