

CONFLICT BETWEEN SELF AND IDENTITY IN TAFIQ RAFAT'S FOOTHOLD

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Abstract

Taufiq Rafat, who is famous for being the foremost Pakistani poet, is also the first playwright in English for Pakistani Literature. His play, Foothold, is a story of Saleem who leaves his well settled, materialistic life in search of his true self. It explores the inner turmoil and struggles of Saleem in the journey of life, and creates a parallel between his companions of past and present.

This research will focus on Saleem's quest for the self and will explore the conflict of self and Identity by viewing it through the lens of Jung's concepts of self and identity. It aims to explore the journey undertaken by Saleem in order to find a totality to his personality and how this journey clashes with his social identities, and leads to his marginalization. Jung's concepts will allow tracing and resolving the complexities in Saleem's character which results from the conflict between the search for the self and conforming to the social identities.

Moreover, this study will delve into the other integral character of the play, The Station Master, who resolves Saleem's conflict through his interference. The Station Master is a part of the system, a complete contrast to Saleem but nonetheless acts as a guide to him. In the subtext, the research also highlights the society's treatment to a rebel or anybody who refuses to conform. It will draw a comparison to the parallel lives of the Station Master and Saleem to explain the true acquisition of self and identity.

Keywords: Self, identity, marginalization, society, conflict