

The Glass Palace : A Critique

Sangita Kumari

Dr. Tapeswar Prasad

The Glass Palace is a novel of epic proportion which deals with the lives of the exiled, alienated and uprooted individuals in the backdrop of European colonialism. This novel develops Ghosh's perspective towards the cruelty of colonization and European greed. Colonialism and its self-serving logic saturate colonial historiography thereby perpetually imprisoning the 'other' rude nations to an imaginary "waiting room of history" (Ghosh, p.8). These pre-modern 'not yet' societies, their histories and cultures overlooked within the western chronicles of capitalist progress as primitive vacuum, have cultivated distinct life orders at once different, yet parallel to it. Hidden within these archival niches, the subaltern grapples in anonymity until literature takes the momentous task of excavating their unspoken past. *The Glass Palace* focuses on such unknown theatre of history.