

Revolution 2020: A Tale of Love, Ambition and Corruption

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ABSTRACT

Revolution 2020 is one of the reality based novels of Chetan Bhagat. The facts of the novel are- love, corruption and ambition. The story is concerned with a love triangle. Corruption in any field of life stops the development of the society. Ambition is a part and parcel of human to get advancement in life. A man should be ambitious but not over ambitious as shown in "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare. Revolution 2020 is a story about childhood friends like- Gopal, Raghav and Aarti. They struggle in their lives to achieve success in their own ways. It is not easy to achieve success in unfair modern system. Sometimes honest is punished and corrupt is rewarded. Raghav fights against the corrupt system created by shrewd politicians as MLA Shukla. There is a conflict between money and revolution. Gopal wants his intelligence to make money while Raghav wants to use his intelligence to create revolution. The theme of this book is based on three thoughts - most of the parents push their children to work hard for a bright career for which they are not made and that lowers their self esteem. There is an innocence inside all human beings no matter how bitter or better we get in life.

Keywords: Revolution, corruption, ambition, love, development, struggle, success, system, shrewd, career, esteem, innocence etc.

Chetan Bhagat, a writer of international fame is an Indian author and columnist. He was included in the Time magazines of world's hundred most influential people in 2010. His books have remained best seller since their release. The New York Times called him the best selling English language novelist in Indian history. Fast Company USA calls him most creative person in business. He writes for Hindi and English newspapers. In his novels, he focuses on youth and development issues. He earned international fame for his novel Revolution 2020 in 2011 . The story of the novel revolves around the three characters - Aarti ,Gopal and Raghav .The story shows the reality of the Indian society.

Love, corruption and ambition are the themes of the novel Revolution 2020 by Chetan Bhagat. His novels show the contemporary social burning issues of the modern society. The novel exposes the corrupt administrative and political system of the country. Ambition is necessary to get success in life but over ambition shatters a man's life totally. Gopal becomes over ambitious and joins the company of corrupt MLA Shukla. He chooses the wrong path in life to achieve success. He earns a lot of money but money only is not the way to mental peace in life. The novel deals with the themes of love, corruption and ambition related to Gopal, Raghav and Aarti. Donald Greenless says,"Chetan Bhagat has touched a nerve with young Indian readers and acquired almost the cult status".

In modern India, novel Revolution 2020 is absolutely based on reality. Whether you are from science or humanities background, the story of the novel attracts all. The theme of the novel is based on love triangle as well as love, Ambition and Corruption. The incidents which have been described in the story are really logical. There are three leading characters as Gopal, Raghav and Aarti. Gopal is one of the leading characters of the story. He is the hope of the youth. He faces the circumstances of life and hopes that things will get better. He is an optimistic man in youth which helps moving forward in life. Raghav is a character who we wish to be. He is a successful man ,earns prosperity, respect and cracks toughest exam. He is our ambition who we wish to turn Raghav into reality. everybody would love to be Aarti ,a leading female figure in the story. We all wish to have a girl like Aarti.

In spite of poverty Gopal's father sent him to take coaching of JEE from Kota. He believes that Gopal might succeed in exam. Gopal knows that his father is a poor farmer. Gopal settles at Kota to take JEE coaching. His father takes loan for his coaching studies.

"One week in Kota, and I had a few decisions made for me. One I didn't clear the Bansal exam. I could join their separate correspondence programme ,which kind of defeated the purpose of being in Kota. Resonance hiked its fees at

the last minute. It became unaffordable for me, so I didn't even write their entrance exam. I made it to the waitlist of the career path programme"(62).

Now his father is keen to know about Gopal's success in JEE entrance exam. Father asks several questions to Gopal regarding his performance in the JEE exam. He wants to know about his result. He realises the feelings of his father. Gopal has been shattered with his result. He says,

" I went to my room and certain silence. I had never really missed my mother all these years. However, on the day of the AI EEE results, I used she was around. I kicked myself for not getting those 6 extra problems right. I kept rewinding to the day of the exam. As if my brain could go back in time, recreate the same scenario, and I wouldn't make the same mistakes again. Regret - this feeling has to be one of the biggest manufacturing defects in humans. We keep regretting, even though there is no point to it. I stayed in my bed, dazed". (33)

In this novel the basic issues of our social system have been described. There are drawbacks of our education system. Coaching business is flushing leaves and bounds in our country. Coaching centres are not only in Kota Rajasthan but the coaching centres are in most of the cities across country also. Private colleges and Universities are only the centres of charging more and more money from the students. The life of an entrance exam aspirants, expectation from parents, friendship, love relationship, lust for money, politics, ambition and corruption are the reality of the society. The book has highlighted major problems and loop holes in our system.

The novel Revolution 2020 is a story of three friends at Varanasi. Raghav, Gopal and Aarti. Gopal meets Chetan Bhagat who has come to inaugurate his college. After inauguration Chetan Bhagat has come to Gopal's home and they have a drink together. Gopal has the overdose of drink and he is found fainted in the bathroom. Chetan Bhagat carries Gopal to the hospital and admit him there. when Gopal comes to senses in the hospital, he tells his story to Chetan Bhagat. The story goes in flashback and begins with when Gopal, Raghav and Aarti were 10 years old. All three were classmates at school. Gopal steals food from her tiffin box. She becomes angry at him for stealing food from her tiffin box. He tells her that he has not taken tasty food since long because he lost his mother when he was four years old. She shares her tiffin with him and both becomes friends. She belongs to rich family while Gopal belongs to poor family.

Gopal's father is a poor farmer. He has a disputed land Gopal's mother died when he was only 4 years old. His father has been suffering from asthma for long. As time passes away Gopal starts loving Aarti. He expresses his love for Aarti. She only considers him as her friend. All three friends take coaching of JEE engineering entrance exam. Aarti wants to become an air hostess while Gopal wants to become an engineer because his father thinks so. Raghav cracks entrance exam of JEE with good percentile but he wants to become a journalist. Gopal could not crack the entrance examination of JEE. He loses his heart and he settles at Kota to take the coaching of JEE entrance exam because his father desires so.

In the absence of Gopal, Raghav and Aarti come closer. Love affair develops between both. Gopal comes to know about this and he feels alone at Kota. After examination of JEE, he returns back to Varanasi. He comes to know that the life style of his friends has totally changed. His father has already spent all his savings on his study. now he has no money to run his family. Gopal fails again in the entrance exam of JEE. His father becomes angry at him. Gopal starts a job of a waiter. His father dies suddenly and it was a set back for Gopal. His uncle comes to take part in the cremation of his father. His uncle asks him to leave the disputed land for 3 lakh. He knows that his father has already taken a debt of two lakh rupees for his JEE entrance exam coaching.

One of the friends of Gopal gets meet him to the local MLA Shukla. MLA shows his interest in developing an engineering college at the disputed land . By force Shukla takes over the disputed land and he gives bribes to the officers to develop an engineering college at disputed land.

"Interestingly, MLA Raman Lal Shukla is one of the trustees of Ganga Tech . He has helped fund the college. Shukla also owns land around the Ganga Tech campus, estimated to cost between five and ten crores. Where did Shukla obtain these funds from? Incidentally, he floated the college three years ago, around the same time that its name came up in the Ganga Action Plan scam."(129)

The parents of Aarti did not let her go out of the city so she did not become air hostess. She has joined Ramada hotel. Raghav did not join the job of college campus after completing his engineering. He accepts the job of a reporter in a newspaper. At the day of the inauguration of the college of Gopal, there were big advertisements concerning college. Raghav published an interview of Gopal how he has made scandals with MLA Shukla? And how he has opened a college? Gopal and company insisted Raghav to leave the job of a reporter.

Raghav likes to bring revolution in the society since people have lost their faith in the existing corrupt system. Common people are exploited by administrative and political system of the country. Rich people open educational institutions to exploit the students and their parents. Exploitation of the common people must be stopped. Raghav and

Gopal have different ways to lead their lives. Raghav has a mission of revolution while Gopal is trapped by the existing corrupt Indian Raghav says,

"We all have to do our bit. For change we need a revolution. A real Revolution can only happen when people ask themselves - what is my sacrifice?" (216)

After loosing his job as a newspaper reporter, Raghav starts his editorial page "Revolution 2020". He has become very busy in a writing Revolution 2020. Gopal and Aarti start meeting frequently. He proposes Aarti but she does not deny the proposal. Gopal books a room in the hotel where Aarti works. Both Gopal and Aarti intimate in the hotel room. Aarti feels guilty because she was in a relation with Raghav but she intimated with Gopal. He shifts in his bungalow and he invites Aarti there.

"Aarti and I co

Raghav covers a big story and insists MLA Shukla to go to jail for his fraud and illegal activities. MLA Shukla attacks on the press of Raghav and collapse the press completely.

people appeal the father of Aarti to contest election but because of his poor health , he denies to contest election. Then people ask Aarti to contest election. She asks Gopal to be her husband and contest the election. Meantime Raghav distributes handouts regarding the corruption of MLA Shukla. Gopal goes to the house of Raghav to tell him that he is a great loser. He has snatched his girlfriend and his job as well. On reaching Raghav's home,he meets a farmer whose son has been suffering from severe disease and is about to die. It is because of drinking dirty water. There is a scam of MLA Shukla behind the dirty water. The farmer requests Raghav to report about dirty water and scam behind this. Gopal sees is himself in dying son of farmer. He remembers his childhood. His father was also a farmer. He decides that he must pay the dues of his life. Good man awakes inside Gopal. He requests the owner of the newspaper to give a chance to Raghav.

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"Aarti and I continued to meet, though seldom in public places. Mostly, she would call me home when her parents were out. Even with half or dozen servants in the house, her room had privacy. Two months had passed since the night at Ramada. Her guilt for cheating on Raghav had subsided somewhat, or at least she did it well for me. I stopped asking her if she loved me as it only moved her away from me" (185).

Raghav shows the agony of his heart as well as reality of the Indian society through his article "Revolution 2020". "What do you say about a society whose top leaders are the biggest crooks? What do you do in a system where almost anyone with power is corrupt? India has suffered enough . From childhood we are told India is the poor country. Why?there are countries in this world where an everage person makes more than fifty times that and average Indian makes. Fifty times? Are their people really fifty times more capable than us? Does an Indian farmer not work hard? Does an Indian student not study? Do we not want to do well? Why, why are we then doomed to be poor?... Of course, this wouldn't happen overnight. This also wouldn't happen until the real suffering begins. As India's young population increases, we will need more good collages and jobs. Soon there wouldn't be enough. People will realise who is fooling them. It could take ten years. I call it Revolution 2020, the year in which it wil happen, the movement that will finally shake the muck off India. When the Internet will connect all colleges across the country. When we will go on strike, shut down everything, until things are fixed. When young people will leave their classes and offices and come on to the streets. When Indians will get justice and the guilty will be punished "(162)

The press of Raghav got attacked by the persons of MLA Shukla ji. MLA Shukla was corrupt and shrewd politician. Raghav decided to expose his scams in different fields. Raghav decides to publish an article Revolution 2020. "Every newspaper of Varanasi city carried the Dimnapura plant scam story on the front page the next morning. Shukla ji whose resignation became public, had become the new villain in town and Raghav Kashyap the new hero. Everyone spoke highly of the stupid pink paper. Local television channels covered the scam for hours on end."(197)

In the novel Revolution 2020, there is love triangle. There are three characters like Gopal, Raghav and Aarti. All three love one-another. Gopal comes in close contact with Aarti.

"She hesitated, but I extended my hand. She held it as I pulled her gently down. I kissed her, and she kissed me back with closed eyes. It wasn't frantic or sexual. it was, if at all it is possible to kiss like that, chaste and pure. How ever we kissed for a long time, our pace as gentle as the rain on the window. I felt her tears on my cheeks. I paused and held her shoulders. She hugged me and buried her face in my chest. It was what Aarti always did, and I loved it when she did that. It made me feel protective."(201)



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