### **CHAPTER III**

### ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the study presents an analysis of Amir's character and ambition in the novel by using new criticism and psychoanalysis theory. In this analysis, the focus will be devided into three parts as the answer of the statement of the problems. The first part is about characterization, it analyzes the characterization of Amir based on Abram's theory as the basic description of the character through his action, talking, and thinking in the novel. Furthermore, the next analysis shows Amir's guilts toward Hasan through the novel. The last analysis discusses about Amir's ambition to redeem his guilts toward Hasan in the novel.

# 3.1 Amir's Character and Characterization

Amir is the main character in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*. Main character is an important character in a story that is appeared continually so that the main character dominates the story (Nurgiyantoro 176). It means that the reader will be able to understand the behaviour, personality, attitude, and the character of fictional person by how the author characterizes the character. Amir is protagonist, the narrator, and the main character because of his dominant appearance from the beginning to the end of the story.

Amir is a round character because his trait is unstable and change from the beginning until the end of the story. This statement is suitable with Tomlinson's argument, he says that a round character is complex, changeable and has many sides

(29). Amir's trait always change in particular conditions. Sometimes Amir feels very jealous towards Hassan, but on the other hand, he loves Hassan and considers him as his brother. Amir is also hates Hassan and tries to betray him and then throws him out of his house. However, when he grows up he feels remorseful with his behaviour in the past and tries to redeem his guilt. Amir is sure that there is a way to be good again, so he wants to redeem all his guilts in order to make his life much better and to cleanse his concience. Here are some explanations about Amir's character and characterization in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*.

## A. Caring and Kind

Amir is a caring person. He is a person who shows his feeling of affection and concern for other people. Amir's caring toward Hassan can be seen when Amir tries to calm Hassan down when he is crying beside Amir. Slinging his arm around Hassan, pulling Hassan close and letting Hassan rest his head on Amir's shoulder are the body gestures Amir makes that show his affection and concern toward Hassan. So that it can be conclude that Amir is a caring person.

I reached across my seat, slung my arm around him, pulled him close. He rested his head on my shoulder (Hosseini 7).

Amir is also a good person in Afghan. He has the maidens who always obey him. The things that he feels the desire to ask for a help, Hassan never denies his order. Considering Hassan has shown the total respect to Amir, he freely makes Hassan as he wants. I talked to Hassan into firing walnuts with his slingshot at the neighbor's oneeyed Germany shepherd. Hassan never wanted to, but if asked, really asked, he wouldn't deny me (Hosseini 3).

The quotation above explains that Amir is like a king for Hassan. Hassan always hears and does what Amir says. Amir only possesses Hassan as his friend. Wherever he goes, Hassan must be with him.

One day, we were walking from my father's house to Cinema Zainab for a new Iranian movie...(Hosseini 6).

Amir enjoys to play a kind of kid game. He is very pleased to spend his childhood with Hassan. Forgetting the status, what he wants is to have fun like other boys. Amir is not considere himself as the great man's son and not consideres Hassan as his maid. He and Hassan can play, work together as result to have good combination among two persons in real friendship without looking at status.

I read him poems and stories, sometimes riddles-though I stopped reading those when I saw he was far better at solving them than I was (Hosseini 24).

The second proof shows Amir as a caring person appears when Amir asks Sohrab to live with him and his wife in America. Amir asks Sohrab to live with him because Sohrab is the only family he has and he helps Amir in a bloody fight that he faces with Assef. The sentence that the author uses to describe Amir has big caring and affection toward Sohrab.

What had happened in that room with Assef had irrevocably bound us. ... "Would you like to come live in America with me and my wife?" (Hosseini 279). Another proof showing Amir as a caring person is Amir questions toward Sohrab whether he wants Amir to chase the kite or not. Amir tries to get back Sohrab trust by chasing the kite. Amir wants Sohrab believe him that he can give back Sohrab hopes and promise to have a better life in America together. Amir will always do and try everything and anytime what Sohrab wants.

"Do you want me to run that kite for you?" ... I thought I saw him nod. "For you, a thousand times over," (Hosseini 323).

In addititon, Amir is not only playing game and watching movie but he is interested to reading literary work. He spends a lot of time to read books as if there is no much time to play around like another boy. He knows that Hassan is illiterate so he wishes he could make Hassan understand a word through the reading. He and Hassan always work together to solve any problems so that Hassan as his friend would become someone who easily literates a word.

That evening, I climbed the stairs and walked into Baba's smoking room, in my hands the two sheets of paper on which I had scribbled the story (Hosseini 26).

#### **B.** Optimistic

Amir is an optimistic person. He shows his confident and expects the best. Amir as an optimistic person appears when he wants to follow the kite-fighting tournament and won it to get Baba recognitions by showing that he is worthy. Amir knows that he is a good kite fighter so that he believes that he must win and bringt the last kite to Baba. The way Amir believes in himself to follow and to win the kite-

fighting tournament to get Baba recognitions represents Amir has big confident.

Dealing with his confidence, Amir can be concluded as an optimistic person.

I was going to win, and I was going to run the last kite. Then I'd bring it to home and show it to Baba. Show him once and for all that his son was worthy (Hosseini 49).

Amir is proud to Hassan, proud to the kite side. Amir confesses Hassan is the best one in running kites and it can make his friendship more solid through what Hassan does to Amir.

I was going to win. There was no other viable option. I was going to win, and I was going to run that last kite. Then I'd bring it home and show it to Baba. Show him once and for all that his son was worthy. Then may be my life as a ghost in this house would finally be over (Hosseini 49).

Amir is optimist in reaching the thing that he loves. He convinces himself that he is going to win kite fighting competition. Soon, he figures out that his father will be proud to him, if he wins the game and he will be easy to get the attention of his father. He believes that if he likes that game his father will love him like his own son.

People were stomping their feet, clapping, whistling, chanting...I wondered if Baba's voice was one of them (Hosseini 57).

All people need support in every competition from the others. Amir strongly need the support especially from his father. He is not certainly sure that his father fighting his spirit but he is not hopeless what he expects is to win the game and surely his father will be highly proud of him. Then I saw Baba on the roof. He was standing on the edge, pumping both of his fists. Hollering and clapping. And that right there was the single greatest moment of my twelve years of life, seeing Baba on that roof, proud of me at last (Hosseini 58).

Amir as an optimistic person also can be seen when Amir sees there are only two kites which keep flying on the sky and his kite is one of them. Amir tries to concentrate to the last blue kite and it brought him to smell a victory he believed he could get.

All I saw was the blue kite. All I smelled was victory (Hosseini 57).

In addition, Amir is the fast-learner on the things that he likes. He wants to make his father proud of him instead of hating on him. Upon his successful of his competition where he could have the appreciation from his father and make his father love him like a real child. He shows an effort to be a diligent person. Although he rarely got the appreciation from his father or was ignored. He does not put his mind on that problem.

That and Hassan, of course. I read everything, Rumi, Hafez, Saadi, Victor Hugo, Jules Verne, Mark Twain, Ian Fleming. When I had finished my mother's books-not the boring history ones, I was never much into those, but the novels, the epics-I started spending my allowance on books (Hosseini 17).

Amir intends to give his father the story that he produced in order to have the appreciation from his father. He again wants to make his father proud of him and expects he could get the word 'good'. But what he expected turns into nothing.

Probably stood there for under a minute, but, to this day, it was one of the longest minutes in my life. Second plodded by, each separated from the next

by an eternity. Air grew heavy, damp, almost solid. I was breathing bricks. Baba went on staring me down, and didn't offer to read (Hosseini 27).

It is clear that Amir does not find any convenient when he is trying to offer his story. The reluctance to face his father arises soon he gets in the room and finds no words from his father. As a boy whose character still immature to face inconvenient circumstance with his own father, it would become trouble. Feeling like an ignored boy.

As always, it was Rahim Khan who rescued me. He held out of his hand and favored me with a smile that had nothing feigned about it (Hoseeini 27).

Fortunately, Amir's spirit does not easily break down, at least he can find someone who is willing to read his story. Although Rahim Khan would read his story he still expects that his father could read it as well.

When they left, I sat on my bed and wished Rahim Khan had been my father (Hosseini 28).

#### C. Patient

Amir as the main character of *The Kite Runner* is patient. He is a person who has the ability to accept delay, rejection, suffering without complaining. Amir as a patient person appears when Sohrab does not answer all Amir questions and Amir keeps maintaining the conversation although he always meet by silence. His ability to accept rejection without complaining when Amir is ignored by Sohrab for many times in the conversation he made can be classified as a patient person.

"How are you?" I said. He didn't answer. ... Again I was met by silence. (Hosseini, 2003:307)

# **D.** Coward

As the main character in *The Kite Runner*, Amir is described as a coward person. He is described as a person who lacks courage when facing a dangerous or unpleasant situation. Mostly, a coward person will try to avoid unpleasant condition he needs to face. It is appears when he was boy. This kind of character appears because Amir has no any other friends except Hassan. He feels happy beside Hassan. However, not like another boy who always play with another boy but he does not. Baba tells Rahim Khan that Amir never fights back to the boys in their neighborhood who tries to annoy him. Amir just droppes his head. Never fighting back and dropping the head when there are boys annoying Amir are Amir's behavior and gestures that show he is a person who lacks of courage to stand for himself. Yet there is no person who likes to be annoyed by another people.

I see how they push him around, take his toys from him, give him a shove here, a whack there. And you know, he never fights back. Never. He just...drops his head and..." (Hosseini 19).

Amir as a coward person also appears when Amir knows Assef and his gang trap Hassan in an alley. Again, this kind of character appears because Amir has no the power to fight another boy the effect of himself who does not know anythings strong. Seeing Hassan is trapped by Assef and his gang makes Amir afraid. The only thing Amir can do just see Hassan from behind one part of the alley, yet he knows that Hassan needs his help. Amir's cowardliness can be seen by his reaction toward the situation, such exhaling his breath slowly and quietly. Amir's reaction such breathing quietly indicates Amir is fear to produce any sound that can be heard by Assef and may lead Assef knows his presence in the alley and it will bring Amir in a bad condition. Dealing with the explanation, Amir reactions above is caused by his lack of courage when he faces dangerous or unpleasant situation.

I realized I still hadn't breathed out. I exhaled, slowly, quietly (Hosseini 63).

Amir is looking for Hassan who does not come back from the running kite. After he finds Hassan is surrounded by his villain friend (Assef). He does not straightly go to them as Amir is coward, no dare to defend his friend Hassan whom he have been loyal to. He sees all the things happen to Hassan but he just sees it without interfering.

I realized I still hadn't breathed out. I exhaled, slowly, quietly. I felt paralyzed. I watched them close in on the boy I'd grown up wit, the boy whose harelipped face had been my first memory (Hosseini 63).

It is distinctly described that Amir is not dare to defend Hassan who has been disturbed by his villain friends. He still watches what his villain friends do to Hassan, he does not even make a move, he hides so that Hassan or his villain friends do not see him.

I opened my mouth, almost said something. Almost. The rest of my life might have turned out differently if I had. But I didn't. I just watched. Paralyzed (Hosseini 64).

Amir has no courage in defending Hassan. He is supposed to say or to defend Hassan from his villain friends. Amir just watches in silent without taking any action where Hassan was tortured by his villain friends, Assef.

Assef knelt behind Hassan, put his hands on Hassan's lips and lifted his bare buttocks. He kept one hand on Hassan's back and undid his own belt buckle with his free hand. He unzipped his jeans. Dropped his underwear. He positioned himself behind Hassan. Hassan didn't struggle. Didn't even whimper. He moved his head slightly and I caught a glimpse of his face. Saw the resignation in it. It was a look I had seen before. It was the look of the lamb (Hosseini 66).

According to the quotation above, it clearly indicates that Amir is not able to close to the scene. Beside, Hassan is unwell-treated by Assef. Amir just looks and feel sorry about what happen to Hassan. If Amir considers Hassan as his friend he is supposed to protect Hassan, as like what Hassan did to him when he faces a problem. The character of Amir spontaneously changes without having any consideration on his friendship. He sees Hassan is suffering. However, he does nothing unless looking at the disgraceful action.

I stopped watching, turned away from the alley. Something warm was running down my wrist. I blinked, saw I was still biting down on my fist, hard enough to draw blood from the knuckles. I realized something else. I was weeping. From just around the corner, I could hear Assef's quick, rhythmic grunts (Hosseini 67).

In fact, Amir is not able to see Assef treats Hassan. The tragedy makes his eyes glassy. He feels shock until he have to turn his head to other direction in order to not witnessing what is happening to Hassan. Finally, his heart is melted and knowing that he is guilty as he does not defend Hassan.

I had one last chance to make a decision. One final opportunity to decide who I was going to be. I could step into that alley, stand up for Hassan-the way he'd stood up for me all those times in the past-and accept whatever would happen to me. Or I could run. In the end, I ran (Hosseini 68).

Amir puzzles himself. The coward and loyalty take a place in his soul. He realizes that Hassan always defend him but he is not able to do the same thing. That is how Amir to pay Hassan. In spite of his friendship with Hassan is so solid, Amir still considers Hassan as his servant instead of a true friend.

Nothing was free in this world. May be Hassan was the price I had to pay, the lamb I had to slay, to win Baba. Was it a fair price? The answer floated to my conscious mind before I could thwart it; He was just a Hazara, wasn't he?

(Hosseini 68).

Another statement which Amir depicted as a coward person also appears after a betrayal toward Hassan. Amir can not live happily since a feeling of guilt and shame always came to him. Amir feels guilt and shame after betraying Hassan can be seen when Amir can not stand to look at the sentences Amir ever carved on his and Hassan's favorite pomegranate tree. Amir is lack of courage to recognize how close his friendship with Hassan, and how shameful he is toward himself by betraying his loyal friend and servant.

The words I'd carved on the tree trunk with Ali's kitchen knife, *Amir and Hassan : The Sultan of Kabul ...* I couldn't stand looking at them now (Hosseini 76).

# **E. Inferior**

Amir in the story is depicted as an inferior person. He is a person who always see himself as a person with low importance and quality. This kind of person usually thinks that he is unworthy and lack of self confidence. Mostly, Amirs inferiority appears dealing with his assumption that Baba hates him. The first situation proves Amir as an inferior person happens when he thinks the reason why Baba prefers to get busy with his own business than has a quality time with Amir. The way Amir assumes the reason Baba does not like to spend more time with him, later make Amir feels that Baba hates him a little, so that shows that Amir as an inferior person. Amir believes that his presence is not important for Baba since he already murdered his mother in his birth.

I always felt like Baba hated me a little. And why not? After all, I had killed his beloved wife, (Hosseini 17).

Amir as an inferior also happen when Amir thinks that his hobby, reading poetry books does not make Baba proud with him. Amir realizes that a real boy and a real man does not read a poetry book. They would prefer to play soccer than bury themselves in a poetry book. Amir thinks that he is not a son that Baba wants to get.

Of course, marrying a poet was one thing, but fathering a son who preferred burying his face in poetry books to hunting...well, that wasn't Baba had envisioned it, I suppose. Real man didn't read poetry ... Real men – real boys – played soccer just as Baba had when he had been young. (Hosseini 17).

The relationship between Amir and his father is not really fair. Amir always feel away from his father attention.

Sometime I asked Baba if I could sit with them, but Baba would stand in the doorway..."Why don't you go read one of those books of yours?" (Hosseini 13).

Amir feels that there is no time to laugh with his father. He does not spend his actual time like another child; spoiling, laughing, joking with his father. Amir really feels that he is unexpected son in his family. His character as young boy is more solicit to have been regarded as good son. He is trying to get his parents charm through conversation, but he finds none.

They were sitting on the dock, feet dangling in the water, fishing poles in hand. I asked Baba why they grew their hair long, but Baba grunted, didn't answer (Hosseini 13).

Furthermore, all of these are the effect of his action toward Hassan when he gets rapped by Assef. His attitude is change into bad then he always think about negative thinking toward Hassan and his father.

## F. Anxious

Amir is an anxious person. He is a person who easy to worry or to feel uncomfortable about something that is happening or might happen in the future. The first proof showing Amir as an anxious person is Amir gestures and body responses when he is seeing Hassan being trapped by Assef and his gang in a alley. Amir feels his body clench up and cold rippled up his spine. Clenching up the body and producing something cold ripple up in Amir's spine can be see as Amirs worry and uncomfortable feeling when he sees an unpleasant condition experienced by Hassan. Blocking Hassan way out of the alley...Wali..Kamal..Assef... I felt my body clench up, and something cold rippled up my spine (Hosseini 62).

The second proof showing Amir as an anxious person appears when he becomes insomniac and he tries to say to anyone who sleeps near him that he watched Hassan got raped. Amir hopes someone will hear his confession, so that he will not have to live with that kind of lie anymore. He feels worry and uncomfortable toward an unpleasant situation he experienced which gives a bad impact toward his psychology after letting and hiding a rude fact that Hassan got raped by Assef.

" I watched Hassan get raped," I said to no one. ... A part of me was hoping someone would wake up and hear, so I wouldn't have to live with this lie anymore... That was the night I became an insomniac. (Hosseini 75).

Since his friendship with Hassan is built, he never considers Hassan as his slave, but after the sad event happened. Amir assumptions about Hassan drastically changes. He even puzzles on Hassan with his status. He gets something to sacrifice to pay his dignity as a good person. He has a doubt on his friendship since Assef threates Hassan, whereas he has known for a long time that Hassan is Hazara. Here, it is indicated that Amir has no principle upon the life that he is walking on.

I was grateful for the early-evening shadows that fell on Hassan's face and concealed mine. I was glad I didn't have to return his gaze. Did he know I know? And if he knew, then what would I see if I did look in his eyes? Blame? Indignation? Or, God forbid, what I feared most: guileless devotion? That, most of all, I couldn't bear to see (Hosseini 69).

The quotation above also indicates that Amir still remains silent on what happened to Hassan. He even pretends that he does not witness the things on the scene when Hassan gets rapped by Assef. Surely, he becomes uncomfortable if Hassan knew that Amir witnessed the violence on him. Beside that Amir also feel guilty, feel unfair upon Hassan.

He opened his arms. I put the kite down and walked into his thick hairy arms. I buried my face in the warmth of his chest and wept. Baba held me close to him, rocking me back and forth. In his arms, I forgot what I'd done. And that was good (Hosseini 69).

As a young boy, Amir finds no one who can reduce his sorrow unless his father. Sorrow which caused by his own cowardice, he then fells that he betrayes the friendship. A betrayal which breaks his heart, feels guilty all day long. He never tells his father about what he has seen. Every youngest boy does the same thing in order to be good to shelter under their father, or mother touch. Amir continues to live on. As his relation with his father is now becoming normal. Amir is not a young boy who is willing to remain silent if something bothers him.

Everyone in the van was talking, talking loudly and at the same time, nearly shrieking, which is how Afghans talk. I asked one of the twins-Fazila or Karima, I could never tell which was which-if she'd trade her window set with me so I could get fresh air on account of my car sickness (Hosseini 72).

It is normal for the young-age boys who travels away to fell uncomfortable during the trip. However, the things not all boys dare to order the one to reduce their carsick. Amir feels no harm if he does so even the one is unfamiliar with him. So, his impatient character rises soon he feels something which makes him goes unhappy. Baba and I were finally friends. We'd gone to the zoo a few days before, seen Marjan the lion, and I had hurled a pebble at the bear when no one was watching (Hosseini 74).

Every single day will be bright as his father care about him. Although he has

been good with his father, he still feels guilty upon Hassan, wanting to tell to anyone.

An hour later, I still couldn't sleep. I kept tossing and turning as my relatives grunted, sighed, and snored in their sleep. I sat up. A wedge of moonlight streamed in through the window..... I watched Hassan get raped, I said to no one (Hosseini 75).

The quotation above indicates that Amir can not be able to bear the burden.

He wants everybody to wake up and to listens his words. The words can relieve his

painful, he does not want to lie any more, a lie that makes him feel more

uncomfortable.

I DIDN'T SPEAK TO HASSAN until the middle of the next week. I had just half-eaten my lunch and Hassan was doing the dishes. I was walking upstairs, going to my room, when Hassan asked if I wanted to hike up the hill. I said I was tired (Hosseini 75).

In fact, Amir still feels guilty to Hassan. However Hassan really does not

know that Amir saw the rape. Amir himself remains under bad feeling upon Hassan.

It is his mistakes that makes him hates Hassan. The guilty delivers him loose relation

between him and Hassan.

I went downstairs, crossed the yard, and entered Ali and Hassan's living quarters by the loquat tree. I lifted Hassan's mattress and planted my new watch and a handful of Afghani bills under it. I waited another thirty minutes. Then I knocked on Baba's door and told what I hoped would be the last in a long line of shameful lies (Hosseini 90-91). Amir as an anxious person also can be see when he feels guilty after uttering Hassans name, when Rahim Khan said that he is living with Hassan in Kabul. Feeling the air is too thick and too hot can be see as a symbol that Amir is worry and uncomfortable feeling toward an unpleasant situation that is happening. Yet a normal person with normal feeling or emotion will not feel a thick and hot of the air, suddenly. Amir gets difficult in breathing which belongs to anxiety's physical effect. The anxiety's physical effect experienced by Amir, as an anxious person, such difficulty in breathing belongs to heart palpitation. Heart palpitation is a condition of breathings difficulty that is caused by abnormality of heartbeat that range from often unnoticed skipped beats or accelerated heartrate to very noticeable change. Palpitation can be brought on by anxiety.

"Hassan," I said. ... Those thorny old barbs of guilt bore into me once more, ... Suddenly the air in Rahim Khan's little flat was too thick, too hot,... (Hosseini 176).

Hearing from Rahim Khan that Hassan is Amirs half illegitimate brother, makes Amir shows his anxiety that indicates him as an anxious person. The swooping up and down and swaying side to side room represent Amir's shock which later leads him to experience a worry and uncomfortable feeling. It also indicates to Amir's dizziness. Dealing with the definition of dizziness, dizziness is described as a feeling of as if everything is turning round and being unable to balance. Amir's dizziness shows Amir's physical effect of his anxiety. Dizziness is a symptom usually accompanies heart palpitation which is brought on by anxiety that makes heartbeat beats abnormally.

I felt like a man sliding down a steep cliff, ... The room was swooping up and down, swaying side to side (Hosseini 195).

Amir as an anxious person also appears when Amir thinks whether he is the cause of Hassan's death or not. Amir knows that he has not brought the Taliban to the house and asked them to kill Hassan, although in the other hand Amir admitted to himself that the condition would be different if he never sent Hassan out from his home and his life. Amir gets a dilemma by thinking whether he can be considered as the cause that Hassan is dead or not shows that Amir is worried.

I hadn't brought the Taliban to the house to shoot Hassan. But I had driven Hassan and Ali out of the house. ..things might have turned out differently if I hadn't? (Hosseini198).

Amir as an anxious person also appears when he knows that the Taliban leader who is standing in front of him, Assef, makes him nervous, afraid and worried. Trying to take a breath but Amir can not do shows Amir's worry. Later, Amir's worrying makes Amir feels as if his face is burning out. So that, a feeling of a burned face Amir get, can be see as a big uncomfortable feeling that appears within Amir himself which Amir tries to handle.

I tried to take a breath and couldn't. ...My face was burning. ..."Assef" (Hosseini 246).

The last proof showing Amir as an anxious person can be seen in a moment when he finds Sohrab get suicide trial. Amir is really shocked, he feels on his own knees and scream. Amir's act such falling down on his knees and scream, shows that Amir worry and uncomfortable feeling toward what he sees at that time.

Sohrab!... I knocked on the bathroom door. I pushed the door open. ... Suddenly I was on my knees, screaming (Hosseini 299).

# G. Selfish

In *The Kite Runner*, Amir as main character appears as a selfish person. He is a person who thinks first of his own interests, needs, etc without having concern for other. Amir as a selfish person can be see when Amir prefers to run away and to betray Hassan. In Amir's way from escaping and being afraid toward what he saw, Amir tries to calm himself down by saying that nothing is free in this world. Amir does not account Hassan as his closest friend who always does everything to him. Amir does everything to save his kite as the key to get Baba's recognition and respect.

Assef was right: Nothing was free in this world. Maybe Hassan was the price I had to pay, the lamb I had to slay, to win Baba. ... He was just a Hazara, wasn't he? (Hosseini 68).

Day by day Amirs character tends to be bad, he hopes Hassan and his father are evicted from his house. It is because Hassan attracts Baba's attention. He even does not want Hassan become his friend. Amir wants Hassan to leave his house through the trick that he played, he thought by doing that way, Hassan and his father become uncomfortable staying in his house and hoping they would be evicted by Amir's father. I love him in that moment, loved him more than I'd over loved anyone, and I wanted to tell them all that I was the snake in the grass, the monster in the lake (Hosseini 92).

Amirs hope is already reached. He baits Hassan for his own purpose, for bad

reason Amir uses Hassan to save him about the stealing. He pays the sacrifice of

Hassan with disgrace way, he traps Hassan in deepest pain.

Strangely, I was glad that someone knew me for who I really was; I was tired of pretending (Hosseini 92)

So, it is clearly said that Amir is finally found himself in wrong way. The pain that he suffer flies away soon he finds out that Hassan and Ali knew his bad manner upon Hassan.

I overheard him telling Baba how he and his brother knew the Russian and Afghan soldiers who worked the checkpoints, how they had set up a "mutually profitable" (Hosseini 99).

# H. Sly

In *The Kite Runner*, Amir is described as a sly person. He is a person who deceives another person and tries to make someone believes something that is not true. Amir as a sly person appears when he tries to send out Hassan from his home and his life dealing with his guilt after betraying Hassan due to his willing to get his fasther respect and recognition. Amir efforts to send Hassan out from his home reveals by putting some cash and his watch under Hassan mattress when Hassan and Ali are going out to the bazaar. After putting the money and watch, Hassan goes to

see Baba and says that he loses his moneys and watch. Amir does this trick to make the situation as if Hassan stole his money and watch. Dealing with the explanation to the context above, putting some cash or money and watch under Hassan mattress and later seeing Baba to say that he just loss his money and watch can be seen as Amir efforts to deceive Hassan and to make Baba sees Hassan as the thief. Amir does everything to make Hassan out from his life. Their friendship is broken because of Amir's attitude toward Hassan after the incident in the alley.

Then I took a couple of the envelopes of cash from the pile of gifts and my watch,... I went to downstairs, crossed the yard, and entered Ali and Hassan's living... I lifted Hassan's mattress and planted my new watch and a handful of Afghani bills under it (Hosseini 90-91).

From the explanation above, it can be conclude Amir as the main character of *The Kite Runner* belongs to a dynamic character. Amir as a dynamic character can be see by his some efforts he does to reach his ambitions such as winning the kite tournament, betraying Hassan to save the kite to get Baba's recognition and respect, making a trick to send Hassan out from his home dealing with guilt he gets after betraying Hassan, going to Kabul to take out Sohrab, Hassan sons, from Kabul to redeem his guilt toward Hassan as his half illegitimate brother, and chasing the kite for Sohrab to prove his willing to get back Sohrab's trust. Meanwhile, Amir's characteristic as a dynamic character can be seen by his changed personality, although he has some traits or general description revealed in the story. In the beginning of *The Kite Runner*, Amir appears as a caring person toward Hassan, in

addition to the end of the novel he still appears as a caring person but toward Sohrab as Hassan's son.

### 3.2 Amir's Guilts Toward Hassan

Throughout the novel Amir is plagued by the guilt. Guilt is an emotion that people experience because they are convinced that they have caused harm. In cognitive theory, the thoughts cause the emotions. The guilt of emotion follows directly from the thought that you are responsible for someone's misfortune, whether or not this is the case.

The explanation above is in line with the friendship between the two main characters, Amir and Hassan is potrayed. This novel shows Amir's guilts toward his best friend, Hassan. The reason Amir betray Hassan is getting Baba acceptances. Amir needs Baba to accept him as his one and only son. However, Baba always compares Amir to Hassan. Baba dissaproves to Amir behaviours. He consideres Amir not normal because he likes poetry and he never stands up for himself in solving his problems. Baba says that he will never have believed that Amir is his son if he has not seen the doctor pull Amir out from his wife with his own eyes. Amir is very disappointed with his father because he does not consider Amir as his son and gives more attantion to Hassan rather than himself. Amir will do anything to get the acceptance and affection from his father, although he is betraying Hassan.

### A. Deserting Hassan when he gets raped by Assef.

Amir's first betrayal happen when a kite tournament is held in Amir's districts. Amir is very glad with this event because flying kites is the only activity that is consistently brings him and Baba closer.

".... the child between Baba and me thawed a little. And the reason for that was the kites. Baba and I lived in the same house, but in different spheres of existence. Kites ware the one paper-thin slince of intersection between those sphrese" (Hosseini 46).

Amir wants to be a winner. He wants to please his father. All this time his

father did not really like it when he wrote. Her father hopes Amir can become a great

footballer. Even if he ever tried it but it happens is he became a very lame player in

the field. Kite is one way to unite himself with his father.

In flying kite, Amir and Hassan are a great team. Their hands bleed from

holding the sharp strings, but their hearts are filled with hope to win the tournament.

Amir focuses and surprisingly cuts another kite and wins.

"Hassan, we....." I know, Inshaallah, we'll celebrate later. Right now, I'm going to run that the blue kite for you,"he said. "Hassan! Come back with it!" He cupped his hands around his mouth then said "For you a thousand times over!"(Hosseini 63).

The kite match was won by Amir. His knees stand in the heavens. And finally he was able to break his opponent's kite rope and stay in his own air. The cut off kite was chased by Hassan. When Hassan says, "You won," Amir corrects him by saying "We won" because Hassan assists him to win the tournament, so the kite and the victory is theirs. The true victory for Amir is seeing Baba shouting with pride. Then Hassan decides to run the cut kite for Amir. When Hassan runs, Amir stops him and tells him to come back with the kite.

Not long time after that, Amir searches for Hassan and the kite. However, he finds Assef, Wali, and Kamal confronting Hassan in an alley. Assef initially demands that Hassan gives him the kite, but Hassan refuses his demand.

Amir's betrayals begin when Assef stares to rape Hassan in the alley. Amir just watches the incident and does nothing to help Hassan. As Assef is raping Hassan, Amir sees Hassan with a weak face during the incident and compares it to the sacrificial lamb that is led to the slaughter. Hassan comparisons to the lamb emphasizes how Hassan sacrifices himself to defend the kite for Amir. Hassan is a very brave person, but in the fight with Assef and his friends, he does not fight back. Rather, he accepts his fate because his loyalty to Amir. He is willing to suffer even the violent rape. Amir actually has the opportunity to stand up for Hassan, but instead he chooses to run. He can help Hassan, like the way when Hassan always stands up for him and accepts whatever what happens to him.

"In the end, I ran. I ran because I was coward. I was afraid of Assef and what he would do to me. I was afraid of getting hurt" (Hosseini 72).

When Hasan gets his last kite and will give it to Amir, he is intercepted by Assef. Assef is a boy his father is a pilot. He hates Hasan very much because Hasan is a Hazarite. He also hates Ami. Every time Assef will hurt Amir. Hasan always protected him. It was then that Hasan alone brought the kites he would give to Amir. Assef and his two friends hurt Hasan. Assef rapes Hasan. Amir who saw the incident did nothing at all. Instead he was hiding and leaves Hasan just like that.

Amir does not have the courage to face Assef to help Hassan. He is just a privileged child and not very strong phsycally, emotionally, or spiritually. Amir also rememberes Assef's saying that nothing is free in the world.

"......Bakhsida. Forgiven. It's done. His voice dropped a little. Or course, nothing is free in this world, and my pardon comes with a small price" (Hosseini 68).

Amir thinks maybe Hassan is the price he has to pay his father sympathy. Amir attends to rationalize his decisions with the dehumanizing thought that Hassan is just a Hazara. Amir hits and does not show up until Assef and the other boys left. He then approaches Hassan who gives him the kite. Yet he and Hassan do not discuss what had happened. Amir pretends not to hear the crew in Hassan's pants while they are walking home. When they reach home, Amir enters his father's study room and moves toward his father arms. Baba holds Amir close to him. In his father's arms, Amir forgets about what he has done and what has happened to Hassan. He feels much better. He knows that he has already betrayed Hassan when he leaves him and pretends not to see the rape. At the same time, Amir also feels guilty because he cannot stand up for Hassan.

## B. Accusing Hassan who steals his wristwatch and money.

Another instance that tend to Amir guilts toward Hassan is when Amir recieves two gifts from Baba, a brand new Schwin Stingray, the king of all bicycles, and a wristwatch with a blue face and gold hands in the shape of lightning bolts. While Amir is opening all his gifts, he is continously thinking about Hassan. Amir is wrecking with guilt and when he attempts to receive phsycal punishment which does not work, he needs to find another way to make his life more endurable. Then Amir decides that Hassan has to leave their household in order to make both of them happy.

"I flinched, like I'd been slapped. My heart sank and I almost blurted not te truth. Then I understood; This was Hassan's final sacrifice for me. If he'd said no, Baba would have believed him because we all knew Hassan never lied. And if Baba believed him, then i'd be the accused; I would have to explain and I would be revealed for what I really was, Baba would never, ever forgive me" (Hosseini 97-98).

One day, when Amir takes his new bike for a ride, Ali and Hassan are in the yard cleaning up the mess from a party of Amir birthdays. Ali stops Amir to give him a present from himself and Hassan, a new copy of the *Syahnamah*, the book from which he has so often read to Hassan. The book has a hard back with glossy colour illustrations beneath the passages. When Ali goes home, Amir buries the book at the bottom of his pile of presents so it will not torment him with guilt. Then he begins scheming how to get rid of Hassan. Before he goes to bed at night, he asks Baba about his new wristwatch. The next moring, when Hassan and Ali are shopping, Amir hides his wrsitwatch and a money under Hassan's bed. Then he enters his father's study rooms and tells what he has hoped will be the last in a long line of shameful lies

by saying that Hassan is stealing his money and wristwatch. Then Baba calls for a meeting with Ali and Hassan in his office. When they arrive, Baba asks Hassan whether he is stealing Amir's money and wristwatch or not. Hassan admitts to stealing them. Amir flinchs like he has been slapped. He almost tells the truth. But he understands that Hassan is sacrificing for him one last time. Hassan knows if he says "no", Baba will trust him and Amir will be accused and Baba will never forgive Amir. So, Hassan choses to lie to Baba because he wants to protect Amir.

In the morning, Ali says that they will leave their house. He tries to protect Hassan from Amir because he already knows everything. In his cold glance, Amir understands that Hassan has told Ali about the rape and about how Amir does not defend Hassan. Strangely, Amir is glad that someone knows him. When Baba keeps begging Ali to stay, Ali insists that he and Hassan have to leave. Ali does not tell his reasons to Baba.

"Ali didn't tell Baba, just as e didn't protest when hassan confessed to the stealing. I'll never really know why, but I could imagine the two of them in that dim little hurt, weeping, Hassan pleading im not to give me away. But I couldn't image the restraint it must have taken Ali to keep that promise" (Hosseini 99).

So, when Baba takes Hassan and his father to the bus station, Amir watches from his room and wishes that he can run outside, chases the car and screames to beg Hassan and Ali not to leave. He wants to apologize and says that he regrets everything he did. However Amir does not. He just keeps silent in his room and watches them until they disappeare.

### 3.3 Amir's Ambition to Redeem His Guilts

When Amir and his father, Baba, move to Fremont, Califonia, there is a shadow likes shame on himself. Amir betrays Hassan several times in this novel; however, the two most important cases are when he does not help Hassan during the rape and when he frames Hassan for stealing his watch and his money. He needs an ambition to redeem his guilt towards Hassan.

Ambition is energy, expressed in active behavior toward some purpose or aspiration (Tatenhaves 19). In Freudian theory, based on id, ego and superego concept, the ambition is in the id structural.Considering to Freud's concept about id, ego, and superego, everything that Amir does to redeem his guilts can be categorized as the fulfillment of the need of freedom to save his life from anxiety. Revering to Miller, id is the source of all our aggression and desire. Id has function to gratify our instinct for pleasure without regard for social convention. Amir's need and desire to get Estellas love is categorized as id since it is about redemption and happiness. Amir responses his desire by doing everything that can support his ambition. Amir tries to do everything to redeem his guilts such us leaving his wife to go to Kabul, asking Rahim Khan about his ambition, until fighting against Assef as his long enemy to save Hassan from his residence and bringing him to America. Amir wants to be better.

Everything that Amir does has a purpose to reach his ambition. His action as a result of his strong desire can be seen as his ego. Ego works based on reality principle when a person is able to satisfy his need with the risk of being punishment by society.

In this case, his ego works properly toward the id. When Amir meets and discusses with Rahim Khan before go to Kabul, Rahim Khan suggests to pay attention with society around him. Amir is a polite person and has good attitude more over with person around him. It means his ego works dominant then the id with attention the superego. Everything what Amir does still follows the role of the society in Kabul. Unlike with that condition before in Kabul, Amir's attitude has been changed by his ambition. He builds new image for himselve. Amir wants to have good image in his new community in Kabul. He wants no one knows about his originality that he is from foreign village.

Miller states that super ego represents the ideal rather than the real, and it strives for perfection rather than for reality or pleasure (31). Amir follows the norms and rules in reaching his ambition. It means that Amir should follow the steps to reach his target such us accepting the offer from Rahim Khan to go to Kabul and following his driver's suggestions. Although, in reality Amir has to leave his family and his town. However, his unconscious is more dominate. Amir's id is stronger than his ego. It means Amir's ego is stronger and influenced by his desire to reach his big ambition to redeem his guilts.

#### A. Doing a journey to Pakistan to meet Rahim Khan

The first ambition he does to redeem Rahim Khan (his father's friend) respects. Rahim offers Amir an opportunity to right the wrongs that has been done.

"Come. There is a way to be good again "(Hosseini 177).

Those words indicate that there is an action Amir can take to redeem himself from the guilt he has committed in his youth. He is very confused in order to leave his wife or going to Paskistan to meet Rahim Khan. Finally he gets permission from his wife. However he lies to him about his purpose to go to Pakistan. There is something very important to tell from his father's friend. Rahim Khan, Amir's uncle calls from Afghanistan to ask Amir to come because he is seriously ill. Amir says goodbye to Soraya to return to Afghanistan for one week. Amir finds out that Rahim Khan is seriously ill. Rahim Khan gives a letter from Hasan. In the letter Hasan says if he has married a Hazara woman and has a son named Sohrab. A name is taken from the story of Shahnameh "Rostam and Sohrab" whom Amir likes to read to Hasan on a hill under a pomegranate tree. In the letter there is also a palaroid photo of Hasan and Sohrab that Rahim Khan has taken a few months earlier. This kind of action tends to Amir's ego in the novel.

Another strong reason why Amir should redeem his guilt is that Amir and Hassan are half-brothers which revealed by Rahim. He says that Baba is the one who is getting Sanaubar pregnant, makes Hassan his son.

"He was married once before, to a Haza woman from the Jaghori area. This is long before you were born. They are married for three years. She leaves him childless after three years and marries a man in Khost.
"Ali was sterile," Rahim Khan said.
"No, he was not. He and Sanaubar had Hassan, did not thay? They had Hassan .... "
"No they did not," Rahim Khan said.
"Yes they did!"
"No they did not, Amir."

"Then who ..." "I think you know who" (Hosseini 205-206).

Rahim Khan says if Hasan and his wife died of being killed by the Taliban. While Sohrab lives in an orphanage. Rahim Khan asks Amir to fetch Sohrab from the orphanage and moves him to a better orphanage. Initially Amir refuses. Afghanistan is not a safe place. He can be killed and even exposed to landmines scattered in various places. Then Rahim Khan says if he had known the reality that had been hidden by Amir. He also said If Hasan is the son of Amir's father. Ali is actually barren.

Amir is very shocked knowing about this fact. Rahim also explains that no one but himself, Baba, Ali, and Sanaubar know about the matter in order to preserve their honour.

"It was a shameful situation. People would talk. Ali that a man had back then, all that he was, was his honor, his name, and if people talked.... We couldn't tell anyone, surely you can see that" (Hosseini 206).

Amir is furious about them keeping the secret. When Amir is described to leave Rahim's apartment. Rahim tries to stop him and begs him not to leave, but Amir says that everything is too late and nothing can make things better.

"..... I'm thirty-eight years old and I'v just found out my whole life is one big facking lie! What can you possibly say to make things better? Nothing. Not a goddamn thing!" (Hosseini 206). After leaving Rahim Khan's apartment, Amir feels like a foreigner in his own life because he does not realize that Hassan is his half-brother. Now he knows that Baba always treats Hassan like a son not just he cares for him, but because Hassan is his son. Amir feels utterly stupid because he does not realize that there are many facts that show Hassan is his half brother.

".....They came flying back at me now: Baba hiring Dr. Kumar to fix Hassan's harelip. Baba never missing Hassan's birthday. I remembered the day we were planting tulips, when I had asked Baba if he'd ever consider getting new servants. *Hassan's not going anywhere*, he'd barked. *He's staying right here with us, where he belong. This is home and we're his family.* He had wept, wept, when Ali announced he and Hassan were leaving us" (Hosseini 207-208).

Amir wonders how Baba can break his own cardinal rule about not lying. Amir also wonders how Baba can hide this lie to Hassan. Whereas, Baba once tells him that there is only one sin and that is lying and denying a person about the truth.

"When you tell a lie, you steal someone's right to the truth" (Hosseini 308).

Amir is very angry with Baba. Baba steals from Amir the right to know that Hassan is his brother. Baba also steals Hassan's identity as his son, and steals Ali's honour because he sleeps with Sanaubar, Ali's wife.

Amir now understands the words "like father, like son" is true because he and Baba have a similarity in betraying others. Amir and Baba betray the people who will give their lives for them. Amir realizes that he is the one to be blamed for Hassan and Ali's deaths because he is the one who drive them out from their house and split the family up. He thinks that all the things would be different if he does not drive Hassan and Ali out, because maybe Baba will bring them along to America and they will have a better life.

"Maybe Hassan would have had a home of his own now, a job, a family, a life in a country where no one cared that he was a Hazara, where most people didn't even know what a Hazara was" (Hosseini 209).

Amir is more remorseful. He remembers Rahim Khan's words that there is a way to be good again to end his guilts.And the key to that is finding Hassan's son, Sohrab, somewhere in Kabul and bring him safely to America.

## B. Continuing his journey to save Sohrab from Assef in Kabul

Amir then continues his journey. He intends to go to Kabul by car. Amir thinks that he needs a to leave immediately in order not to change his mind. Amir is afraid if he does not leave immediately he cannot redeem his guilt towards Hassan.

"But I knew I had to leave as soon as possible. I was afraid I'd change my mind. I was afraid I'd deliberate, ruminate, agonize, rationalize, and talk myselg into not going. I was afraid the appeal of my life in America would draw me back, that I would wade back into that great, big river and let myself forget, let the things I had learned these last few days sink to the bottom. I was afraid that I'd let the waters carry me away from what I had to do. From Hassan. From the past that had come calling. And from this one last chance at redemption. So I left before there was any possibility of that happening" (Hosseini 213-214).

Amir faces many obstacles in finding and saving Sohrab. He goes to the orphanage to get Sohrab but unfortunatelyhe is taken by the Talib leader, Assef, an old time enemy of Hassan and himself. Assef tells Amir that he has to kill him first in order to take Sohrab and leave the house. Actually, Amir is afraid to fight against Assef because the memory in his childhood that he is confronting and beating up with Assef and his friends. However, he gathers the courage to fight against Assef because this is his only way to redeem his sins.

When Assef rains violence down on Amir, it is as tough as every blame and injury that Hassan takes for him all at once. Amir remembers when he demands Hassan to throw a pomegranate at him but he refuses. Now, Assef is the one who gives Amir not only what he deserves, but he longs for. Finally, he is getting a punishment for what he did to Hassan. Even though Amir is aware that his body is broken and he can die, he feels healed over to his long affiliction. And for the first time, he feels at peace.

"I hadn't been appy and I handn't felt better, not at all. But I did now. My body was broken---just how badly I wouldn't find out until later---but i felt healed. Healed at last. I laughed" (Hosseini 265-266).

During the fight, Sohrab defends Amir by aiming his slingshot at Assef's eye, just as Hassan does when he defends Amir from Assef in his childhood. Sohrab's defense makes him more willing to redeem his guilts by taking Sohrab away and adopting him.

After the fighting incident, Amir reads a letter that he received from Rahim Khan. In it, Rahim reveals that Hassan told him about the rape soon after it happened. He tells Amir that Amir betrays his best friend, Hassan, but reminds him that he is only a boy at the time. He assures Amir that he is suffering from his guilt so much, only because he is a good and caring person.Rahim asks Amir to forgive himself as well.

"You were right all those years to suspect that I knew, I did know, Hassan told me shortly after it happened. What you did was wrong, Amir jan, but do not forget that you were a boy when it happenend. A trouble little boy.... But I hope you will heed this: A man who has no conscience, no goodness, does not suffer. I hope your suffering comes to an end with this journey to Afghanistan" (Hosseini 276).

On a certain occasion, Amir tells Sohrab that Assef, the Talib leader is a bad man who hurt his father many years ago. He also tells Sohrab that hassan will be very proud of him for saving Amir from the fight.

"The man who hurt you, I knew him from many years ago... So one day the bad man hurt your father instead. He hurt him in a very bad way, and I... I couldn't save your father the way he had saved me. You saved my life in Kabul. I know he is very proud of you for that" (Hosseini 292-293).

Amir reveals to Sohrab that he and Hassan are half-brothers. When Sohrab asks if Baba loves him and Hassan equally, Amir replies, "He loved us equally but differently" (Hosseini 296). After that, Amir says that he wants to take Sohrab to America and adopt him. He also promises Sohrab that he will never need to live in an orphanage. Actually, it is not an easy thing to assure Sohrab to go with him because he has a trauma which makes him afraid to everything. However with Amir's integrity and promise to give Sohrab a good life, Sohrab finally agrees to go home with Amir.

# C. Amir's Sorry toward Hassan

After a long journey, Amir calls Soraya and tells her about his past mistakes towards Hassan and also Hassan is his half-brother in order to reduce the burden in his heart.

"Then I did what I handn't done in fifteen years of marriage: I told my wife everything. Everything. I had pictured this moment so many times, dreaded it, but, as I spoke, I felt something lifting off my cheat" (Hosseini 298).

Soraya agrees to let Amir bring Sohrab home. Amir then takes Sohrab to

American Embassy to see an official in order to get the permission. Afer that, Amir

tells Sohrab that he may have to spend a little more time in an orphanage while he

tries to get the permission letter. Sohrab refuses to be put in an orphanage.

"... if we could ask you to stay in a home for kids for a while."
"Home for kids? You mean as orphanage?"
"It would only be for a little while."
"No, No, please."
"You promised you'd never put me in one of those places, Amir agha,"
"Please! Please, no! I'm scared of that place. They'll hurt me! I don't want to go."
"... Not that place. God, oh God. Please, no!"
"Please promise you won't! Oh God, Amir agha! Please promise you won't!"

"How could I promise? I held him againts me, held him tightly, and rocked back and forth" (Hosseini 312-313).

When Amir almost loses his hope to adopt Sohrab, Soraya calls Amir and

says that her cousin will be able to get Sohrab a visa. Amir is very happy to hear that

and he wants to tell it to Sohrab. But when he finds Sohrab unconcious has his wrists

slit with Amir's razor, he begins to scream and then takes Sohrab to the hospital.

Sohrab attempts to commit a suicide as a result in his traumaticexperiences in an orphanage. And this attempt to commit suicide also teaches Amir how strong an influence in fear towards people lives.

Sohrab's attempts to commit suicide also makes Amir almost loses his opportunity in redemption. If Sohrab dies, he cannot redeem his guilts and thus he cannot live peacefully. Amir prays and begs God to let Sohrab live because Sohrab is the key for Amir to redeem his guilts towards Hassan. Amir will do anything to ensure the boy's safety by saying "my hands are stained with Hassan's blood, I pray God doesn't let them get stained with the blood of this boy too" (Hosseini 317). Finally, Amir is relieved when Sohrab apparently can be saved and lives.

With the great effort, Amir finally gets the permission in letter and officially adopts Sohrab and then takes him home to America.

"And so it was that, abiut a week later, we crossed a trip of warm, black tarmac and i brought Hassan's son from Afghanistan to America, lifting him from the certainty of trumoil and dropping him in a turmoil of uncertainty" (Hosseini 326).

Sohrab and Amir fly to America and Amir intends to take Sohrab's right to life. Slowly but surely, Sohrab who is initially reserved and impressed anti-social because his experience has shaken his life, can smile back.

Amir and Soraya are very happy to adopt Sohrab, They try to approach Sohrab by asking him to fly a kite as he always does with Hassan. Amir tells him that his father is the best kite runner he has ever known. "Did I ever tell you your father was the best kite runner in Wazir Akbar Khan? Maybe all of Kabul? How jealous he made the neighborhood kids. He's run kites and never look up at the sky, and people used to say he was chasing the kite's shadow. But they did not know him like I did. Your father was not chasing any shadow. He just ... knew "(Hosseini 337).

Amir takes Sohrab to the park to play kites. Amir's ability will play a tested kite again and he can subvert a kite near him. Instantly for the first time Sohrab smiled a little.Amir runs the kite for Sohrab and shouts "For you, a thousand times ever!" Hassan shouts when he runs the kite for Amir.

Finally, Amir understands what it is like to be as loyal and loving as Hassan, and can truthfully repeat Hassan's words, "For you, a thousand times ever." Now, Amir can run away from the past in his life, he runs towards something: a connection with Hassan that he can be proud of, a chance to help his nephew's transition into a new life if this is as easy as bringing him the Kite, and an opportunity to act upon his newfound maturity. Again now, Amir is running with freedom in his heart instead of fear. He finally can redeem his guilt and enter a new life free from anxious.