



**Fantasy in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*
and Bakhtiar Ali's *The Last
Pomegranate of the World***

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General Overview

- *Paradise (1998)* by Toni Morrison
- *The Last Pomegranate of the World (2002)* by Bakhtiar Ali
- **Fanatomy**

Statement of the Problem

This study seeks to reread Morrison's *Paradise* and Ali's *The Last Pomegranate of the World* in terms of Žižekian theory of fantasy relation with subject formation and identity crisis.

Statement of the Problem

This analysis could be also considered as a comparative study in that both novels shared a common point which is dealing with the minority issues, in two determinate societies. These minority groups included the convent women in *Paradise*, they are disallowed by men of Ruby whose forefathers had been disallowed many years ago. The other minority group is the marginalized teenagers in *The Last Pomegranate of the World* who are belonged to the Kurds' nation, another big minority group.

Purpose of the Study

It intends to reveal how marginalized and pluralized subjects in both novels struggle to form their identity through their particular fantasies.

Slavoj Žižek's Key Words

❑ The Subject

- Marginalized
- Pluralized

❑ Fantasy

- Death drive/ night of the world / negation of negation
- Unconscious
- Other jouissance

❑ Otherness

- other/ Ideal-ego
- Big Other



Pluralization in *Paradise*

- Cansolata's cure treatment as she has the ability of going in to the other's body and remove their illness
- The vanishing corpses of killed women and their presence in desired places
- There are twins all over the novel (plurality)
- "only one mirror has not been covered with chalky paint and that one the man ignores. He does not want to see himself stalking females" (9).

Pluralization in *TLPOW*

- “if you were on me then you accept both possibilities”(153).
- “We who grew up together are like each other... as our life might be the reflex of one mirror image... Each of us might be a small part of this image” (141).
- “The pomegranate tree is the mirror picture of another pomegranate tree is planted in another place in this world” (148).

Subject as an empty place in *Paradise*

- “She had no identification, no insurance, no family, and no work. Facing extinction, waiting to be evicted, wary of God, she felt like a curl of paper – nothing written on it – lying in the corner of an empty closet” (247-48).

Fantasy conceals the Other's gap in *Paradise*

- the twins denial of inter split between themselves, the decoration of Ruby as the replica of Haven, the reification of the old fathers' message "beware the furrow of his brow", the murdering of racial others.

Unconscious in *TLPOW*

- “All the disasters have been initiated from those marvelous dawns and dusks of the wilderness, As I was creating more than one faces for him in my mind” (12).

Conclusion

- Characters in both novels, Morrison's *Paradise* and Ali's *The Last Pomegranate of the World* escape from their terrifying real life and take refuge in their fantasies, which are the impact of their unconscious mind desire those things that is impossible in their actual conditions; however their desires are brotherhood or sisterhood, honesty, loyalty, and unification forever .