EXPLORING THE ART OF AMNESIA THROUGH FANTASY IN KAZUO ISHIGURO'S *THE BURIED GIANT*

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Abstract: *The Buried Giant* is a magical world which combines the themes of memory, forgetting, and the power of storytelling. Ishiguro uses the prism of forgetfulness to build a narrative that questions the accepted ideas about memory and its role in forming identity and relationships**.** Kazuo Ishiguro was born on 8th November 1954 is a British novelist, screenwriter, musician, and short-story writer. He is one of the most critically acclaimed and praised contemporary fiction authors writing in English, awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature. Ishiguro uses the themes such as migration, and desire for a homeland. The multifaceted examinations of amnesia in *The Buried giant* are the focus of this paper, where he also explores how the fantasy aspects of the works are used as springboard for profound philosophical investigations into memory and the human conditions. The dragon's deadly illness is a metaphor for the characters' ongoing struggles and traumas from the past, which keeps them away from really comprehending state and makes them forget who they are and where they have come from. In addition to obscuring memories, the dragon's mist of forgetfulness stifles the possibility of peace and understanding amongst various cultures.
Keywords: The Buried Giant, Collective Amnesia, Memory, Fantasy, Storytelling.

INTRODUCTION

Kazuo Ishiguro interprets about amnesia in "The Buried Giant" where the overview of amnesia deals with the loss of memory, which includes the real facts and the experience in the past life. This is the theme which Ishiguro uses in his novel "The Buried Giant" is blend of philosophy and fantasy literature, incorporating aspects of Arthurian legend with a deep examination of identity, memory, and the human condition. The central theme of this story is forgetfulness, which Ishiguro uses as a potent prism to explore the intricacies of both individual and societal forgetting. Ishiguro takes readers into the depth of consciousness through the surreal background of Post-Arthurian Britain, pushing them to confront the perplexing nature of memory and it is complicative for self-discovery and societal reconciliation. It offers a distinctive examination of memory and forgetting set in a magical setting which evocates Arthurian mythology. The story creates a rich, vivid universe that reflects how fractured memory works because of its fanciful features.

The setting is during a misty Post- Arthurian Britain, this story opens with lucid, leisurely, unfussy language that describes the uncertainty of England which traces back approximately to 1500 years ago. It is an oddly constructed story with a portion of the strangeness stems from the medieval landscape. It follows an old couple named Axle and Beatrice as they move through this enigmatic terrain, they come across hazy memories and half-remembered visions. Their experience makes it difficult to distinguish between fact and illusion as they set out on a mission to find their son who has been missing for a long time. The prevalent communal amnesia that not only obscure's the characters' memories but also makes it difficult to distinct between reality and fiction, the past and the

present, is a central theme in the story. This paper examines how Ishiguro uses the fantasy genre to examine the intricacies of memory and amnesia, looking at the ways in which the novel's magical components function as a metaphor.

Ishiguro uses Post-Arthurian Britain, a place cloaked in myth and mist as the dramatic backdrop for his investigation of forgetfulness. The veil of oblivion that envelops the people with the collective consciousness is symbolized by this magical environment. The mist turns into a tangible representation of amnesia, blurring the past and encouraging the characters impression of mass forgetfulness. Ishiguro's skill is in creating a feeling of ghostly enchantment yet while firmly establishing the story in issues that are profoundly relatable to the human condition.

RESILIENCE

The characters who range from the elderly couple Axle and Beatrice to the mysterious Sir Gawain operate as stewards of memory bearing witness to the general amnesia that permeates their society. Axle's memory loss reflects the brittleness of memory in old age, but Beatrice's steadfast devotion to their common history emphasizes the ability of love outlive forgetting. By highlighting the ways in which memory affects interpersonal connections and personal identity during their journey. The psychological complexity of the characters is illuminated by Freudian psychoanalytic theory, which also reveals the unconscious reasons and desires that shape their behavior. The protagonists of the novel, Axle and Beatrice, are tormented by fragmented recollections of their common past, and their journey is sparked by their suppressed love for their son who has vanished. Through their journey, Ishiguro probes the depths of longing, remorse, and unresolved pain in order to examine the subconscious force that molds human behavior. Ishiguro encourages readers to consider their own recollections and the narratives to define the characters and their fantasy journey.

A concrete example of collective memory is provided in this novel through fanciful setting, which is marked by a mist of forgetting that covers the entire area. This spell of forgetting obliterates not only personal recollections but also historical events, obfuscating the distinction between fact and fiction. Ishiguro poses queries concerning the nature of memory and its function forming individual and societal identities through the use of this fanciful elements. The story forces individuals to address existential concerns about who they ate and how they relate to the past by erasing memories from their past.

In the universe of *The Buried Giant*, memories are viewed as brittle entities that are readily warped or altered. The characters unsure of the veracity or importance of the shards of their history, try to hold onto them. Ishiguro emphasizes how memory is prone to interpretation, and it is intrinsic unreliability. The novel emphasizes the elusive nature of reality and the limitations of human perception through the figure of Axl, whose memory is gradually proven to be inaccurate. The storytelling becomes an effective means of maintaining cultural and personal histories even when there are no physical recollections. The characters in *The Buried Giant* depend on narrative to help them connect with one another and make sense of their disjointed recollections. The work underscores the transforming potential of storytelling, implying that it surpasses temporal and memory barriers. Ishiguro examines how storytelling shapes both individual and societal identities through the figure of the boatman, whose stories provide a link to the past.

In a paradoxical way, the book implies that forgetting is also be liberating experiences, relieving people of the weight of unpleasant memories and grudges. The characters in *The Buried Giant* face their past traumas and let go of long-held grudges. Ishiguro suggests that forgetting plays a vital role towards healing and reconciliation, challenging traditional ideas that memory is central to personal identity.

The imaginative aspects of the book lend themselves to a Jungian analysis of the collective unconscious. In the universe of *The Buried Giant*, mythical animals and antiquated customs abound, mirroring the archetypal symbols and patterns that exist within the human psyche. Using the collective unconscious mind's storehouse of mythological images, the protagonists explore universal themes of love, grief, and redemption as they make their way through this surreal setting.

CONCLUSION

The context of the fantasy story, *The Buried Giant* provides a profound reflection on the nature of memory and forgetting. Ishiguro examines the intricates of human cognitions and the manner in which memory impacts the readers perception of the outside world through the allure of forgetting, the frailty of memory, and the storytelling medium. Ishiguro's takes his readers on a psychological journey through the dark corners of the human psyche, shedding light on the unfathomable mysteries that exist just beyond the surface awareness and asks readers to consider the transformational power of forgetting and the elusive nature of truth by fusing philosophical investigation

with magical aspects. In this "The Buried Giant" he shows this itself to be a powerful investigation of memory, and the president power of narrative. Through this novel Ishiguro shows the readers about the amnesia which may cause the effects of forgetting about the past and how it makes changes in the lives of characters. Once after the war this amnesia gets spread and turns the village people's mind and makes them lead their life peacefully. Through forgetting the past also makes a positive change in one's life.

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