



## LONGING AND LONELINESS AS THE RECURRENT THEME IN JHUMPA LAHIRI'S *THE LOWLAND*

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### ABSTRACT

*The novel "The Lowland" was portrayed very emotionally and critically given a character with very effective by the American writer but Indian born Jhumpa Lahiri. She dealt with the character of each one is very significant and most living personality in this novel. And they have an emotional and loneliness to their life at the same time, the novel made a sudden urge to transfer the character to some other place, this is the reaction to take a result of nostalgia which means diaspora through the persons of Subhash and Gauri. After the Udayan death Gauri married Subhash and she went to America, in that place both of them were not a good in their relationships and they are live a long and later be separate also so they had some emotions and live in loneliness. The author played an important role through this tow characters. She explains how they are all emotionally had a loneliness to the character among. This is the main concept to pursuit to the novel, "The Lowland"*

### INTRODUCTION

Jhumpa Lahiri, who is one of the prominent Indian diasporic writers to use nostalgia and loneliness as the foundation of her novel rests. In *The Lowland* we find a number of characters who are at one point of time or the other stuck in the past. Their future course of actions depends on their past experiences in life. The dictionary gives the meaning of nostalgia as a longing for the past. It is a fruit of loneliness because when someone is lonely, the best thing is to escape into memories and find some relief. Although in all the works of Jhumpa Lahiri we find diasporic elements, this recent work, which has been nominated for

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the Man Booker prize, is primarily a novel in which the past haunts the characters even after 30 or 40 years. The novel is start with the explanation of the Tollygunge city and their life. And later the main character Udayan and Subhash attitude and their study life and through the novel, how they were in a longing and loneliness at the end of the novel.

### Longing and Loneliness:

*The lowland* is a story of loneliness. In the beginning both the brothers felt lonely without each other's company. Subhash felt extremely companionless in Rhode Island, as he was away from his family and there was no hope of meeting the family in the near future. We find Gauri also lonely although she cherished the company of her brother. Her elder sisters were all married and living at distant places. She was living with her maternal uncles, but most of the time she was alone, confirmed to her room facing the main street of Tollygunge, and the only companion was the noise in the street. In Rhode Island Subhash is all alone when he gets the news of the tragedy. All of a sudden all the past things flash on his mind's eye. The place where they played, where they grew up holding each other's hand everything revives. In the previous separation there was a chance of reuniting, but in the second separation loneliness returned and this time forever. Earlier the brothers were linked through letters, this time they were linked through Gauri and her unborn child. When Udayan told him that he had married Gauri, Subhash felt devastated: until now he thought the space was reserved for him, but this relationship did not work. Although this was something Subhash knew beforehand, but he did not like Holly to break it. When Holly deserted him, his loneliness became serious it got intensified with the news of the unexpected tragedy. Subhash tried to fill the space created by Udayan with Holly but it was a failure.

Although we find that life started taking its normal course but time and again the characters are confronted is fine, suddenly he gets shocking news. Subhash unexpectedly comes back to India and under compelling circumstances decides to marry Gaur. When they both come to Rhode Island, the past haunts them. They are together because of Bela. But, ultimately Gauri decides to confine herself in her own solitary zone and the only companions are books and memories of the past. When everything was going slowly in California Gauri go a mail in her inbox from her student Diwakar Basu and came to know that the major player behind the Naxalites was Kanu Sanyal and she was compelled to collect information about this major Maoist leader, taking her back to her past. It had been five years since Gauri married Subhash; the distance between Rhode Island and Tollygunge was enormous, but it could diminish her past memories only slightly. "But she knew they were there. What was stored in memory was distinct from what was deliberately remembered, Augustine said." She tried hard to avoid every person to keep clear of the past, even her own brother Manash, because with Manash came the memories of Udayan; she and Udayan talking for long in her

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grandparent's house." Even now, part of Gauri continued to expect some news from Udayan. For him to acknowledge Bela, and the family they might have been.

Every development in the story is marked by the element of wistfulness. Earlier it was Gauri who kept memories of Udayan alive in the mind of Subhash; but now the story took a turn again and the blood of Udayan, Bela, replaced everyone, with her innocent activities. "In this sense Udayan had marked her, leaving behind an exuberant replica of him. And Subhash loved this about her, that there was such a liberal outpouring of who she was. Subhash recalls the memories of his child hood in Tollygunge. Through the character of Subhash, Jhumpa Lahiri herself feels connected with India.

Now, one important question which this research paper tends to discuss is how much this longing for the past is acceptable and what are the limits of adherence to the past. Now, we can judge the characters in this new light. Had Gauri not been haunted by her past, she would have been a lovely mother and a wonderful wife to Subhash. But because she was so much engrossed in those brief sweet moments she had spent with Udayan, every now and then she saw him caressing her in her dreams. She was in her middle age while Udayan was now, one important question which this research paper tends to discuss is how much this longing for the past is acceptable and what are the limits of adherence to the past. Now, we can judge the characters in this new light. Had Gauri not been haunted by her past, she would have been a lovely mother and a wonderful wife to Subhash. But because she was so much engrossed in those brief sweet moments she had spent with Udayan, every now and then she saw him caressing her in her dreams. She was in her middle age while Udayan was still a man in his twenties. Although silently, but she accepted the progress of Subhash; and if she had not cherished the memories of Udayan so much, she would not have decided to leave Subhash and her daughter Bela. Because of one man the lives of so many people got disturbed to such an extent that it took them the whole of their lives to get back the balance. Devoid of true love and companion Subhash, at the age of 70, decided to marry Eisie. When Bela became 40, then her mother Gauri started missing her and suddenly grew fond of her. When Gauri met with an accident and was bed-ridden in a hospital, she remembered Subhash for the first time. The lives of Gauri, Subhash, Bela and Meghna would have been different if only there had been no memories of Udayan. So we see that whether for good reasons or bad, nostalgia and loneliness are intertwined and depend on each other. Memories are always cherished by human hearts and they are always treasured in the bosoms of all humans and are sweet companions when one feels lonely. Jhumpa Lahiri, through this latest work, is successful in proving the point.



## CONCLUSION:

In this conclusion the author deeply present the emotional appearance about one family through her writings and she given the character with the concept of longing and loneliness through this novel *The Lowland*. It is a deep expression of authors view about the city of Calcutta and America. And she dealt with the main concept to how they are reacted through the time of un expectedly happen something in the time of situation and she will be given presentation among the authors and she gives a good novel about one family condition about nostalgia and loneliness through “*The Lowland*”.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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All subsequent references are from this edition.