

Homeland

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Quote 1 Homeland's Women Journey

In Homeland, the writers explore the meaning of homeland and define it as more than just a geographical location. The homeland is analyzed from an Exile perspective incorporating the ideas of the homeland that women create in their minds in their longing to find the home they have sought from Exile. From an analytical perspective, In our course of life, we often create a place that we view favorably for us since in most cases, the physical homeland that we live in is not our desired one. This article is set to uncover the reality of the complicated aspects and perceptions while reflecting the real situations of women around the world who long for the homeland of their creation.

Among the contributors in the stories is "Voyage, War and Exile" by Etel Adnan who takes us through their experience with her family while in an exiled country in Lebanon precisely Beirut. Being the only in the family, Etel expresses the challenges they experience in a foreign country as a result of the war. Having gotten married in the times of world war, one was the only thing written in the minds of her family. The fact that her mother and father came from different geographical backgrounds made a major impact on their perspectives of the homeland. Her father was a high ranking officer in the Ottoman Empire while her mother's origin country was Greece, Syrma. Etel's family set out on a journey to Lebanon fleeing the war that had been prevalent in those times.

There are many reasons behind the idea of refugees to create a new life in the foreign countries that they find themselves in as a result of the war. However, the experience of settling in the new places is often met with a lot of constraints mostly psychological. Conflicts and politically triggered wars have most people who are forced to leave their comfortable livelihoods. Therefore, while in foreign lands, the desire to belong in a place where they are comfortable takes the best of them. The search for a better future can sometimes result the refugees becoming victims of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. However, for other refugees, even after they settle in the new lands, longing for their homes define the homeland that many people tend to be unaware of. Home is simply a place where one feels that they belong. Being in a camp or rather in an asylum is not enough to make someone contented (Black 16).

As she describes "They exiled themselves into charm and beauty," her parents had migrated to the most beautiful harbor of the Mediterranean. In this phrase, Etel meant to describe the bearable exile that her father and mother had perceived comfortable to live in, yet in their minds, they still imagined how the place they had once called home would be like. Despite the hardships she experienced, Etel enjoyed the imagination of the peace of the sea. Born of mixed cultures, she had hardships since her parents were of mixed backgrounds. At this point, the idea of culture is illustrated since culture in every aspect is connected with one's homeland. In the article, the main idea presented is the exile in our minds.

The analytical point of view of homeland presents the general idea that being in a comfortable place geographically does not guarantee happiness. Etel termed her parents as living in another exile, indicating that they longed for the former place they had once called home. Similarly, victims of war caused by politics and racial conflicts are often faced with two major

problems; psychological exile as well as the physical exile. Homelands are written to establish an idea of women in their imaginative journey for the homeland, an imaginative community where they can locate their identity. Being psychologically exiled makes them lose the identity of their former belonging. Further, Sarah McCormic analyses the experiences that "American mutts" undergo despite being exposed to many heritages yet they do not connect to them. These stories tend to present us with the realities of many people (Tumang et al., 9).

War and politics are the dominant themes of homeland since the writers explore their experiences that they have been subjected to by war. Each of us attempts to find a way to know their personal identity and fit into the norms of the scheme in a way that they can have a sense of life and plan for a better future. Amid the diversity of communities, languages, and religions, we strive to make the best out of the situation by adapting to the new environment. At the moment when we try to recall our social genealogy we tend to establish or create imaginations of the network of the social histories of our origin. These imaginations unveil to us the state we would be in if the visionary states would be transformed into reality.

The complex lives that we lead are comprised of various choices and interests, varying from social interactions as well as friendship, all of which lead to a bond with others. Participating in ¹ each of these segments in our everyday lives brings a bond between us and others making us a community. The women analyzed in the Homeland are all detached from these bonds in both physically and psychologically. The sense of a community relies on the perceptions of personal identity that are shaped by the roles we play in the social worlds. The Personal identities and the connection between a person and their origin backgrounds mutate with time as well as space. The detachment of a person from their origin creates a situation where they lack a connection to their culture leading psychological exile.

The mentioned changes that occurred to the women in Homeland do not erase the social histories from their minds even after leaving their original homeland. Even after the war had made Etel's family move to another country, the assumptions of the community they belong do not fade. For instance, Sarah McCormic about the people of mixed races in America who have the opportunity to choose from a variety of heritages yet they do not get the sense of belonging. With this regard, many African Americans develop the imaginations of their heritage, Africa where they would have a personal identity yet they are constrained by space to achieve it. As much as they can feel comfortable in their current environment, they feel alienated making them long to belong to a community. Even after the alienation caused by the world war and other politically-triggered wars, refugees attempt to ¹forge new forms of unity in foreign environments. However, in some cases these people find themselves redrawing their original cultural maps that stay embedded in their minds for the rest of their lives (Friedman et al., 12).

Agate Nesaule, being one of the writers in "Homeland" left Latvia under the Nazi and Soviet threat making her long for her original heritage since she was just but a youngster when she fled from her country. These aspects make her envy the life of a Latvian girl she perceives rich in terms of language, place, and music. The desire for a Latvian's life is an indication of alienated women in the "Homelands" feel in the foreign boundaries where no bond exists between them and their heritage (Tumang et al., 8). Amid the social and political alterations, the exemplary figures defined in the homeland analogy ¹show how the idea of community has changed. As a result, the characters or rather the writers face the dilemma between reality and illusions. In broader terms, they tend to lack a sense of belonging since their social lives become dominated by their imaginative community as well as the current community where they live.

The situations faced by the characters show that communities are not fixed entities but are rather ever-changing. From an analytical point of view, a person can belong to two communities at the same time. In other words, one becomes a citizen of their longing as well as a citizen of their foreign country. In summary, the presented idea of community in the Homeland collection proves that personal identification goes beyond the ground we stand on. The sense of belonging to a community entails beliefs, practices, and principles. Therefore, satisfying the desires presented by our illusions or rather imaginations is what constitutes the homeland we long for (Tumang et al., 15).

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