

The Calcutta Chromosome: An Ostensible Endeavour to Challenge History

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Abstract

In competitive scenario accepting the challenges is important rather than winning it. Ghosh in this novel makes an attempt to wipe out colonial supremacism from the indigenous people's mind. For that purpose he made a crisis over on the subject matter of getting authenticity for discovering malaria parasite. Throughout this novel he recreates a new environment for the oppressed people with proper solutions for their problems, his intention is to improve things better. Thus, this research paper liberates and purifies the mind of young benevolent admirers of the western culture and practices.

Keywords: *The Calcutta Chromosome*, Competitive, Challenges, Colonial Supremacism, Authenticity, Malaria Parasite, Environment, Western Culture and Practices.

In Amitav Ghosh's novel *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1996), obviously projects the stipulated scientific revolution which happened in the 19th and 20th centuries. It was understood that in the survey of history, only the westerners' names found in the records for discovering things. In addition to that some of the Medias started to transmit a biased information. To opt-out from this sort of shrewd practices, Ghosh makes his reader to be aware of the present circumstances through radical writings.

Unequivocally in the field of medicine, there was some tiffin the method of curing patients. Especially in the way of curing the sick through western treatments and eastern therapies that to found a place in his work. Amazingly mind acts as a core element for the functions of the human body and the consequences of everything happen only because of the willingness of the particular person's mind. Through this lens this paper questions on some of the historical discoveries and progresses, distorted in his work.

With the assistance of Harvie and Matthew's opinion, the nineteenth century Britain can be visibly defined. Early phase of nineteenth century Britain flourished with industrial growth, there were several good things discovered for the welfare of humankind. Furthermore, the development of second industrial revolution leads to the technological discoveries in a rapid

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manner. Besides that, slowly the act of blemishing started through the way of getting name and popularity for the discoveries in the field of science and technology. Thus, the growth of industrialization was clearly pointed out here as:

This makes the historian's task awkward, balancing what is significant now against what was significant then. The first directs us to industrial changes, new processes developing in obscure workshops; the second reminds us how slowly the power of the pre-industrial elites ebbed, how tenacious religion proved in the scientific age. Only around 1830 were people conscious of substantial and permanent industrial change; it took another 20 years to convince even the middle class that it had all been for the better (1).

Ghosh has inoculated some of the fictional elements along with scientific discoveries, defining past and predicting future may not be precisely correct. Here, the character Antar began to explore certain data about a missing person called Murugan. This novel too mentions the manner of identifying missing people through a programmed machine. Though the computer and other types of software were positioned in the field to construct history it might not be a genuine one. Thus, the text brings out the unusual experiences from the programmed machine as:

She wouldn't stop until Antar had told her everything he knew about whatever it was that she was playing with on her screen. He'd tried routing her to her own encyclopedias, but that wasn't good enough. Somewhere along the line she had been programmed to hunt out real-time information, and that was what determined to get. Once she wrung the last, meaningless detail out of him, she'd give the object on her screen a final spin, with a bizarrely human smugness, before propelling it into the horizonless limbo of her memory (4).

New research shows DNA in human beings is much more essential one for transmitting biological information from parents to young ones through chromosomes. But in this novel Ghosh mentions the transmission of good traits from malaria patient to normal person was done in transcendent way. Mangala is the one who executes all rituals to make this course to be fruitful. The progress of the novel also describes how Ross adopts this techniques for his own popularity and discoveries. Thus, Ibrahim appreciates the old way of transmitting soul as:

Ghosh immerses into a story of medical journalism and tries hard to give an explanation of the chromosome system, advancing other medical discoveries, popular rituals, killings, hallucinations, transmigrating souls and panoptical computers controlled by multinational companies. Within all these local and globalized elements, we find strange figures of colonial migrants, like Mangala, a clever and witty scientist, without recognition from the

official medicine of that time, who comes to discover how the malaria bug can be used to regenerate decaying brain tissue in the last stage of syphilis (70).

For centuries, the diseases like malaria and syphilis were considered to be a source of spreading death fear in the peoples mind. Such diseases won't disappear permanently but every centuries it will rejuvenate in a new form with new names. Here, some of the characters like Antar and Murugan begin to search for the relevant facts about that diseases and discoveries, unfortunately they were infected with those incurable diseases. Thus, the text reveals the functions of mind as a purported vehicle for the transmitting diseases from thought to reality as:

Antar started. 'Wait a minute...' he cried into a telephone. But the line had gone dead. Antar started at the receiver, not quite sure of what had happened. For a moment it had sounded as though Tara were in the room with him and her mouthpiece had picked up Ava's ping. He put the back of his hand against his forehead and wasn't surprised to find it very hot. He knew he was really feverish now. He decided it was time to lie down (192).

The interaction between Urmila and Murugan brings out the truth that he was attacked with a venereal disease called Syphilis. And this attack was not by the external source or other microorganism but transmitted through mindset of that person who panicked by looking the patients directly affected with it. Thus, the text demonstrates the human attitude about curable diseases as:

I managed to hide the scabs for oh, I don't know how long, for the months anyway-even though it hurt by then, god, it hurt. And when it was finally caught there was no disguising it. That was why my family had to leave the city: the shame. But syphilis is curable now, isn't it? Urmila said. 'With antibiotics?' 'Sure,' said Murugan. 'I got cured. They can cure it now-except for what it does to your head.' (244)

Ghosh introduces superstition and voodoo as a strange method for healing sickness. Somehow it seems to be like aridiculous one but really a challenging task for him, he took this concept from the Indian mythology. Another strong argument in this novel is the lack of laboratory facilities in India, particularly the natives in the colonial landno place for research, even though they were experts in dealing withsuperstitious things. Like most of other English medicines this is considered be a prior to all methods. Thus, Manimekalai and Devi depict Ghosh's scathing attack on the historical record as:

Against the background of the historical facts of Ronald Ross's discovery about malaria fever, Ghosh presents the supernatural power of Mangala who found a so-called cure of

syphilis and has also acquired the knowledge of transcending life beyond life. The novel argues the First world and that only rich white men do science. Elijah and Monroe Farley and Dr. Ronald Ross, the counter-science group headed by Mangala and Laakhan worked towards a higher purpose of attaining immortality (116).

In the survey of history like great philosophers and scholars Ghoshin his writings attempt to oppose the cruelty of the colonizers. He handles narrative account to liberate his readers from the invisible bonds and elegiac things created by the imperial force in the colonial land. The stating of metaphysical, technological, geographical and historical things in this novel is for the purpose to annihilate the imperial ideologies in natives mind.

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