

Appendix 1 : Biography of the Writer

BIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITER

Amitav Ghosh who was born in 1956 in Calcutta, is an Indian-Bengali author and literary critic known for his works in the English language. His father was in the Indian army. It was mainly because of this reason that Amitav Ghosh got the chance to visit a number of countries including Sri Lanka, Iran and Bangladesh. He was educated in Dehra Dun, New Delhi, Alexandria and Oxford and his first job was at the Indian Express newspaper in New Delhi. He earned a doctorate at Oxford before he wrote his first novel, which was published in 1986. He also spent some time at Tunis where he learnt Arabic. In 1980, he went to Egypt to do field work in the fellahen village of Lataifa. From that field work, he wrote a novel based on his experiences living there titled *In An Antique Land* (1992).

In 1999, Ghosh joined the faculty at Queens College, City University of New York as Distinguished Professor in Comparative Literature. He has also been a visiting professor to the English department of Harvard University since 2005. So far, he had published *The Circle of Reason* (1986), *The Shadow Lines* (1990), *In an Antique Land* (1992), *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1995), *Dancing in Cambodia*, *At Large in Burma* (1998), *Countdown* (1999), *The Glass Palace* (2000), and *The Imam and the Indian* (2002), *The Hungry Tide* (2004), and his most recent novel, *Sea of Poppies* (2008), is the first volume of the Ibis Trilogy. Ghosh's fiction is characterised by strong themes that may be somewhat identified with postcolonialism

Ghosh's very first book *The Circle of Reason* won the Prix Medici Estranger, one of France's top literary awards, *The Shadow Lines* won the Sahitya Akademi Award, India's most prestigious literary award. *The Calcutta Chromosome* won the Arthur C. Clarke Award for 1997 and is to be filmed by Gabriele Salvatores, the Oscar-winning director of *Mediterraneo*. And recently his latest book *The Glass Palace*, won the \$50,000 Grand Prize at the International Frankfurt eBook Awards ceremony. The book was also named the Eurasia

regional winner for the 2001 Commonwealth Writers' Prize – and was a finalist for the overall contest, before Ghosh withdrew it from the competition stating that he does not like literature being classified under the “Commonwealth” category. In 1999, Ghosh was a finalist in the reporting category for the National Magazine Awards. Ghosh was also the winner of the 1999 Pushcart Prize, a leading literary award, for an essay that was published in the Kenyon Review, *The March of the Novel through History: My Father's Bookcase*. *The Hungry Tide* won the Hutch Crossword Book Prize in 2006. In 2007 Amitav Ghosh was awarded the Grinzane Cavour Prize in Turin, Italy. At that year, he was also awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government.

Amitav Ghosh has written for many publications, including the Hindu, The New Yorker and Granta, and he has served on the juries of several international film festivals, including Locarno and Venice. He has taught at many universities in India and the USA, including Delhi University, Columbia, the City University of New York and Harvard. He no longer teaches and is currently writing the next volume of the Ibis Trilogy.

Ghosh lives in New York with his wife, Deborah Baker, author of the Laura Riding biography *In Extremis: The Life of Laura Riding* (1993) and a senior editor at Little, Brown and Company. They have two children, Lila and Nayan. He divides his time between Kolkata, Goa and Brooklyn.

Appendix 2 : Summary

SUMMARY

Arjun was born with his twin at the time when the British has been colonizing India for centuries. One day, without telling his family, he sits for the examination for the Indian Military Academy in Delhi. At that time, recruitment into the British army had been ruled by racial policies, only people from a military village are allowed to be soldiers in the British Army and Bengoli is not one of them. Military village is a village where most of the men are sent to become Indian soldiers for the army. This kinds of village usually has affiliation with the Army to provide the soldiers. When Arjun receives the letter for his acceptance, he is so happy since being an officer is a ready-made career, he will get promotions without fail in this job and he will also get money, status, and power too. After he graduates, he then joins the 1st Jats battalion as an officer. He is very proud of being able to join this battalion for this battalion has many rewards and given the name 'Royal' by the Queen. He considers himself as a part of the elite, the chosen one, to be one of the first generation who has the same position, eats the same food, and lives together with British. At that time it is very rare to have a sight of an Englishman, much less to talk with them. The British is kind of regarded as the ruler.

In the army, Arjun has a good friend, Hardy, who is in the same battalion with him and they always together most of the time in the army. Unlike Hardy, however, Arjun regards being an officer as only a job. Hardy regards it as more than a job, that is because he is raised in the military rooted family and lives in a military village. He always talks to Arjun by the means of questions about his thought and doubt regarding the meaning of their fight and the British structure which did not benefit them as an Indian. When the battalion is sent to Malaya, they see the prosper city; however, the Indians who live there are poor. The natives there live lavishly, their life standard there could be compared with the British's life standard in India who in India could only be compare by the richest of the rich Indians. While the

Indians there mostly work as labourers are still as poor as the people in India. The contrast between these two astonish them and makes them to take a notice of the poors since there is a big gap between them. In Malaya, Arjun and his friends are treated like the poor Indians when they go to the market out of uniform. The Malayan people treat them like they are no one and some with akin of pity. That experience is new for the Indian officers and that affects their mind greatly. It hurts their pride since they always think that they are the band of chosen, the elites.

At that time, there are already many provocative pamphlets and propagandas written by prominent figures in India at time, such as Mahatma Gandhi and Amreek Singh, asking the Indians army for what and why they fought. Due to that pamphlet, many Indian officers in many areas quit the army and join the Indian National Army. When the army was in Malaya to prepare themselves encounter with Japanese army that wanted to expand their territory in Malaya, provocative pamphlets are dropped from a plane. Many Indians army, Arjun's subordinate, are interested in these pamphlets, but Arjun took the pamphlets and threatened them that whoever found with that pamphlet will be up for court martial.

In the end, when his battalion is pressed by the Japanese army, many of the Indians soldier and officers including Hardy had changed their mind and wanted to join the Indian National Army and fought the British. Arjun, who actually already has doubts regarding British colonialism but always conceals it before for his loyalty to the British Army, finally gives up and joins the Indian National Army too. He decides to join the Indian National Army because he feels that British already dies inside of him, he no longer feels the sense of loyalty in himself and that his feeling tends to fight alongside with his friends and fellow country people for the independency of India. However, before joining, he insists Hardy to let go their former superior, Lieutenant-Colonel Bucky. The Indian National Army has joined the Japanese army and fights alongside with them against the British army. So, their superior will be executed if he was to get caught by the Japanese and he couldn't stand it since he feels responsible for that. The Lieutenant-Colonel is caught while he still believes that they are his ally, so Arjun

thinks that is not fair to give him to the Japs to get killed. Besides, he has been treating the Indian officers and soldiers nicely and fairly in the Army. Hardy agreed with that and Arjun joined the Indian National Army to fight for his country's independency. Unfortunately for Arjun, he dies in the war trying to acquire independency for his country.