

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF AMITAV GHOSH'S THE GLASS PALACE AND SUDHA SHAH'S THE KING IN EXILE

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ABSTRACT

The present study is a comparison between The Glass Palace by Amitav Ghosh and The king in exile by Sudha Shah. Both of them deals with the similar historical plot and shares common places. The Royal Family of Burma King Thibaw , who used to have the unchallenged power of life and death over the Burmese people are now living exile. They have to get approval from the British on every personal matter of their lives. The life in exile was extremely strange and frustrating for the once most powerful family of Burma. The present study also deals with how situation changes and people's responses or readiness to accept the changes. The Central Character of The Glass Palace Rajkumar when came to Mandalay he had nothing , created an empire of timber and later on he left as a refugee when Japanese invaded their Country, whereas being the king of Burma, when he lost his kingdom to British and deported to India , he was forced to comply with little earning. This comparison in being set up on the grounds of Common places, Common plots and common themes between the two books.

Keywords- Amitav Ghosh, Sudha Shah, King Thibaw, Burma, Mandalay, Exile

INTRODUCTION

The comparative study, between the glass palace by Amitav Ghosh and the king in exile by Sudha Shah shared several things in common. Both the stories initially started in Mandalay

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under a Monarchical System, and later turned to be a colony. Though both the stories ran around the Royal family but the central character were different. In the King in exile, the king was in the centre of author's finding, whereas in the glass palace Rajkumar occupied the main position though at initial chapters ,stories were revolving around the royal family. Both the stories shared a common theme about the horrors of war, effect of colonialism and readiness to accept changes in ones' life.

THE GLASS PALACE

The Glass Palace published in the year 2000 is a historical fiction book that gives us an inside view of horrors of colonial past, by depicting the life stories of families of Burma during the late 19th century and the early 20th century. Its focuses on the story of an orphan boy from Indian named Rajkumar. The chapter opens when, the British invasion taking place resulting the fall of Konbaung dynasty led by King Thibaw and Queen Supayalat. With the royal family weak, the Glass Palace without guards, the people started entering the enshrined building and palaces and started, looting its costly treasures. Amidst this turmoil, Rajkumar saw one a young girl named Dolly the Lady-in-waiting to Queen Supayalat, and eventually fell in love with her. When the Colonial forces were deporting the Royal family to a small Coastal town of Ratnagiri in India, he saw Dolly along with other faithful servants following the royal family into the exile. He decided to make Money and to marry her one day . At the end, he creates a business empire of trading timber and owns a lumber mill. with the enough money to search for Dolly, he finds her and marries her thus he fulfilled his wish, and then focuses to secure more wealth. Meanwhile, the Royal family settled in a small fishing village name Ratnagiri in Bombay province of India and facing difficulties to adjust with their new life style with limited resources and no luxury. When Japan invades the country during WWII, Rajkumar loses everything. thus focusing on the devastating effects of World War II and how the life of people got scattered due to war.

THE KING IN EXILE

The King in Exile narrates us a story of an attracting human interest, and wander around a Family who ruled the Large part of Burma. A Non Fiction book published in the year 2012, tells us the story of a family saga, with the elements of real life drama and tragedy. The Story starts from the year 1879, when the king Mindon of Burma was counting his last days and one of his queens, planned to put King's forty-first son, Thibaw, to the Thorne by eliminating his half brothers. For nearly seven years, King Thibaw and Queen Supayalat ruled the Burma under the shadow of approaching British, from the Golden Palace in Mandalay. Never the less they were treated as demi-gods. After fighting three wars against British, finally in the year 1885, they lost their kingdom, and were deported to the secluded town of Ratnagiri in India. In Ratnagiri, their life was comfortable not the luxuries one they used to have, a closely guarded compound where they lived for over thirty-one years. The king's four daughters received no education, and their social interaction were also restricted as the result their life was full of frustrations and they grew anxious to know more about outside world. Two of them fell in love with 'highly inappropriate' men and other two somewhat settled comfortably but their life was much disturbed because of their turbulent childhood. In 1916, when the king died, Queen Supayalat and her daughters were permitted to return to Burma in Rangoon in 1919. In Burma, the old queen regained her old spirit as visitors came by daily to pay their respects. The princesses, had to make numerous adjustments in a world about which they had no knowledge. The impact of their exile remained forever in each of their lives, and it effected them in every possible way it can.

THEORY

The Glass Palace

Part	Theme
Part 1	Starts with Rajkumar, who comes to Mandalay from India with lots of Hopes in heart. The British Invasion and the exile of the Royal Family
Part 2	Focus on the life of Royal Family in Ratnagiri.

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	Rajkumar's journey from normal boy to owner of a modest business empire of timber
Part 3	Finding his Lover Dolly and bringing her back to Burma
Part 4	Wedding of Rajkumar and Dolly
Part 5	Life before world War 2
Part 6	Japanese invasion of Burma
Part 7	The families got Scattered and post world war 2 life of families

The novel by Indian Author Amitav Ghosh, starts from the year 1885, when the dispute between British and king Thibaw opens a chapter of war, floating over Mandalay. As the British prepares to take control of the Burmese throne "The Lion Thorne" a booming sound was heard and an eleven-year-old Indian orphan named Rajkumar informs a crowd at a food stall that the sound they hear is a British cannon. The Burmese army was defeated after only fourteen days of war with ten thousand British.

After defeat in the war, the British The Glass Palace of the royal family ransacked, the humiliated King Thibaw and his family are deported to Ratnagiri. After the British took control of the Mandalay thousand of people entered the unguarded royal palaces and started looting the treasures. During the looting of the royal palace, Rajkumar saw Dolly, one of the queen's Lady in Waiting and eventually falls in love. He saw Dolly leaving with the royal family the next day as loyal servant following them into exile.

Rajkumar was not unknown to hardship. His Indian parents moved to Burma after a quarrel in family and used to live in the village of Akyab. When a fever killed his father and siblings He and His mother tried to flee the sickness and left. His Mother died due to the fever during their journey and 11 years old Rajkumar was left Left alone. Upon reaching Madalay he finds work at a food stall in the market. It is because of Ma Cho, the woman for whom he works, that Rajkumar meets Saya John A contractor for the Burmese teak camps. Saya quickly became a teacher and mentor to young Rajkumar. It is in the teak camps of Saya, Rajkumar learns to work with timber and later he started his own timber camp thus becoming satisfactory wealthy. Then he set to his voyage to find the girl he love. After thorough search with the help of Saya John he found Dolly and convince her to marry him.

They settled comfortably but, the world war 2 ruined their life along with thousands other. As the Japanese soldier destroyed Rajkumar's business he was forced to be a refugee and flee to India

THE KING IN EXILE

Part	Theme
Part 1	Focuses on the life of Royal Family before Exile. Early Reign of The King and The Queen Arrival of the Britishers and War Losing the War and banishment
Part 2	Focuses on the Life of Royal Family in Exile. 1)Life in Ratnagiri and early days in exile. 2)The growing up of their daughters. 3)Death of the King
Part 3	Focuses on the Life of The Queen and the 4 Princesses after the death of the King and their life back in Burma. 1)Return of the Queen to Burma along with her daughters 2) Death of the Queen 3) Life of the Princesses

The book is a real life saga of a family and their future generation, its horrific to see the spread of colonialism and to see a family which were the rulers being exiled for 30 years. Once the wealthiest family of the land now they were dependant on government pension. The Story covers the life of King Thibaw, the last king of Burma, and his family after they were sent to Ratnagiri by the British in 1885 to live in exile.

King Thibaw was projected as a man of weak character who was easily controlled by his Queen Supayalat. He was a Puppet Ruler. Being 41st Son of The king Mindon he was placed on the throne by Queen Supayalat's Mother with the help of other influential ministers. His journey to throne was based on a bloody massacre of a large number of royal family members

The book narrates the part of Burma's history after the arrival of British and mainly focuses on the lives of the Burmese royal family and also it shows the effect of exile on their lives.

We can divide the entire book into three parts—before, during and after exile. It starts with a background of Thibaw and Supayalat before ascending to the throne and then it covers various phases of their reign. This is followed by Loosing the 3 wars with britishers and finally abdication of he King and sending them to Exile. Then it covers their difficulties in exile and subsequent effect on their daughter's life. And finally after the death of the King we see what happens to Queen Supayalat, the four princesses and their descendents .The first part deals with luxurious life led by Thibaw and Supayalat in their Palaces and British invasion to the country and how it effected the future of the country.

The second parts highlight the impact of British colonization on Burma's Socio culture and economy and Thibaw's family after being exile in Ratnagiri. From being the King of Burma leading a luxurious life, Thibaw and his family has to survive on a allowance from the British government and much of his wealth were seized by the British.

The third part is dedicated to the lives of the four princesses and their descendents. The princesses grew up without any formal education and their social interaction was limited, only to staff mostly uneducated.

COMPARISON OF PLACES

Place 1- Description of the Palace

In The Glass Palace, the Golden palace was described in a much elegant manner, since it was shown through the eyes of commoner (Ma Cho) for whom it's a dream to have a life like The Royals. Ma cho can count the number of times she entered into the palace as it was very precious moment for her. its described like

- “It's very large, much larger than it looks. It's a city in itself, with long roads and canals and gardens. First you come to the houses of officials and noblemen. And then you find yourself in front of a stockade made of huge teakwood posts. Beyond lie the apartments of the Royal Family and their servants—hundreds and hundreds of rooms, with gilded

pillars and polished floors. And right at the center there is a vast hall that is like a great shaft of light, with shining crystal walls and mirrored ceilings. People call it the Glass Palace.”[Mandalay- Chapter 1]

- “The palace lay at the exact center of Mandalay, deep within the walled city, a sprawling complex of pavilions, gardens and corridors, all grouped around the nine-roofed hti of Burma’s kings.”[Mandalay- Chapter 2]

we can also find the author’s description about the Mandalay city and can draw comparison with the following lines about the detailed layout as shown in *The King in Exile*.

In *The King in exile*, however, the main focus is given to the detailed description of Mandalay and the Palace for the readers to understand how wealthy the kingdom. Not even a single thing has been missed and author depicted every part of the Golden city without adding much colors to it.

“The sprawling golden palace in Mandalay towering over the palace was a gilded Seven tiered wooden spire or pythat grandly said to mark the centre of the universe. The palace was right in the middle of the royal golden city. the royal family lived in the palace; minister, nobility and various other people who were part of the court stayed in the Royal Golden City. Vast fortified walls surrounded the square shaped city and a wide moat, covered almost year round with pink red lotuses, encircled these walls. The actual town of Mandalay, where the general population lived, lay beyond the moat.” [Chapter 1 Thibaw and Supalayat]

“While the building on the palace platform were all rich and ornate inside and outside, the Glass palace was the largest and most stunning of them.[...] harbingers of misfortune.” [Chapter 1 Thibaw and Supalayat] In this we can again find that the author’s comparison between the glass palace and other building in the palace.

Place 2- Description of Outram House, The Royal Family’s residence in Ratnagiri

In the Glass palace, we found that more colors has been added to the author's description about the Outram house and more focus has been given to showcase whether its comfortable for the royal family or not. In the Glass Palace we found that the description of the outtram house has been shown through the eyes of the king. His excitement and his physical expressions like "Ran a finger over", "walked very slowly", " He toyed with" has been shown. Perhaps the author was trying to showcase his adaption to new place.

"The road ended at a large, two-storied bungalow set inside a walled garden. It was on a bluff above the town, overlooking the bay. It was called Outram House. The King went in first and climbed slowly up the stairs. He came to large bedroom and went inside. The room was furnished with a desk, abed and three armchairs. It opened onto a small balcony that faced westwards, towards the sea. The King walked very slowly around the rooms. He toyed with the slatted wooden shutters, scratched at a rosette of candle wax and ran a finger over a half-effaced mark on the wall, crumbling the flaking plaster between finger and thumb. [.....]the sour mildewed smell of it and the roughness of its texture upon the skin." [Chapter 5]

Whereas In the king in exile, The author's description about the house captures the complete details and we also found that the author tried to find whether the bungalow is fit for the royal family or not. The details about each thing that occupied the bungalow floor has bee depicted likewise, "Persian Carpets", "elegant hanging and pedestal kerosene oil".

"The bungalow had been completely overhauled and refitted before the family's arrival.[.....]the floor of the not too large drawing room was covered with matting overlaid with rich Persian carpets. Handsome furniture, tastefully upholstered , filled this and other rooms. Elegant hanging and pedestal kerosene oil lamps were to provided the lighting. To the left of the drawing room were two well appointed bedrooms for the use by the family...on the right hand side of the drawing room was the dining room and a study for king Thibaw that was equipped with a s desk, chairs and a bookshelf. A large verandah ran across the rear of bungalow and was dotted with easy chairs and – in deference to the family's seating preference cushioned wooden platform." [the King in Ratnagiri]

COMPARISON OF THE PLOTS

Plot 1- Both the story lines deal with the plot of British troop capturing the City and the local residents entering the palace to loot the treasure. In the Glass palace it is the main plot as this is where Rajkumar met Dolly, where as in the King in Exile, it is shown as how helpless the Royal family was, after the arrival of the British troops.

In the Glass palace, the focus was again on the views of common people. They were entering the palace grounds carefully, as perhaps they never thought this place to remain unguarded. Their careful moves shows that how nervous they were as it was difficult for them to believe the Palace was unguarded.

“People crept slowly out of the dwellings that surrounded the citadel. Advancing to the walls, they peered distrustfully at the empty guard-posts. There were no soldiers anywhere in sight, nor even any sentries from the palace guard. Was it really possible that the gates had been left unguarded? A few people stepped on the bridges, testing the silence. Slowly, walking on the balls of their feet, they began to advance towards the far bank of the eighty-foot moat. They reached the other side and went creeping to the gates, holding themselves ready to run back at the slightest check. It was true: the guards and sentries were all gone. The palace was unguarded. The intruders slipped through the gates and vanished into the fort.” [Chapter 3]

Where as in the King in exile we are told the reasons for which common people were able to entered into the palace. The British soldiers were confused and were not able to recognize the maid of honor in dark, Hence the people were able to enter. but the helplessness of the Royal family was clearly shown, as there was no one to protect the family. They saw how people entered the enshrined palace and looting the wealth.

“In place of the maids of honor hordes of common women from the town entered the palace to capitalize on this rare opportunity. The British soldiers, in the dark and in the confusion, were unable to distinguish between them and the well dressed maids of honor. All the night long, The king and queen and handful of faithful maids could do nothing but to cower in their apartment, silently and helplessly watching the silhouettes of lantern bearing women looting at the will amid muted shouts and much jostling.” [The Defeat and Exile]

Plot 2- When the Royal Family was going to Exile, both the book extensively covered this part but in the glass palace no significant protest was depicted neither there was any mention about the reaction of Burmese officials. The Kings character perhaps the author tried to show that he was calm and . And It is also during this procession Rajkumar spotted Dolly. This shows how the author tried to related his story with the real historical plots without tampering the incidents.

“The procession passed slowly through the long corridors of the palace and across the mirrored walls of the Hall of Audience, past the shouldered guns of the guard of honor and the snapped-off salutes of the English officers.[.....] Just as he was about to step-in, the King noticed that his canopy had seven tiers, the number allotted to a nobleman, not the nine due to a king. He paused to draw breath. So the well-spoken English colonels had had their revenge after all, given the knife of victory a final little twist.[.....]

The ox-carts [.....] They were heavily armed, prepared for trouble. The people of Mandalay were not expected to sit idly by while their King and Queen were herded into exile. Reports had been heard of planned riots and demonstrations, of desperate attempts to free the Royal Family.”[Chapter 4]

But In the king in exile we saw how the king’s character was depicted and how he tried to maintain his standard. Though he was emotional and walking with heavy steps, but the author focused more on the grandeur of the procession which Amitav Ghosh also did but The Glass Palace lacked the emotion of the people which Sudha Shah did Mentioned.

“The procession walked through the palace, past the lion throne, [...] Perhaps they also paused to look back at the Lion Throne on which they had sat so many times in the past. The the king entourage moved down the steps of the platform and walked slowly forward.” [Defeat and Exile]

Though the king wished to go to exile like a King but British didn’t grant him this request. He started walking away in protest when he saw Bullock carts perhaps gave a glimpse of his strong character who don’t want to compromise his image as a king “ Demi God”. Also the reaction of Burmese officials has been carefully depicted here, and how much respect they have for their King and Traditions.

“Two covered bullock carts, the kind that was commonly used in Mandalay were waiting to transport the family to the Irrawaddy, where a steamer had been readied for boarding. [...], turned up his nose at these rickety carts and in protest started walking with his queens. However they were soon convinced to use them.

A couple of Burmese officials hurriedly produced two white umbrellas and not even having the tie to get their footwear, they followed the king, holding the umbrellas over him. they went all the way bare foot..” [Defeat and Exile]

“ The street of Mandalay were thronged with people many of whom sank to the ground in the traditional sheiko and ‘uttered loud cries of lamentation’ as the carts passed. The band stepped up its volume in an attempt to drown out these cries.” [Defeat and Exile]

From this lines we can also analyze how deeply people respected their Royal family. They were doing traditional sheiko and were crying. Even at later part we can find that People of Burma never accepted the rule of foreign force. “ They were disappointed. The Burmese saw the British as the colonizers rather than liberators in Burma for pursuit of their own interest.” [Burma without a King]

Plot 3 - This plot of the Death of The Royal Elephant has been common but depicted with different style

in the glass palace, the author depicted as if the Elephant death was unnatural, under superstitious belief of bad omen “There was news from Mandalay that the royal elephant had died. [...] Everyone had known that the elephant would not long survive the fall of the dynasty. But who could have thought that it would die so soon? It seemed like a portent. The house was sunk in gloom.”

Where as in the king in exile the focus was given more to finding the reason why the Elephant died and what his master(The King) thinks about his death

“The Royal White elephant died in the golden palace the very day King Thibaw left the shores of Burma. The king learn of his death in Madras, and is said to have remarked to colonel Cox

that the elephant must have starved to death as his keepers must have abandoned him.” [Burma without a King]

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS

The Queen’s Physical appearance as described in The Glass Palace-

“The Queen was a small, fine-boned woman with porcelain skin and tiny hands and feet. Her face was small and angular, the regularity of its features being marred only by a slight blemish in the alignment of the right eye. The Queen’s waist, famously of a wisp-like slimness, was swollen by her third pregnancy, now in its eighth month.” [Chapter 2]

but there was no significant mention about her appearance is the King in Exile though she was mentioned as Savage “Queen Supalayath was portrayed as a dark malevolent force, a ‘savage’”.[Rumbling of wars]

Similar depiction of the queen can be found also in the glass palace where the author wrote

“Of all the princesses in the palace, Supalayath was by far the fiercest and most willful, the only one who could match her mother in guile and determination. [.....] In order to protect him from her family she stripped her mother of her powers and banished her to a corner of the palace, along with her sisters and co-wives. Then she set about ridding Thebaw of his rivals. She ordered the killing of every member of the Royal Family who might ever be considered a threat to her husband.[.....] The corpses were thrown into the nearest river.” [Chapter 4]

The King’s Physical description in the glass palace

“King Thebaw was of medium height, with a plump face, a thin moustache and finely shaped eyes. As a youth he had been famous for his good looks: it had once been said of him that he was the handsomest Burman in the land.” [Chapter 4]

but in King in Exile, we didn’t find any such mention about their physical appearance a only small portion is being noted

“Thebaw is stout, young, good looking man of about 30”[The defeat and the exile]

but he was depicted in somewhat negative aspects in first few chapters of the king in exile like “King Thibaw was portrayed as cruel, incompetent, drunkard. He was called an ‘inconceivable brute’, a monster in human face.”[Rumbling of wars]

STYLE OF WRITING

In the Glass Palace the writer resorts to the use of the local languages in contrast to The King in exile.

The usage of local language plays a crucial role in understanding the precise emotion of the local residents

- The stranger ceremoniously raised his hat. “How are you?” he said. “*Kaisa hai? Sub kuchh theek-thaak?*”. [Chapter 1]
- “*Sabar karo, sah’b; it’ll pass.*”[Chapter 36]
- Stay alive,”she whispered. “*Beche thako, Rajkumar. Live, my Prince; hold on to your life.*” [Chapter 1]

Since the King in Exile is a Non Fictional Story, the author avoided significant use of local languages but we found some common Burmese terms like “Min, Thadingyut and Thingyan” etc being used in some places.

In the Glass Palace we also find the usage of vernacular phrases by the author

“When I told them how this had come about, they would laugh and say, you are a *dhobi ka kutta*—a washerman’s dog—*na gharka na ghat ka*—you don’t belong anywhere, either by the water or on land,

and I’d say yes, that is exactly what I am.” [Chapter 1]

We can only found little usage of local terms in the King in exile. Amitav Ghosh’s writing always contain rich local vocabulary. But King in Exile the Burmese terms were used less in number. Probably there was no scope in Non Fictional book like this.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 1) We can also compare the life of King Thibaw and Rajkumar. King Thibaw despite of being the wealthiest man of Burma, he was forced to leave all his wealth behind after the British invasion and was sent to exile in a completely new environment with no luxury. The Rajkumar met the same consequences. After being settled comfortably with good fortune, when the Japanese attacked and captured Burma, in one moment he lost everything he had .There was no more money, no more potential left for him in Burma and he is forced to return to India along with refugee trail .Thus both the book shows us the horror of war. Both The King and Rajkumar being rich had to loose everything they had after colonial forces invaded their land, For the king it was British and for Rajkumar it's Japanese.

- 2) Most importantly, the book is about how people adopt changes in their life. In one moment even the wealthiest mama can loose all his fortunes and turn to be a refugee or a prisoner. The aspect of readiness to adopt changes and determinism is what is being try to show here . Each of the character had certain role to play. The central character Rajkumar who comes as a refugee, in spite of loosing his family and everything he had, he created his own empire with the help of will power and readiness to adopted new changes. Moreover we also saw that after Japanese invaded Burma, he loose everything and considered to return to India, as an refugee.

“Yes. But it’s hard, Dolly—it’s hard to think of leaving: Burma has given me everything I have. The boys have grown up here; they’ve never known any other home. When I first came to Mandalay, the nakhoda of my boat said: This is a golden land—no one ever starves here. That proved true for me, and despite everything that’s happened recently, I don’t think I could ever love another place in the same way. But if there’s one thing I’ve learned in my life, Dolly, it is that there is no certainty about these things. [.....] But this is not something that is owed to us. On the contrary, we have to expect that a time will come when we’ll have to move on again. Rather than be

swept along by events, we should make plans and take control of our own fate.”[Chapter 25]

If you compare this with King Thibaw, When he was exiled in Ratnagiri he started adopting new changes and often engages himself in new kind of activities.

For instance in King in exile, “The Burmese Festival of Thingyan, Thadingyut and Tazaungdaing were celebrated each year in their compound. The King was rather adept at carpentry, and according to the third princess himself designed the mandap for these festivals.” [The Royal Family in Ratnagiri]

For The King its difficult to adapt such changes but he quickly turned to learn new activities. Even though the family remain far from their Home, their love for culture identity can be also traced as the king himself engages with daughters in celebrating their own festivals.

- 3) *The Glass Palace* is a symbol of modernity, and of how different nations adopted changes when called for. It is also shows how new technologies and norms contributed in the rate of exchange of goods, ideas, and people across borders.

“ The Queen took a long look. “It’s just a sari,” she said at last. “But she’s wearing it in a new style.” She explained that an Indian official had made-up a new way of wearing a sari, with odds and ends borrowed from European costume—a petticoat, a blouse. She’d heard that women all over India were adopting the new style. ”[Chapter 9]

The King in Exile also depict similar theme of exchange of Culture and traditions. The people of Ratnagiri soon started evolving their lifestyle around the Royal family. This can be found in numerous context like,

“Since the Hindu festivals of Diwali and Holi fell approximately at the same time as Thadingyut and Thingyan respectively the family celebrated the Buddhist and Hindu festivals together and invitation cards with a gold peacock embossed on top, were liberally sent out

inviting townsfolk for celebration. The festival generated tremendous excitement in the quiet town.” [The royal family in Ratnagiri]

Similarly we found how much people of Ratnagiri Respected the Royal Couple from the context. In fact when the king died the entire town of Ratnagiri jumped into sadness and shared the pain of the royal family. This shows how much affection they had towards the family.

“Locals came to bow deeply before the royal couple and were served refreshments and given small gifts in return.” [The royal family in Ratnagiri]

“The town of Ratnagiri plunged into mourning along with the bereaved family. with the passing away of their most famous and generous resident, an era in their lives had also ended.” [Death of the King and the ensuing unrest]

- 4) We have seen the importance of cultural heritage. People of Burma never Welcomed British. As in *The King in exile*, we saw the Author’s comment on nationalism sentiments. The Britisher’s were sure that the people will welcome the. they misjudged their sentiments towards their Royal Family. Infact even though the Family was portrayed somewhat in negative aspects but the sentiment of the people towards the family because of cultural importance was more than enough for the reason to keep such despotic ruler on throne. For the common people the Monarchial system was far easier to accept because they share common identity. The feeling of Patriotism can be traced from both the novels.

“Many in the British Government had expected the Burmese people to welcome them with open arms for having freed their country from the despotic ruler. They were disappointed. The Burmese saw the British as the colonizers rather than liberators in Burma for pursuit of their own interest.”

Additionally the fact that non Buddhist power had occupied all their country and that with King Thibaw’s departure, their religion had no patron was disturbing to many Burmese. Moreover as a proud race who valued their heritage culture and identity they deeply resented the presence of omnipotent foreign ruler.” [Burma without a King]

Similar description is also found in *The Glass palace* where, It was mentioned that, when Rajkumar wanted to visit the Family, the Collector was worried as even after so many years in Exile the Pro Monarchy sentiments still exist in Burma. Collector believed that Government wont permit the visit. These shows Britishers were still afraid. Britishers always tried to rule by “The Divide and Rule Policy”. they believe Royal family are the only one who can keep the country together and pro monarchial forces can cause trouble if not controlled properly.

“Our teachers,” the Collector began—it was a running joke with him to speak of his British colleagues as *amader gurujon*—“our teachers don’t want political trouble in Burma. It’s their richest province and they don’t want to take any risks. The King is the one person who could bring the country together against them. There are more than a dozen different tribes and peoples there. The monarchy is the only thing they have in common. Our teachers know this and they want to make sure that the King is forgotten. They don’t wish to be cruel; they don’t want any martyrs; all they want is that the King should be lost to memory—like an old umbrella in a dusty cupboard.” [Chapter 11]

- 5) we cannot draw any similarities in writing style as both the authors depicted the same plots in different mannered. The enrich use of local vocabulary can be found in Amitav Ghosh’s writing which was not there in Sudha Shah’s Novel. Since one was Fictional and another was Non Fictional, perhaps due to which differences in writing style can be found. But both the author used non alternative Burmese terms like “Min, Mebya” etc.

CONCLUSION

The present study compares the two wonderful novel *The king in Exile* by Sudha Shah and *The Glass palace* over the common themes and Plots. We can analysis the deep sentiments of the people of Burma towards the royal family and can compare their sentiments with Peoples of Ratnagiri. Both the novel Drew harsh comment over the colonial rule. “Whenever Britain felt her commercial interests were threatened she had the strength and influence to respond to military and political intervention, and she often did.” [The Defeat and Exile]. This comment is

a portrayal of true character of colonial forces. The similar idea has been depicted in the glass palace also. The Glass Palace though a fictional set up but the author's description about the historical incidents and relating them with his Character and mixing with his own story line, produced a true essence. The King in exile whereas the author focused more on the royal family and their future. One of the interesting fact that the both the author focused on showcasing the importance to adapt changes and and importance of cultural heritage and traditions. Both the novels immensely focused on the cultural identity of Burma and their deep association with the Royal Family. The deep essence of nationalism can be found in common between the two novels. The two novels deals with the dilemma of two persons who were at their acme and later fall drastically after foreign invaders attacked their Country. Thus we can conclude that even though the Glass palace was Fictional the authors didn't tampered the incidents and tried to adjust his think accordance with the true historical plots and Sudha Shah presented detailed layout of the themes and plot which was already their in The Glass Palace.

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