

## **HERMAN HESSE SIDDHARTHA: A TALE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**

### **Abstract**

Herman Hesse's novel Siddhartha presents Eastern philosophy and spirituality. Siddhartha's character through he was present his own experiences and inspiration of Indian philosophy. This novel in the main character is Siddhartha and he is in search of enlightenment. Hesse was deeply influenced by the writings of Indian philosophers. During the writing of Siddhartha own spiritual journey was reflected in the novel's protagonist Siddhartha Hesse said that the novel was an attempt to work through his own spiritual journey

**Keywords:** Enlightenment, philosophy, mystic, religion, spirituality

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Siddhartha was written by Herman Hesse who was a German -Swiss poet, novelist painter. His real name was Herman Karl Hesse. He was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1877 in Germany who was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1946. He was known as a novelist and laureate.

The individuals' quest for spirituality and self-awareness is evident in their work. At the age of twelve, Hesse made the decision that he wanted to pursue a career in poetry. He had a hard time figuring out how to fulfill this desire after finishing school. Hesse lived in a bookstore but left after three days because of his ongoing frustrations and depression.

When he was 19, he started a new apprenticeship at a bookshop in Tübingen, where he spent his free time reading classic works by German romantic authors, whose themes included spirituality and aesthetic harmony. His father had denied his request to leave the family to pursue a literary career. He said he believed that his depressive and suicidal thoughts had finally ended.

After a lengthy sabbatical, in 1904, Hesse penned the novel "Peter Camenzind," which shot to fame and launched his literary career. In 1899, he released a little collection of poems and love ballads. Hesse set out for a journey to Borneo, Sumatra, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Burma in 1911. Nonetheless, the purpose of this journey is to seek spiritual guidance. Hesse wrote many spiritual novels like 'Stephen Wolf,' 'The Glass Bead Game,' and 'Demian'

## **II. SIDDHARTHA**

'Siddhartha' was originally written in German language. This novel was translated into many languages. This is a novel about philosophical spirituality and enlightenment. Siddhartha is the main character who search for enlightenment is the author of Herman Hesse in the main character is Siddhartha. Siddhartha is Herman Hesse's ninth novel. It was translated into English in 1951. The first part of it is dedicated to Romain Rolland and the second part is dedicated to his cousin Wilhelm Gundert. Siddhartha is one of his most important works. In his book, Buddhism is treated with oriental philosophy. In his book, he deals with oriental philosophy, especially Buddhism. This book was published in 1922.

'Siddhartha' is a novel about Siddhartha Gautama's life. The book provides comprehensive information about the Buddhist philosophy. Siddhartha is a prince like a Buddha. Siddhartha is a person that lives in the palace and his only request is real knowledge. Siddhartha's Father opposes his search because if he starts to search for real knowledge then he has to leave the palace and his family. Siddhartha, however, opposed it and left the palace and family for a long time. He has continued his life as a tourist and vagrant. Then he meets the Buddha and they have a long conversation. Buddha tells him about the content of Buddhism. After his long meditation attempts, he decides to find himself and he settles in another city and starts to deal with trade. Then he wants to achieve leads to avoid his inner world. For this reason, he leaves his wife unborn child and money, Then Siddhartha moves to a man who is boating along the edge of a river Vasudeva guides Siddhartha to achieve true knowledge and reach enlightenment. At the end of the novel Siddhartha finds real knowledge and enlightenment

**“It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand Battles, then the victory is yours. It cannot be taken from you”.** – **Buddha**

**Meaning of Enlightenment:** In Siddhartha an unrelenting search for achieving a harmonious relationship with the world. The truth for which Siddhartha and Govinda search is a universal understanding of life or Nirvana. Enlightenment means ‘awakening’. The word enlighten comes from the Latin prefix en means "in, into," and the word lightened meaning light combine these meanings "into the light," a sense of clarity and understanding. The etymology of enlightenment is "en" from Latin and Greek meaning into and "light" from old English meaning the concept of photons that illuminate Brighton or clarify the state of being in the light. The implication is bringing clarity to knowledge.

### **A Tale of Enlightenment in a Novel**

#### **“Knowledge can be transferred but not wisdom” - Siddhartha**

In 1911, Hesse authored many novels about Eastern faiths when he was living in India. Siddhartha, a novel published in 1922, is one of these books that is based on the life of Buddha. Hesse's research on ancient China and Hinduism had a significant impact on his writing.

The home of Siddhartha's parents is described in the first chapter of the book. After that, Siddhartha and his friend Govinda went on to live an austere life and eventually met Gautama Buddha and his followers while he was on leave. At that point, Siddhartha broke away from Govinda. It was recognized that the world was mysterious, much as how he courted the lovely Kamala craftswoman by crossing a river to an intriguing city, and how our world succeeded to the assistance of Kama swami, a trader. The terrified ferryman Vasudeva and Siddhartha then leave the restricted world.

Shakyamuni Buddha, also known as Siddhartha, left his family and entered a hermit society. Nevertheless, he was searching and made the decision to look for just one until he found it. The lifestyle of Siddhartha was not the same as that of Siddhartha Gautama in reality. In the end, he turned into a Brahmin, a samana, a merchant, a ferryman, and someone who sought nirvana—a state of liberation and happiness devoid of sorrow.

He then made the decision to pursue true happiness. Typically, having sex is forbidden for hermits and priests, but Siddhartha managed to get away with it by living with a stunning prostitute until he became a father, all the while continuing to identify as a priest. After that, he spent all of his time searching for wealth and property, becoming well-known as a wealthy man. He asserted, nonetheless, that he was still a guy and did not fit into the group. Ultimately, though, Siddhartha was shown as someone who had reached the pinnacles of the spiritual path. The story of a spiritual and religious man is told in this book, which is universally relevant because it also explores life and how experiences shape who we are. Many of Siddhartha's emotions and ideas are relatable to us as we travel through life.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

Thus, here we show the journey of Siddhartha's life. In the whole novel, he is in search of enlightenment. The story highlights the life of Buddha. But it is not retelling a story. In the last Siddhartha reaches his goal self- realization. Hesse this novel is extraordinary it touches everyone because it talks about self-realization, spirituality, and enlightenment.

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