

Critical Analysis of Amitav Ghosh's Flood of Fire

Manishabahen V. Vadkar

Research Scholar, Department of English
Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, Gujrat, India

Abstract: *Flood of Fire, final instalment of Amitav Ghosh's Ibis trilogy, is a fantastic read, as are all of Ghosh's books. Ghosh is a brilliant storyteller, and Flood of Fire is an intelligent take on globalisation, nationalism, ambition, greed, and, of course, love, while bringing together an array of characters through Sea of Poppies and River of Smoke. Flood of Fire is based on the first Opium War, which took place in Canton in 1840, when the British invaded to break China's opium trade blockade and demanded compensation for their losses after Chinese commissioner Lin destroyed their goods.*

Keywords: Analysis, ibis, Trilogy, Amitav Ghosh

I. INTRODUCTION

The year is 1839, and China has imposed an opium embargo. However, the lucrative business has too much at stake, in addition, British Foreign Secretary had instructed the colonial authority in India to form an expeditionary army to re-establish the commerce. East India Company's army soldier, Kesri Singh, is one among many condemned. He makes his way eastward aboard the Hind, an transporting ship that will carry him through Bengal to Hong Kong.

A number of characters from Ibis Trilogy appear, notably Zachary Reid, a youthful American opium futures dealer, as well as Shireen, widow of opium dealer whose unexplained death in China has prompted her to hunt for her long-lost son. The Hind lands into Hong Kong whilst war starts, while opium "pours like a monsoon torrent" onto the market. Through Bombay till Calcutta, through naval battles to decks of hospital ship, amidst corruption, extortion, as well as sabotage, Amitav Ghosh draws the audience upon whirlwind trip through the pinnacle of British opium trade as well as turbulent moment in colonial history.

In the same way as the preceding two volumes in the trilogy ended, Flood of Fire brings Ghosh's innovative retelling of 19th century drug war to a satisfying conclusion. Ghosh brought Opium Wars for bearing upon contemporary moment with narrative that has enthralled readers all across globe, with a great historical perspective and a dynamic cast of people.

II. PLOTTING THE TERRITORY

Ghosh's books have always had evocative settings. So, After describing the poppy fields of Bihar as well as Deeti's cave in Mauritius into first two novels, he dives directly into action by describing the pomp of Bengal Native Infantry and tamasha in Assam

Perspective is of Deeti's brother, Havildar Kesri Singh. (who has merely been addressed into passing thus far) and a British army NCO. The reader discovers characters from previous books with a deep sense of comfort as the storey progresses. There's Zachary Reid, who's getting whiter as he goes through life; In addition to our main characteristics Neel Rattan Haldar, who was already deployed in China and our main point of contact for everything that's happening there, we also have Jodu and Ah Fatt like well adapted surprise, as well as the somewhat shadowy spouses from the previous volumes, who emerge in their own and play a key role in the narrative.

Flood of Fire is mostly a story about a war. In addition to providing a detailed history and analysis of the First Opium War (1840-1842), the author also establishes a direct link among both India and China's fates, which were intertwined mostly by forces of capitalism (Free Trade, as Mr Burnham insists) trying to sweep onto them and the consequent destruction and exploitation of their native structures as portrayed by Ghosh in an introduction for an book of his own. "So many people were killed and destroyed, and this was done to individuals who had neither harmed nor attacked those men who were so eager to engulf them into flood of fire," all readers of Ghosh's history-telling are forced to wonder, as Kesri Singh was. What exactly did it mean? "What was the purpose of it?" Another returning character, Baboo Nob

Kissin, continues to connect capitalist gluttony with pralaya, ending of a world, into almost a philosophical tone. And we stand there in awe while a collapse of an ancient civilization is seen.

Flood of Fire takes place in 1840, long before the country's first war of independence in 1857, when Indians were still subject to the East India Company's rule. There were grievances that would have led to a mutiny among the Indian sepoy's embarking on the Opium War as early as the 1840s—poor pay in comparison to white soldiers, poor quality weapons, vessels of passage, and rations.

Ghosh has found the right man in Mr Burnham, a Calcutta resident, to explain how a previous era of globalisation worked. "The expedition would rely on private enterprise for support to an unprecedented degree, said Mr. Burnham, and this in turn would open up innumerable avenues for profit, in matters ranging from the chartering of vessels to the procurement of supplies for the troops."

As for idea of sending an army across ocean to coerce other nation into buying the opium, Commissioner Lin found it tough to believe. Yet that's what happened in the end.

The Ibis trilogy is the storey of many people—Kesri Singh, a soldier from Ghazipur, Neel Rattan, a former Raja from Calcutta, Neville Mee, a British captain and son of a shopkeeper, Zachary Reid, a sailor from Baltimore, Mrs. Burnham, the general's daughter who never wins a battle in life, Shireen Mody from Bombay without a son as heir—all of whom Reading Amitav Ghosh's "Flood of Fire" is like travelling with sepoy's, sahibs, and rajahs from Assam to Calcutta to Canton, learning about their pasts and dreading or hoping for their futures. It is a fictional physical and temporal journey that, like real journeys, is best enjoyed when detours and adventures are accepted.

Ghosh's novel also explores how the region's nascent free trade has resulted in a major conflict that is resolved through military force. "How could a few number of men, in the period of those few minutes or hours, determine destiny of millions of individuals yet to be born?" Watching an Opium War conflict, Neel is filled with a sense of awe and curiosity. How could the result of those few minutes decide whom will rule who over generations, whom might be poor or rich, servant or master?"

III. CONCLUSION

Among the Ibis novels, Flood of Fire is most action-packed and suspenseful. Deaths, romance, the supernatural, escapes, old-fashioned bawdiness, reunions, fight scenes, retribution, heroes going bad, redemptive arcs, transformations, and everything else you can think of are all there. For those who appreciated Sea of Poppies, but were less than enthusiastic about the River of Smoke, Ghosh will bring you back to the start of the journey with this fascinating tale like, such as the Ibis, veers and diverges, charges through stormy seas, and tends to leave you with impression that an adventure is just starting.

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