

**A Critical Cognitive Semiotics Approach to Character
Construction and Heroism: Analyzing Mahmoud Al-Khatib's
Novel 'Aṣluhā Thābit**

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Abstract

This study examines the pivotal role of the main character in Mahmoud Al-Khatib's novel *'Aṣluhā Thābit*, focusing on how the character's construction conveys how meaning and significance are produced and comprehended. The novel's main character, marked by both centrality and heroism, shapes and reflects the novel's thematic depth through recurring motifs and influence. Following Ibrahim Taha's critical cognitive semiotics approach, the analysis uncovers the various layers of meaning and significance embedded in Al-Khatib's novel. The novel particularly highlights the existential concern and ideological need to preserve land and resist the power structures of colonialism that seek to marginalize the Arab Palestinian minority living in Israel. These dynamics frame the main character's journey, demonstrating his role as a 'semi-hero' who achieves particular objectives but whose quest remains unsuccessful due to the circumstantial constraints found in his context. Al-Khatib's main character thus illustrates the dynamic and anecdotal nature of meaning and significance as they evolve through continuing cycles of real and fictional interpretations and reinterpretations, further showing how characters are not only constructed for fictional semiotic purposes but also to depict real human subjects.

Keywords: critical cognitive semiotics, meaning-making, significance, character construction, main character, heroism, semi-hero, Arab Palestinian minority

Introduction

Mahmoud Al-Khatib is a Palestinian novelist from Kafr Kanna, a Palestinian town in Israel. His expertise includes public speaking, leadership development, and training and consulting in marketing and economics. Al-Khatib considers his novel, *'Aṣluhā Thābit*, a significant achievement that reflects his commitment to representation and storytelling. He notes that *'Aṣluhā Thābit* contains many accounts based on real events - either experienced personally or by acquaintances - which add to the work's authenticity and compelling nature. His inspiration was drawn from Khawla Hamdi's (2016) novel *'Ann Ṭabqī [To Remain]*, which explores the experiences and challenges faced by Arab expatriates in France, especially how the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel often finds itself misunderstood or mischaracterized when traveling abroad and encountering Arabs from Arab-majority countries (Hamdi, 2016, p. 202). However, *'Aṣluhā Thābit* is set locally, shedding light on the lived reality as well as the burden of responsibility and attachment to land that haunt the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel.

Discontent with the conspiracies and illegal plans that shape his world, Al-Khatib decided to address the real-life experiences of the Palestinian Arab minority through a combination of realism and fiction. The author might not have explored these themes this deeply if not for the sense of communal, social, and national duty he felt. The novel's story thus demonstrates the author's strong commitment to the issues of his community. In fact, the introduction of the novel clearly reflects Al-Khatib's insistence on confronting these topics through the main character, *Thābit*.

Thābit [the main character] is a young Palestinian man in his thirties living in the Palestinian Arab region in Israel. He is engaged and about to get married. He receives a decision from the Israeli authorities to

demolish his house, under the pretext of unlicensed construction, so he decides to confront this decision. But things unfold in exciting, dangerous, and unexpected ways... (Al-Khatib, 2019).

This novel must be read through a unique lens, particularly the critical cognitive semiotics approach developed by Ibrahim Taha. This approach helps critically examine the moral and semantic aspects of the narrative, beginning with identifying the main character's character construction (character centralism), before moving into the meanings and significance embedded in the novel. Unpacking the main character's character construction and transformation is crucial for conveying individual meaning-making processes and experiences of the world, further demonstrating how the main character's identity reveals the essence of the narrative. This semiotic analysis also shows how the main character is illustrated as a semi-hero who cannot successfully achieve all his objectives due to the obstacles and constraints of his environment.

The view of the literary character as an agent performing a specific role or function in a novel has long been prevalent in narrative studies; formal structuralists particularly emphasize this approach. In his study of Russian folk tales, Vladimir Propp was the first to ignite the structuralist debate around the crucial value of the character's roles and functions within narratives, as opposed to the identity and essence of the character (Phelan, 1989, p. 78). Propp based his approach on Aristotle's view of tragedy and notion of prioritizing the characters' actions over their intrinsic qualities (see Aristotle, n.d., p. 115). Building on Propp's work, A. J. Greimas developed a semiotic model that positions the character as an agent or actant, further emphasizing the roles and functions of characters, rather than their identity. Nevertheless, this insistence on a character's roles and functions reduces the characters' mental and emotional human aspects to a set of performances designed to achieve specific functional purposes (see Taha, 2020, p. 160).

Expanding on these works, the current study is a critical cognitive semiotics analysis of Mahmoud Al-Khatib's novel *'Aṣluhā Thābit*. The study is an in-depth analysis of the character construction of the main character, Thābit, and how the author portrays him as an active agent whose roles and functions convey meaning and significance, and whose meaning-making processes are also strongly connected to his identity. In addition, the study examines the semiotics of heroism in the novel, demonstrating how Thābit does not transform into a full hero; he is a semi-hero bound to his context. Thābit thus illustrates the dynamic and anecdotal nature of meaning and significance as they evolve through ongoing cycles of real and fictional interpretations and reinterpretations.

Critical Cognitive Semiotics Approach to Character Construction: Analyzing the Main Character

'Aṣluhā Thābit is a novel that centers around Thābit, the protagonist narrator, whose steadfastness, sense of responsibility, and patience make him a dominant figure in the narrative. Thābit drives the plot, challenges expectations, and engages readers through his unique social, intellectual, and psychological human traits. Modern organic semiotics explores how meaning is generated and interpreted within living systems. Greimas argues that literary characters can be viewed as living beings, not mere textual constructs. Psychological studies that consider characters similar to humans, driven by their feelings, emotions, and intellect, primarily concentrate on the characters' actions and reactions as they influence the reader's psychological responses, further reflecting relevance and relatability (see Zunshine 2006; Vermeule, 2010).

In his 2015 book, *Heroizability: An Anthroposemiotic Theory of Literary Characters*, Ibrahim Taha addresses the theme of heroism in fictional novels from a semiotic humanist perspective. Taha (2015) asserts that literary characters are inherently multifaceted, embodying biological, anthropological, and semiotic

dimensions. He explains that while characters are constructed through language for semiotic purposes, they also represent depictions of human subjects and their unique characteristics (Taha, 2020, p. 164). Therefore, readers of a given fictional narrative simultaneously interact with fictional and real characters, ultimately leading readers to develop feelings towards the characters. Such formed connections can make the reader further trust the novel's characters.

In addition, according to Taha's (2015) critical cognitive semiotics approach, unpacking the protagonist's notions of heroism and levels of relatedness must be preceded by conducting a character construction analysis of the protagonist. In *'Aṣluhā Thābit*, the main character Thābit is the novel's protagonist narrator and implied author, whose omnipresence crucially directs the plot's development and conveys the novel's meaning and significance. Thābit's consistent involvement in the narrative solidifies his role as a central, active character who has a compelling influence on the plot's momentum, continuity, and intensification. I refer to this occurrence as the *quantitative cumulative analysis* of character construction, which determines the level of character presence in a given narrative.

The *qualitative cumulative analysis* of character construction, on the other hand, looks at the character's role in developing the plot and conflict and the extent to which the character exerts control over the narrative. In *'Aṣluhā Thābit*, Thābit's omnipresence is accompanied by the dominance of his ideological and social values, which strongly direct the novel's course of events. Also, Thābit's name is mentioned in the novel's title, *'Aṣluhā Thābit*, which literally translates into *Its Origin is Steady*. The word Thābit is therefore a play on words that carries double meanings: the name of the main character and, simultaneously, the notion of steadiness, steadfastness, and resilience, referring to the intrinsic qualities of

the main character Thābit and foreshadowing his role in the narrative¹. In other words, the title directs the reader to an interpretive path that is essentially connected to the protagonist narrator, who moves vigorously in the novel's physical space and whose presence is topologically controlling the narrative (Azzam, 1996).

Therefore, the author positions the protagonist narrator, Thābit, as central to the story, mentioning his name more often than any other character to establish him as a motif closely linked to the novel's central themes. More importantly, Thābit becomes both a symbol and a sign of the story's main issue, which is protecting ancestral land, and the word 'Aṣluhā [Its Origin] refers to the true essence of land as steadfast and as belonging to its indigenous owners. In other words, from the title, land appears as the primary focus of the novel's conflict and the key element driving its plot.

Character construction can also be analyzed based on the author's intentions. Authors deliberately choose their characters; therefore, characters are intentionally designed to serve as a means for the writer to convey their ideas and purposes. This approach is known as the *intentional analysis of character construction*, which looks at how characters express the author's purpose and vision. Communication and intentionality theories argue that all narratives are inherently deliberate, not spontaneous. As the semiotic critic Hirsch (1984, p. 207) asserts, meaning is rooted in the author's intention and defined solely by this intent. In 'Aṣluhā Thābit, Al-Khatib wants to grab the attention of the colonial establishment. He emphasizes the need to bridge the gap and bring opportunities closer to all citizens, enabling people to enjoy social and political freedoms without fear, frustration, or alienation, regardless of their status as a majority or minority. The novel includes repetition and digressions, articulating

¹ The title is also an intertextual reference to the Holy Quran (Surat Ibrahim, verse 24).

the author's intentions and reflecting the ideological nature of political and social discourse. The novel also shows how the author advocates for clear and direct communication with those in power.

Furthermore, a fourth aspect in character construction analysis is *reading analysis*. Reading analysis examines how the reader interacts with the narrative and understands its meanings and significance. When the reader admires a character's actions and is challenged by their social, cultural, and human qualities, as well as their determination to achieve their goal, while also being captivated by the narrative techniques that reveal these elements, then the character deserves recognition as a central figure (see Taha, 2020, 166). Both the author and the reader can thus build a shared understanding, creating a line of communication that ensures the work's unique and engaging nature. According to Jonathan Culler, there are established reading conventions despite the multiplicity of interpretations; thus, a "theory of reading must reveal the interpretive processes that readers undertake." Indeed, it is widely accepted that different readers generate different interpretations, which has led some theorists to question the possibility of a universal reading theory. Culler, however, argues that "it is this diversity of interpretation that the theory must account for. While readers differ in meaning making, they might still follow the same reading conventions" (Selden, 1996, 177).

Analyzing the character construction of the main character through these critical cognitive semiotic elements reveals that Thābit plays a central role in the *'Aṣluhā Thābit*, functioning as the novel's primary driving force. As a result, Thābit serves as the protagonist narrator who encounters significant challenges, including hardship, conflict, and danger, all for the benefit of his community. This character mirrors a significant part of the Palestinian minority community, engaging the reader through logical reasoning and distinctive human, social, political, intellectual, and ideological traits. This is most significant in how

Thābit is constructed as a semi-hero who does not transform into a full hero but remains on the verge of heroism.

Semiotics of Heroism

Thābit sits at the borderline of heroism; he is neither a full hero nor a non-hero but occupies a space in the middle. In other words, Thābit is a semi-hero whose sense of responsibility towards his community has pushed him to heroism, but whose tragic circumstances hinder his heroic quest. To unpack the critical cognitive semiotics of heroism in *'Aṣluhā Thābit*, the analysis is divided into two main sections: *textual analysis* and *post-textual analysis (post-reading activity)*. Through this semiotic analysis, the main character Thābit appears to be a symbolic construct of steadiness, steadfastness, and resilience – a semi-hero who had not sought heroism but was drawn into it out of necessity, and whose objectives are not fully achieved.

Textual Analysis

This stage tracks the main character's progression toward one of three potential heroic states (hero, non-hero, and semi-hero). It focuses on the main character's movement as it weaves through the novel's linguistic structures, influences its plot development, and shapes how meaning and significance are made and conveyed.

Pre-Action Stage

- Lack or Deficiency:

In this context, deficiency is viewed as a human trait that motivates individuals to set specific goals. These goals can be moral or sensory and are pursued with tools that help achieve them. The novel clearly demonstrates that the main character, Thābit, has a moral and psychological deficiency, shaping his primary motivations to seek security and establish a stable family

life. Thābit, a young Palestinian preparing for marriage, hopes to build a home. However, he faces an unexpected demolition order from the Israeli government on the grounds of unlicensed construction. In response, Thābit opposes what he perceives as an unjust decision.

Throughout the novel, Thābit is portrayed as someone striving to achieve his goals despite many obstacles and setbacks. He oscillates between action and reaction while seeking approval to build a house for himself and his future wife. The story takes on a dramatic and confrontational tone as Thābit faces challenges from the government. This situation puts much pressure on him, creating significant difficulties. Despite these hurdles, Thābit stays determined, working hard to get a license to build his house. As a result, the sense of lack or deficiency Thābit feels motivates him to reach his goals.

- Desire and Will:

A strong desire motivates Thābit to build a modest house and create a peaceful, stable life away from the threat of demolition. His obsession with housing and a peaceful life haunts him throughout the story, as he is caught between two opposing forces: the official order to demolish his house and his desire to protect it for the sake of his wife, family, and community. In this sense, Thābit also appears as an antagonist, representing resistance against government authorities and symbolizing the existential threat faced by the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel. Indeed, Palestinians face this common issue in real life; therefore, the novel's protagonist symbolizes the Palestinian people, representing a large segment of society that desperately seeks security and stability while living in a colonial context.

- Ability:

Thābit illustrates the mental, psychological, physical, and emotional abilities needed to continue participating in Palestinian social and national struggles. He aims to expose the Israeli institution and confront the injustices inflicted on Palestinians. The main character seeks purpose in his life and refuses to live on the fringes of a society that is becoming increasingly complex without taking part in addressing its crises, especially the government's unfair and discriminatory housing policies. He understands the consequences of his decision to challenge the demolition order and uses his intellectual and practical skills to uncover the truth. He discusses social mobilization to raise awareness and influence public opinion through the press. This is clear from the meetings between Thābit and journalist Sarah in the United States, showing his efforts to bring this issue to the international stage and make it global (Al-Khatib, 2019, pp.199-200).

Moreover, the novel is filled with eloquent speeches by the main character. In one of Thābit's speeches, he emphasizes that change is not just a passing event or episode but a continuous process (Al-Khatib, 2019, p. 100). This portrays Thābit as a character with planning, cognitive, and emotional skills that give him a position of power, turning him into a driving force to challenge the unjust and arbitrary laws of the Israeli authorities, especially land confiscation and demolition orders. In other words, the protagonist uses all his abilities to fight for justice for himself and his people.

Action or Performance Stage

- Action Strategy:

In *'Aṣluhā Thābit*, the story is told with direct presentation, which is clear in the use of pauses and flashbacks that Thābit employs to recall past events and connect them to his present situation. Thābit's approach to action is a form of peaceful political activism that avoids direct confrontation, while Samid, Thābit's brother, opposes the idea of peaceful struggle. Their relationship fluctuates between calm and excitement, reflecting the conflict between two opposing characters with contradictory ideological views. Nevertheless, Thābit receives support from other characters, including his brother Samid, who also believes in opposing the unjust house demolition order. Both Thābit and Samid agree that fighting the injustice done to them requires a systematic, organized grassroots solidarity movement.

The novel's events center around the main character's actions to uncover the truth and expose the government's unjust policies, systems, laws, and supporters. This heroic quest includes key elements necessary for the story—while the hero searches for his purpose, the reader is shown his process of active making meaning. This is because the narrative is arranged to interpret events through ideas rather than display events that require interpretation through action (Zaytouni, 2002, p. 31). The main character's unwavering faith and inner drive to confront the demolition order this way resonate more with the Arab minority living in Israel, whose members have long endured such colonial injustices.

- Supporting and Hindering Factors:

Thābit's heroic quest to exercise his legitimate rights as a citizen and a human is supported by other characters, even those who oppose Thābit's actions. Thābit's father is considered one of the supporting characters in the novel; he

is involved in Thābit's fight against the demolition order and helps him obtain a building permit because he believes that Thābit's endeavor requires significant time and effort. Thābit's father, however, remains calm despite recognizing state injustices and racism that citizens face; he does not seek to stir public opinion because he trusts his son's ability to achieve his goals.

Other supporting characters include Thābit's brothers, who do not fully agree with Thābit's action strategy but still oppose state injustices. Salama, Thābit's other brother, exemplifies this by paying the price for his clear stance and peaceful resistance against the demolition order, ultimately being shot and killed. Additionally, the journalist Sarah supports Thābit's struggle by accompanying him and helping expose the truth. The relationship between Thābit and Sarah is characterized by love and friendship, which grows stronger as the plot progresses. Sarah's support is significant when Thābit's fiancée abandons him over the demolition order; Sarah is his closest friend, always there whenever he needs her. Sarah also helps him raise his voice to the world and discuss issues of state oppression, violation, and exploitation.

While these characters support Thābit, others act as obstacles. For example, Sarah's father, Aziz, is an engineer who receives a large payment from Thābit's father to help Thābit obtain a legal housing permit. Aziz falsely promises to help and is loyal to and complicit with the state authorities, so he uses the money to pursue personal goals. By the end of the story, Thābit insults Aziz, who then returns the money out of fear of harming his reputation. Aziz becomes an antagonist who obstructs the protagonist's heroic journey, and his close connections with the authorities highlight the complicity of some Arab individuals with the colonial system. Furthermore, Thābit's pursuit is hampered by the lack of cooperation from other characters, the failures of government officials and media outlets, public pressure to succeed, and the absurd

bureaucratic process for obtaining a housing permit. These obstacles sometimes cause Thābit to retreat, but he remains determined and resilient despite turmoil.

The author uses cutting, flashbacks, and focus to highlight Thābit. Thābit is the main character who influences and is influenced by all other characters. He stands against the unjust demolition order, encourages people to defend their rights, and shifts public opinion. He remains unwavering despite all obstacles, and his journey symbolizes the hopes of the Palestinian people to live a stable and peaceful life, where their simple dreams can come true and their very existence is secure. Thābit's character and journey call for active participation in political life, engaging with the public and government institutions to secure his and his people's legitimate, historical, and human rights.

Post-Action Stage - Achievements and Results (investigation):

So far, the study has relied on an anthroposemiotic approach to analyze the main character Thābit. This approach places the humanized character at the center of the narrative and looks for human qualities in the main character, as well as other characters in the novel. Most characters display positive human traits, except those influenced by flattery and falsehood. Members of the Palestinian minority in Israel relate to the novel's characters and plot, as it reflects their reality and the injustice and neglect they face from the ruling institutions. Palestinians are the indigenous people whose existence and land ownership are threatened by the colonial state, and the novel clearly addresses this danger, which motivates Palestinians to resist and refuse to surrender.

This leads us to the Algerian thinker Malek Bennabi, who emphasizes the importance of people being aware and conscious of their worth and true humanity despite their colonial condition. Bennabi (1986, p. 152) states,

People cannot escape colonialism unless they save their souls from being subject to the humiliation of the colonizer and are freed from the spirit that makes them susceptible to coloniality. Rhetorical or literary words are not enough to free the people from the nightmares of colonialism. Instead, there is a need for a psychological transformation through which individuals gradually become capable of carrying out their social functions and become conscious of the worth of their dignity. Only then can the susceptibility to coloniality be lifted... The colonizer will only leave the colonized land when the colonized people expel the colonizers from within themselves...

Al-Khatib portrays this reality in his novel, illustrating what happens within the institution's corridors where citizens' lives are controlled and limited. The author aims to highlight the conflict over housing and the Palestinians' right to remain in their homeland, exemplifying this through the customs and traditions of the Palestinian people. As Jonathan Culler argues,

Communication between the author and reader is based on their shared knowledge of the traditions to which the text belongs. Communication and understanding between the two would be impossible without this shared knowledge. The literary text thus assumes a kind of established norm that is a condition for the possibility of building an understanding between the author and reader (as quoted in Rayyan, 2016, p. 75).

Therefore, Thābit symbolizes the Palestinian people, who see housing as one of life's essential needs. However, despite his efforts to raise this issue publicly—whether locally or internationally—he has not achieved his goals, and his house was demolished. This highlights ordinary individuals' fragile position when facing government institutions. Therefore, Thābit cannot be considered a full

hero; he is a semi-hero whose persistent efforts and conscious struggle do not lead him to bring about the change he hopes for.

None of the characters in the novel assumes a full heroic role. They are all either 'semi-heroes' or 'non-heroes,' which reflects reality more accurately than modern Arabic literature, and even global literature, where characters -especially the main character- are often portrayed as complete heroes (see Al-Ahmad, 2018, p. 118). Thābit thus embodies the lived reality of the Palestinian people and their struggle against colonial measures that obstruct their ability to reach their goals. In other words, if Thābit were to assume a full heroic role, it would not resonate with the Palestinian reader, whose life experiences do not mirror the image of a complete heroic figure. This explains why we rarely encounter an entirely heroic character in Palestinian novels published over the past two decades or more (see Wright, 2010). Instead, the main characters' psychological and social crises mirror those of the author's reality- dreams and hopes that become thwarted and disillusioned by colonialism, ultimately forcing any heroic figure to retreat and surrender.

Unlike other novels, however, Al-Khatib's main character is crafted in a way that captivates the reader's emotions and occupies a space in their thoughts and beliefs. Thābit is endowed with human qualities, creating an image of a person made of flesh and blood, further challenging the reader's imagination. This main character remains committed until his last breath, fighting for his rights through both words and actions.

Post-Textual Analysis (Post-Reading Activity)

This section analyzes the main character's semiotic movement as a linguistic entity to emphasize the novel's significance. Al-Khatib's novel follows a traditional structure, with the plot starting calmly but rapidly gaining intensity as events unfold, all woven together through flashbacks and paradoxes. Notably, the novel tackles a contemporary urban issue central to Arab Palestinian discourses and practices. The protagonist narrator, Thābit, serves as a living witness to colonial injustices, conveying to the reader the harsh reality familiar to Palestinians—a reality marred by discrimination, restrictions, and oppression. The author states that “this novel contains many real events that happened to [him] or other people,” and emphasizes that he does not “detail which of the events is real or close to reality so that they do not lose their appeal” (Al-Khatib, 2019, p. 202).

The novel also highlights the leadership crisis faced by the Palestinian people. Indeed, Palestinians need a courageous leader who can mobilize the masses and bring about change—someone “not afraid of losing their fat salaries in the Knesset” and who is “creative,” capable of “inventing new ways of resistance and influence.” For the author, Thābit is the type of hero Palestinians require, and he hopes the novel will “inspire” people to take a stance like Thābit's (Al-Khatib, 2019, p. 203). Therefore, *ʿAṣluhā Thābit* illustrates the sense of emptiness and chaos that Palestinians experience in their homeland, further reflecting the depth of conflict and the legal and political confusion caused by the colonial establishment. Overall, the novel's significance lies in its ability to reveal the colonial state as it moves toward globalization in the twenty-first century. While it maintains a superior position on the ladder of social and economic development, this colonial state oppresses and discriminates against its minority citizens.

Here, the author calls for a revolution in collective consciousness and public opinion, emphasizing the need to enact change even when resources are limited. Highlighting the Palestinian struggle on both local and international stages is likely to embarrass the colonizer. Therefore, the novel is realistic, shifting between pragmatism and sensuality. It insists that the territorial status quo should not be accepted. However, the socio-political, economic, and territorial circumstances Palestinians face often make pursuing land and housing rights seem like a distant dream. This is where the novel's importance lies—to transform reality, raise awareness, and oppose stagnation and surrender, despite all obstacles and the inability to achieve. The novel shifts from the positivist, instrumentalist philosophy that governs people's understanding of space and time to a sensual, moral philosophy that rejects prior knowledge.

Emotions influence our perceptions and meaning-making processes. They energize us to take action. We rely on them to interpret and explain the reality around us. Al-Khatib does this in his novel by evoking emotions that drive action, even without fully understanding our ontological state. He incorporates political, social, and human elements, along with customs and rhetoric, to craft a complex code that readers must decipher to understand the story's meaning and significance (see Schulz, 1994, p. 51). The semiotics of the main character, as well as all other characters, play a crucial role in the author's intentions, guiding the reader toward multiple interpretations until arriving at the intended meaning. Thābit is more relatable to the audience because he is, first and foremost, a semi-hero -hopeful and steadfast- whose heroic journey is challenged by the real conditions and constraints of his environment.

Conclusion

This article builds on Ibrahim Taha's critical cognitive semiotics approach to analyze the semiotics of the main character, Thābit, in Mahmoud Al-Khatib's novel *'Aṣluhā Thābit*. After examining the character's construction and its central role in shaping the plot's events, the study explores the character's level of heroism and how it reflects real-life conditions under colonial rule. The study concludes that Thābit, the protagonist narrator and implied author, assumes the role of a semi-hero who does not achieve full heroic status due to the complex social and political obstacles of his environment, reflecting the reality of the Palestinian Arab minority under colonialism.

The novel advocates for unity and collective action, emphasizing the need to overcome internal divisions and prepare for change amid ongoing oppression and hardship. It shows that fundamental transformation cannot depend only on blaming external oppressors; it requires wise leadership, personal sacrifice, and a revolution in public consciousness. The work also argues that all members of society share a common struggle and responsibility for change. Ultimately, the novel and its analysis highlight the ongoing leadership crisis and the necessity of grassroots mobilization to fight social injustices. It serves both as a reflection on real-life struggles and a call for societal awakening and collective effort toward justice and rights. This is where the meaning and significance of the novel are rooted, as intended by the author and exemplified by his characters.

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