**Herman Hesse Siddhartha: A Tale of Enlightenment**

**by**

Palak Vyas

Adhoc Professor

Department of English

Shri S.K.Shah & Shri Krishna O.M Arts College, Modasa

**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

**Key Words**: Enlightenment, philosophy, mystic, religion, spirituality

**Introduction**

Siddharth was written by Herman Hesse. who was a German-Swiss poet, novelist and painter. His real name was Herman Karl Hesse. He was born on 2nd July 1877 in Germany. Who was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1946. He was known as an acclaimed novelist and Nobel laureate whose work is known for the individuals' search for self-knowledge and spirituality. Hesse had decided at the age at the age of 12 that he wanted to become a poet. Once he finished his schooling he struggled to identify how to achieve this dream. Hesse lived at a bookshop but quit after three days due to continued frustration and depression his father refused his request to leave home to start a literary career at the age of 19 he began a new apprenticeship at a bookshop in Tubingen where in his spare time he discovered the classic of the German romantics whose themes of spirituality, aesthetic harmony. He expressed that he felt his period of depression and suicidal thoughts was over at last

In 1899 Hesse published a tiny volume of poems and romantic songs after a long break in 1904 he wrote a novel ‘ Peter Camenzind’ which quickly became a huge success after he became very confident and he was started his literary career. In 1911 Hesse left for a trip to Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Sumatra, Borneo, and Burma. This trip though undertaken to find spiritual inspiration. Hesse wrote many spiritual novels like ‘ Stephen Wolf', ' The Glass Bead Game, and 'Demain’

**Siddhartha:**

‘Siddhartha’ was originally written in German language. This novel was translated into many languages. This is a novel about philosophical spirituality and enlightenment. It is the author of Herman Hesse in the main character is Siddhartha. who search for enlightenment. 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 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 the word enlightened comes from the Latin prefix en meaning “in, into” and the word lightened meaning light combine these meanings “into the light” a sense of clarity and understanding.

**A Tale of Enlightenment In A Novel:**

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

Hesse's visit to India in 1911 Hesse drew a study about Eastern religions and Siddhartha is one of the novels that culminated in 1922. It is based on the first life of Buddha. Hindu culture and ancient Chinese. Had a significant impact on his work

The novel opens with a description of Siddhartha’s parents' house. Then Siddhartha followed by his friend Govinda proceeded towards the ascetic life and ultimately found themselves with Gautama Buddha and his disciples where he was on leave and distanced himself from his friend Govinda It was understood that the world was Mysterious as crossing the river to a fascinating city his wooing of the beautiful Kamala artisan and the success of our world with the help of Kama swami, a merchant. Then Siddhartha abandons the bound world with the scared ferryman Vasudeva. Siddhartha also known as Shakyamuni Buddha left his family and went to the hermit community However, he was looking for and decided to look for one one until he reached his goal. Siddhartha’s way of life was different from Siddhartha Gautama's in real life. He became a Brahmin a samana a merchant and a ferryman in the later stages because he wanted to be liberated and happy free from suffering and attain nirvana. then he decided to seek true happiness. Generally for a priest or hermit to indulge in sex is banned but Siddhartha did it by living with a beautiful prostitute until he had a child while he still called himself a priest after that he devoted his time to looking for money and property until he was known as a rich man. However, he said that he did not belong to the community and was still a man. However, finally, Siddhartha was described as a person who has attained the goals of the spiritual journey.This novel is relevant to everyone because it tells the tale of a spiritual and religious man it is also a tale about life and how life is experienced this makes us become who we are many of Siddhartha’s feelings and thoughts are familiar to ours as we make our way along with the road of our own lives.

**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.

**References:**

1. Bhambar, S.B Herman Hesse’s Siddhartha- A Dualist Spiritual Journey, volume 10:3, March 2010,14 Feb. 2014, web.
2. Hesse, Hermann, Siddhartha, New Delhi-110002: Azeem Ahmad Khan for General press. 2012. Print
3. Hesse, Hermann. Siddhartha, India: Maple Press, 2017.
4. https:// en.m. wikipedia.org
5. Hesse, Herman, Siddhartha An Indian Tale. New York. Penguin Books,1999.
6. Hesse, Herman Karl. Siddhartha Trans.Hilda Rosner. New York Bantom Books,1971 print.