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Chronicling the Pain of Conflict-hit Kashmiris: A Study of Mirza Waheed's The Book of Gold Leaves

Mohd Nageen Rather

Abstract

Chronicling the Pain of Conflict-hit Kashmiris: A Study of Mirza Waheed's The Book of Gold Leaves

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Abstract

Kashmir being the most militarised zone in the world, has suffered miserably and its people are the most victimised as they are the worst casualties of conflict. Mirza Waheed being one of the native writers in contemporary times to speak of Kashmiris captures the painfully scattered lives of these traumatised people who are forced to live a difficult life. He gives the voice to the untold stories that are part of the conflict of Kashmir. Waheed writes with a palpable affection for Kashmir and its peoples and gives glimpses of dozens of people whose fragile, fascinating lives are so ruthlessly marred by this conundrum.

The present paper is a study on how his novel *The Book of Gold Leaves* is engaged with the tumult and violence prevalent in Kashmir and how well it depicts the pain and sufferings of the oppressed Kashmiris who have been suffering since the onset of insurgency, counter- insurgency and other gory happenings.

Keywords: Kashmir, Victimised, Militarized zone, Contemporary, Conflict, Ruthlessly, Indian forces

Chronique de la douleur des Cachemires en conflit: étude du livre de Mirza Waheed sur <<Les feuilles d'or>>

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Chronicling the Pain of Conflict-hit Kashmiris: A Study of Mirza Waheed's The Book of Gold Leaves. *LiBRI. Linguistic and Literary Broad Research and Innovation*. 6 (2) 30. [40]. Dharmadhikari, D. (2014). Book review – The Book of Gold Leaves. A City Under Siege: A New Historicist Study of The Book of Gold Leaves by Mirza Waheed.

Résumé. Le Cachemire, étant la zone la plus militarisée zone dans le monde, a souffert terriblement et ses habitants sont les plus victimisés parce qu'ils sont les pires victimes du conflit. Mirza Waheed, étant l'un des écrivains natifs de nos temps qui parle des Cashemires prisonniers, des vies douloureusement dispersées des gens traumatisés, qui sont obligés à vivre une vie difficile. Il raconte des histoires jamais racontées qui sont partie du conflit de Cachemire. Waheed écrit avec une affection palpable pour le Cachemire et ses habitants et jette un coup d'œil sur douzaines de personnes dont les vies fragiles et fascinantes sont si impitoyablement gâchées par cette énigme.

Le présent article est une étude sur la façon dont son roman *Le livre des feuilles d'or* est engagé dans le tumulte et la violence qui prévalent au Cachemire et comment il décrit la douleur et les souffrances des Cachemiris opprimés qui souffrent depuis le début de l'insurrection. insurrection et autres événements sanglants.

Mots-clés: Cachemire, victimisé, zone militarisée, contemporain, conflit, impitoyable, des forces indiennes

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www.gahssr.org/proceedings/32.pdf. [45]. Peer, B. (2019). The young suicide bomber who brought India and

Pakistan to the brink of war. www.nytimes.com. [46]. Simpson, D. (2019). States of Terror: History, Theory,

Literature. Mirza Waheed: It's still the same. Just because people are not coming out in the streets to protest for the ninth month running doesn't mean there's no struggle. People have been blinded, people have been killed and maimed in hundreds and thousands. It's inevitable that this kind of brutal repression will leave a people exhausted.

Your book *The Collaborator* brought to focus the precarious lives of Kashmiris living close to the Line of Control, the de facto border with Pakistan. How were you able to narrate those stories so vividly when you have mostly lived in Srinagar city, which isn't close to the border? Your protagonist in the *Book of Gold Leaves* is an artist. You

have also written about your own experience with art while growing up in Kashmir. How big a part of Kashmiri

society is art? Mirza Waheed, a London-based, Kashmiri journalist and author whose first novel, "The

Collaborator", was a finalist in 2011 for the Guardian First Book Award, describes the conflict in Kashmir on Twitter: Do you remember any country that has kept an entire people under lockdown and a communications blackout for a

full month? — Mirza Waheed (@MirzaWaheed) September 4, 2019. The name refers to Shalimar Gardens outside Srinagar in the Kashmir Valley and the book describes changes in Kashmiri society through the eyes of the main

character, who comes from the region. Rushdie recently tweeted: Even from seven thousand miles away it's clear that what's happening in Kashmir is an atrocity. Not much to celebrate this August 15th. Mirza Waheed's new novel

The Book of Gold Leaves is a love story set in war-torn Kashmir. An age-old tale of love 'Waheed writes about war with a devastating and unflinching calm, with the melancholy wisdom of someone attuned to but never hardened by

its horrors' *The Guardian*. The South Asian conflict has found its storyteller in this tense novel of love and war. By Chita Ramaswamy. theguardian.com. *The Book of Gold Leaves* review – Mirza Waheed speaks up for Kashmir.

The South Asian conflict has found its storyteller in this tense novel of love and war. By Chita Ramaswamy. The

South Asian conflict has found its storyteller in this tense novel of love and war. By Chita Ramaswamy. *The Book of Gold Leaves* ad