

## A Discussion On The Role Of State Institutions “Istaghasa” In Ghafar Shahzad's Novel

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### Abstract

*Ghafar Shahzad could have been the master of lifting the story from the growing burden on the human conscience and the pressure squeezing the breasts. To lament the lack of respect for talent is to suffer from an immense pain. The picture that Ghafar Shahzad has drawn of the government offices is so close to the reality that every government employee can identify himself in it without any effort.*

*The simplicity with which the conspiracies and<sup>1</sup> intrigues in the offices are described is commendable. Every human being has an aesthetic existence where he has a material existence. Getting promoted is not a desire to be punished and mistreated. All the time of one's life is spent on the official profession, if one cannot find a legitimate position and rank there, then what is more cruel than that. But honest and dutiful. The abuse of known public servants in our current system is not hidden from anyone. All these circumstances have been described in "Istaghasa".*

### Key Words:

*Ghafar Shahzad, "Istaghasa", master of lifting, human conscience, lack of respect, government, offices, commendable, official profession, honest and dutiful, circumstances..*

### Literature Review

The new novel of Ghafar Shehzad is "Istaghasa ", which has been published in 2022. This novel was published by Fiction House Lahore. The name of Baray Sahib, who is one of the many characters in this novel. Ghafar's first novel "Lok Shahi" was published in 1998, then there was a deadlock in it. After publishing four collections of short stories, He again turned to novel writing and published two novels, "Mukli Mein Murg" in 2020 and "Karol Ghati" in 2021. "Mukli Mein Murg" was also nominated for the 10th UBL Award. Now the new novel "Istaghasa" has been published. The main topic of the novel is human slavery, which according to Nietzsche was called a new form of slavery, the feeling or consciousness of this slavery. Even on the day of his retirement, he still has this feeling. In this regard, the novelist represents the thinking of the main character in the following words.

” وہ نئے سرے سے زندگی شروع کرنے جا رہا تھا۔ ایسی زندگی جس کے شب و روز گزری زندگی سے بالکل الگ ہوں گے جس کے پل اس کے تابع ہوں گے اور وہ کسی کا غلام نہیں ہو گا یا کسی کے بنائے ہوئے قوانین و ضوابط کا پابند نہیں ہوگا۔ (۱)

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The credit for the publication of the novel goes to Fiction House 68 Mazing Road Lahore. Literature criticism is life, literature is the mirror of life. Whenever we read a literary masterpiece, all these things seem true. Every writer is a product of his own consciousness and observation. He wants to create a masterpiece that will immortalize him in the literary world, but this honor has not come to anyone except a few lucky ones. This is the reason why we can count a few big novels in Urdu literature on our fingers. While talking about literature, we always keep in mind what the writer has said and how he said it. Has he succeeded in communicating? Did not deal with the unnecessary length of passing on the reader? Did the author stray away from his purpose in the play of words? How is the style and technique? Keeping all these things in mind, if Ghafar Shahzad's novel "Istaghasa" is studied, one gets to read a masterpiece in every intellectual and artistic sense. The plot of the novel is very coherent and comprehensive. The sequence of events is so natural. That there is nothing extra. The style is simple and common sense but standard and literary. The first thing about the events that the author has presented with great skill and courage in the novel is that the writers do not notice and even if they do, no one has the courage to describe them in such a transparent and real way. The way the author has shown in the novel that bureaucrats, journalists, contractors and employees are ruining the system and digging into the government treasury, this is not for everyone. It is that we create slaves and not employees. We are trained to endure our own humiliation. People who develop this trait seem to thrive very quickly. Honest. Hardworking, expert in their work and those who love their work to the point of obsession have absolutely no value in our system. Because every big sir is an uncrowned king of an empire in his chair who follows his word. This word Kin is the bell button of his office which by pressing it executes all his orders in the blink of an eye. The author talks about the importance of power of paper and file in the novel and proves that a paper is official. How important is the document in the offices and what can be done from its evidence? Irshad Ali, the hero of the novel, is an honest, hard-working and work-loving employee. All the employees who come with him and behind him go far ahead of him by setting the ladder of development, while Irshad Ali's honesty not only becomes an obstacle to his progress but also causes him disgrace. After retiring a year and a half early from the service, Irshad Ali files a complaint in the court and presents the problems that occurred during his service, due to which his progress was stopped and he was humiliated. Ghafar Shehzad through the character has brought to the reader many problems and defects of the office system. For example, see a quote:

” اسے یاد آیا پہلی بار اس کے ساتھ ایسا ہوا تھا۔ اس نے ایک فائل کھولی ، اس میں سے کچھ کرنسی نوٹ برآمد ہوئے ۔ اُسے بہت حیرت ہوئی ۔ استفسار کرنے پر پتہ چلا کہ فائل اسٹنٹ کی میز سے ہوتی ہوئی اس تک پہنچی تھی۔ اس نے اسٹنٹ کو بلایا اور کہا کہ شاید غلطی سے کچھ روپے اس کے اس فائل میں رہ گئے تھے۔ ہاتھ بڑھا کر اس نے وہ کرنسی نوٹ واپس کرتے ہوئے کہا۔ اسٹنٹ نے عجیب سی نظروں سے اسے دیکھا تھا، وہ نظریں آج بھی اس کی یادداشت سے محو نہ ہوئی تھیں۔ ایسے ہی تر و تازہ تھیں ۔ اسٹنٹ نے لینے سے انکار کر دیا۔ یہ روپے میرے نہیں ہیں سر!

پھر بھی اس نے اسٹنٹ کو روپے دیتے ہوئے کہا: رکھ لو اور معلوم کرو کس کے ہیں؟ پتہ چل جائے تو لوٹا دینا۔ اسٹنٹ روپے پکڑنے سے گریزاں تھا۔

بعد میں پتہ چلا یہ حرکت جان بوجھ کر کی گئی تھی ۔ دو ٹھیکیداروں میں شرط لگی ہوئی تھی : نیا صاحب پیسے پکڑے گا یا نہیں ؟ بس اتنی سی بات تھی ۔“ (۲)

By adopting the flashback technique, the author has shown how Irshad Ali is sitting in his office on the last day of his service, remembering his past and all the events are revolving before his eyes. At the end of the novel, on Irshad Ali. Words and creativity are important and he takes pride in being a creator.

"Istaghasa" is Ghafar Shahzad's new novel which has been published a few days ago, while reading the novel, My thought went to the session of Pakistan Literary Festival which was titled "Fiction main ney kia Hay?" At the beginning of the conversation, it was being said

that there is nothing new in fiction, it is the same seven stories that are being presented continuously with the change of time and place.

In the novel "Mukli Mein Murg" Ghafar Shehzad has talked about the life that after death people find life in the minds of their dear friends who are alive, this life continues to be passed on to the next generations like Bulhy Shah, Shah Hussain, and many other characters that live on even after death, and continue to be passed down from generation to generation. Similarly, in this novel, the theme is also taken that not only people change their identity with regard to caste, but the identity of shrines also changes with time in the minds of visitors, similarly to the other novel "Karol Ghati". How a reporter transforms into an event maker and changes the perspective of truth with the help of camera junk video clips, how crime increases in the margins when Safe City Authority installs cameras to protect the center How social, electronic and print media use a common event in a predetermined context to increase their ranking, how which institutions influence an event, has all this been presented in Urdu fiction before. What has been done? Aren't these new topics? Isn't this a new narrative in Urdu fiction that "lie does not exist and whatever happens, there is a truth of this moment, this bridge and this context".

Similarly, Ghafar Shahzad's recently published novel "Istaghasa" introduces a new dimension of slavery in the structure of the modern state and its administrative institutions. What changes are brought about by this slavery on the psychological and mental level of an individual and how the dynamism and change are removed from his life in the shackles of authority and law. How his creative and administrative skills begin to rot, how he is brainwashed when he gets trapped in the net of the judge and the court for justice. Where do the business owners of organizations use such employees like chess pieces and waste them in the dust bin of the office like tissue paper? How do these people who are victims of monotony become trapped and rust their natural abilities. Like other novels of Ghafar Shehzad, many stories and characters run parallel to each other. Without making a connection, the story of the novel is laid out, where the civil servants participate in the game like puppets in the hands of their players, in which they get nothing, but die while running away from the chessboards.

In the prosecution of the novel, the civil servant is the accused, but the judge sitting in front listens quietly and quietly, does not give any impression, does not even blink, while the accused is afraid of the confusion of the lawyers, a lawyer not considering his case as important. Not ready to fight, anyway, the accused thinks that he has to tell all the details of the case to the lawyer, then he decides to fight this case himself, to what final point does this decision of the accused take him? One must read the novel to know this.

Another highlight of the novel is the bickering and confrontation between the technocrats, bureaucrats and the nameless characters of the House of Justice, which is not in any way beneficial to the state but an endless series of theses, anti-theses and syntheses according to Hegel's law. Continuity that never proves fruitful. As usual, the role of the journalist in the novel is very effective and powerful, even if nothing happens, he runs a lot of things in the government institutions by his own will, he has information in his pocket, he sells the information to the concerned person and gives his authority and authority. becomes part of the financial interests, he has made his place in the government institutions even though nothing has happened, his existence and his borrowed authority can no longer be denied, recognizing him as such according to his will. It has been taken, now the conveniences are the conveniences for him. Through the same main character Irshad, the novelist has drawn the reasons and the map of the destruction of the Forment institutions in a good way. See a quote in this regard;

” ملازمت کو ابھی ایک ہی ہفتہ ہوا تھا۔ بیٹھنے کے لیے دفتر تو کجا، یہاں کسی اور کمرے میں بھی کوئی کرسی نہ تھی کہ جہاں وہ بیٹھ سکتا۔ بات کچھ ایسی عجیب نہیں تھی۔ یہ اسامی محکمہ میں پہلی بار تخلیق ہوئی تھی، یہاں کسی کو یہ بھی علم نہیں تھا کہ اس کی ملازمت کا کیا مقصد ہے؟ اس کی پیشہ ورانہ مہارت سے کیسے فائدہ اٹھایا جاتا ہے؟ ابتدائی دنوں میں تو وہ اپنے آپ کو یہاں کی دفتری سرگرمیوں سے غیر

متعلق محسوس کرتا رہا۔ عارضی طور پر ڈائریکٹر ورکس کے پی اے کے ساتھ ہی ایک کرسی اور میز رکھ کر اسے بٹھا دیا گیا۔ اس کے لیے یہ بھی غنیمت تھا۔“ (۳)

Ghafar Shahzad has exposed many mafias while explaining the state of government offices. Those mafias who are hollowing out the roots of the office system are doing illegal work by taking bribes and obstructing the legitimate work. In the passage he writes in one place:

”ہر دفتر میں باختیار لوگ ماتحت ملازمین کے بارے میں اپنی انفرادی رائے رکھتے ہیں۔ با اصول اور ایمان دار ملازمین کو اس ماحول میں مس فٹ بھیجھتے ہوئے، ایسے عہدوں پر تعینات ہی نہیں کیا جاتا کہ جہاں دفتر کے ایسے کاموں میں رکاوٹ آنے کا خدشہ ہو۔ یہ الگ بات کہ اگر کہیں کسی پارٹی سے ڈیل نہ ہو پا رہی ہو تو ایسے شخص کے کام میں رکاوٹ ڈالنے کے لیے فائل ایمان دار ملازمین کی رائے لینے کے لیے ضرور بھیجی جاتی ہے۔ یوں ایک ایمان دار ملازم، بغیر کسی کوشش کے، اُن کے لیے ایک ہتھیار کے طور پر کام کرتا ہے۔ ایسے اعتراضات لگنے کی صورت میں کام کرانے کا ریٹ بڑھ جاتا ہے۔ کچھ تیز طرار ایسے بھی ہوتے ہیں جو ان ایمان دار لوگوں کے نام سے ڈرانے کے بعد، اُن کے حصے کے پیسے بھی وصول کر لیتے ہیں اور ایمان دار لوگوں کو خبر ہی نہیں ہوتی کہ کوئی دن میں کتنی بار انہیں بیچ گیا ہے۔“ (۴)

The theme of this novel has been mentioned earlier is slavery and the feeling of slavery. How is this feeling of slavery inserted in the minds of people under a well-thought-out plan? In order to find the answer to this question, Ghafar Shahzad tries to find its fabric in the neo-demographic culture. In this regard, he writes:

”آج ان حکمرانوں کے قائم کردہ اداروں میں یہ نو آبادیاتی کلچر ایک نئی صورت میں ہمارے سامنے ہے۔ انسان آج بھی غلام ہے، بس غلامی کی تعریف بدل گئی ہے اور غلام بنانے کے ہتھکنڈے تبدیل ہو گئے ہیں۔ بیٹے نے غلامی کے فیما مینا کو سمجھانے کے لیے پہچان کی چار صورتیں وضع کی ہیں: اطاعت گزاری، تذلیل، درگزر اور تحمل و برداشت۔“ (۵)

Why did Ghafar Shahzad feel the need to write this novel? What are the motivations from which the foundations of "Istaghasa" have been raised; to know all this, it is necessary to read the novel, such treatment of characters and themes and styles has not been seen in any novel in Urdu fiction. Moreover this novel not only changes the reader's old ideas about the state, its institutions and its seals, but also brings to the reader a new understanding of the slavery of the state, and those who do not tire of saying that "fiction main kuch bhi neya nhe hosakta" I invite them to read Ghafar Shahzad's novels, they will see the real picture of this man-made society with the creative accessories and accessories of fiction and a third within them. The eye will be called which will give them the ability to understand objects, characters and events from a new angle. These three novels of Ghafar Shahzad are different and unique in terms of subject, treatment, style and presentation. They cannot be ignored in the fiction of the 21st century. Overall, if seen in this novel, all the evils of office system. It has been described under their political, social and psychological background. Bade Sahib has strangled the whole system by the neck. This system is not moving forward because of these sahibs but has become a victim of stagnation. Ghafar Shahzad has mentioned all the mafias that have been formed.

The main theme of this novel is the abominable conspiracy to enslave the human race under the pretext of government job, which he does not even realize. The implementation of this work has started as well.

## References

1. "Istaghasa", by Ghafar Shahzad Lahore Fiction House 2022, p. 8
2. Also, p. 10
3. Also, p. 9, 8
4. Also, p. 28
5. Also, p. 19