

Que Sirrah: Understanding the Fictional Journey of Two Compatriots in the novel IAS Today by Vikas Sharma

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Abstract:

In 'IAS Today,' Prof. Vikas Sharma tells an interesting story about two Indian friends, Tinny and Romesh, trying to make their way through the complicated web of modern Indian society. After the success of his previous books, "Love's Not Time's Fool" and "Raah ke Pathar," Sharma's newest work shows how forward-thinking he is as a writer by exploring a wide range of topics relevant to today's world. The book is set in a time of pandemics and skillfully weaves together the different paths of Tinny and Romesh, which represent the different ways people live in cities and rural areas. Romesh stands out as an example of how to live a simple, moral life. This is in contrast to Tinny's portrayal of a world filled with corruption and moral decay, where seeking physical pleasure and financial gains are the most important things. Sharma skillfully shows how morality and the never-ending desire for wealth are at odds with each other through these characters, which are a reflection of the conflicts that exist in modern society. Everyone in the story is a representation of a different social norm, which gives the story more meaning and nuance. Also, Sharma skillfully captures the zeitgeist of the time by exploring the worries and speculations of the average person. This is done against the setting of the pandemic's effects on the economy and society. The book strikes a deep chord with readers because it shows how the troubled realities of today's world affect us all. IAS Today is a showcase of Sharma's writing skills; it's an interesting look at the human state amidst the

constantly changing dynamics of modern life. Sharma wants his readers to think about the complicated issues of right and wrong, social norms, and finding happiness in a world that is changing quickly through the story of Tinny and Romesh.

Key Words: Today, Tinny and Romesh, society

Introduction:

As a literary form, fiction gives writers an endless blank slate on which to express their imaginations and discover new worlds. Without a doubt, fiction is different from real life because it takes place in worlds with made-up people, settings, and stories. In this world, the limits of the real world don't apply, so writers can make up stories that don't make sense, break the rules of physics, and explore the mysteries of the human mind. One of the most important ideas in literature is imagination, which means that an author can make up whole worlds out of thin air and fill them with characters that could be made up or based on real people. The power of words and storytelling gives these works of fiction life, giving them depth, complexity, and emotional resonance.

Novels, short stories, and poetry are some of the most popular types of fiction. Each one gives writers different ways to express their ideas. Throughout hundreds of pages, novels give writers a lot of room to create complex plots, characters with many sides, and worlds that readers can feel. In contrast, short tales are sharply focused on a single moment or theme, giving readers quick glimpses into made-up worlds. With its rhythmic cadence and vivid imagery, poetry uses words to make people feel things and think about things in the form of verse. While fiction may come from the mind, it has effects that go far as captivating, inspiring, and shedding light on the

human experience. Fiction refers to imaginative stories, characters, and settings created by an author. It derives from an author's imagination and creativity, rather than representing factual information or events from the real world. Some examples of fiction include novels, short stories, and poetry with imaginary elements. When the author presents any assumed points or stories through his imagination and creativity except factual information and events is called fiction. There are many examples of fiction including novels, poetry, and short stories.

IAS Today is a very revolutionary novel written by Professor Vikas Sharma. This novel revolves around the story of two batch mates named Tinny and Romesh. They have very contrasting lives. While Tinny is the son of the SDM and comes from a very wealthy and well-known family, Romesh is the son of a farmer and does not have the financial resources and wealth that Tinny has. While every day after classes, Tinny stays back for sports, Romesh can not do the same, he has to go back home to help his father in the fields as his family does not have enough financial resources to support him and his education. As time passes, we see Tinny as he wastes all his resources and opportunities and starts a gang of thieves and robbers instead and commits a series of crimes. On the other hand, Romesh works hard and achieves his dream of becoming an IAS officer. He knows that "Lords can change the situation with their powers and ever help their devotees" (I.A.S. Today 97)

While in the name of modernity, Tinny has illicit relationships with multiple women, he is unable to find the satisfaction that Romesh gets in a happily married life. Tinny starts using drugs and consumes alcohol in the name of being modern, but all this only leads to his end. He dies after he is poisoned by a woman whose husband he had killed in a robbery. Romesh believes in the traditions and values of great men like Gandhiji and this leads him to his

dream of becoming an IAS officer. In their research paper Sudhir K. Arora and Dr Abnish Singh Chauhan :

I.A.S. Today is the story of Romesh, a Gandhian, who gets married to Trishala Vasu during his training period and later tries to uproot crimes to the best of his abilities. In the same world is also Tinny, a son of noble parents who becomes a ring leader and forms his gang with Kale, Penny, Vallu, and Gannu and leads a lecherous life with Kanti, Rewati, and Swati

(P 2)

Professor Vikas Sharma shows us how a person can never find peace and satisfaction if he destroys himself in the name of modernity and it is only traditions and culture that give peace to the soul and spirit. The journey of Tinny and Romesh serves as a profound analysis of the different routes that individuals may take in contemporary Indian culture. Sharma digs into topics such as privilege, morality, ambition, and the search for meaning in a world that is constantly changing through individuals who have had different experiences and made different decisions.

Tinny, who was born into a position of privilege as the son of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, is thought to be the personification of money and social rank. Because of his wealthy family, he has access to chances and resources that many others can only consider a pipe dream.

Tinny, on the other hand, gives in to the temptations of excess and hedonism rather than making use of his advantages for the betterment of his situation. By participating in illegal activities and establishing a group of robbers and thieves, he wastes his talent and gives up on his potential. The fact that Tinny's life devolves into chaos and disaster even though he is wealthy materially is illustrative of the emptiness that comes with a life that is devoid of any moral purpose.

When contrasted with this, Romesh emerges as a figure of resiliency and integrity in the face of adversity. Because Romesh was born into a lowly agricultural family, he does not possess the same financial resources or social position as Tinny. However, he compensates for these disadvantages via hard effort, determination, and a firm commitment to his values. Romesh perseveres in his commitment to his principles, finding motivation from historical heroes such as Gandhiji, despite the difficulties he is confronted with. The culmination of his journey is the realization of his desire to become an officer in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). His path is one of self-discovery and personal improvement.

Professor Sharma examines the intricacies of contemporary Indian society and the opposing influences that determine individual destiny through the narratives of Tinny and Romesh, which are told in tandem. At the same time that he celebrates the enduring strength of integrity and tradition, he draws attention to the attraction of worldly wealth and the hazards of moral compromise. The story of Tinny's journey into moral decay acts as a cautionary tale, highlighting the repercussions of abandoning ethical values to pursue short-term gratification. The path that Romesh took, on the other hand, is illustrative of the transformational potential of resiliency, perseverance, and moral conviction. It illustrates the triumph of character over circumstance. The readers of "IAS Today" are encouraged to contemplate concepts such as morality, ambition, and the pursuit of pleasure, which are timeless questions. An insightful reflection on the difficulties of modern life and the everlasting necessity of moral integrity in managing the problems that it presents is provided by Sharma through the fictitious journey of Tinny and Romesh. In the end, the novel stands as a monument to the transformational power of individual choice as well as the everlasting significance of ethical ideas in the process of defining the human experience.

Tinny and Romesh, as they try to become officials in India's huge democracy. The story is very interesting and keeps you interested. The book moves us deeply by showing the hopes, problems, and moral choices that many young Indians from poor families have to make. Our main character, Romesh, is a great example of the determined spirit of people who want to change their lives and follow their dreams of helping their country. Romesh comes from a middle-class family that doesn't have a lot of money or resources. His journey shows how powerful passion and drive can be when things go wrong. He stays committed to his goal of greatness because he has strong morals and won't give up on them for the sake of convenience. But Romesh doesn't live in a world of perfect goodness alone. His goal is to move up the governmental ladder, and the world is full of people who share that goal. But unlike Romesh, some people are ready to give up their morals and use bad methods to get what they want. These enemies, who are motivated by self-interest and Machiavellian strategies are very tough for Romesh's strong morals and unwavering determination. Romesh is a very good type of person. When Romesh gets into the I.A.S., his dad Raman tells him to work hard to reach his goal. "Be sincere to the nation and yourself too" (I.A.S. Today 74), Romesh's father Raman tells him to do so because he is a good son and a loyal Indian citizen.

Romesh has a heart that is full of love so he speaks the poem by Shakespeare, True Love; "I have no experience of such love. But this literary artist asserts that pure love is for the sake of love and above worldly consideration and social bondage. Lovers ignore all rituals and authorities to gain their love at any cost." (P 16) In addition to Romesh's fights with these enemies, the story also shows parts of his personal life, such as his relationships. Through these private times, we see Romesh as a person, with his flaws and hopes for a life outside of his work.

"IAS Today" also does a great job with the theme of modernization and how it has changed

Indian culture. Romesh and Tinny face the harsh realities of a country in transition as they walk through the halls of power. They have to deal with the conflicts between tradition and progress as well as the difficulties of modern government. Vikas Sharma's "IAS Today" shows the hard but exciting journey of people like Romesh and Tinny, whose goals go beyond their humble roots. It's an interesting look at ambition, honesty, and the never-ending search for greatness in public service. Professor Sharma shows how choices and values have a huge effect on a person's path through life. Sharma looks at themes like wealth, custom, modernity, and, finally, the search for happiness and fulfillment through their different paths. Tinny, who was born into a wealthy family, represents the draw of having a lot of stuff and the temptations that come with it. Even though Tinny is in a good situation, he wastes his chances and gives in to the temptation of illegal activities, which ends up being his downfall. Sharma uses Tinny's character to show how excess can lead to problems and how being without morals can make your life feel empty. On the other hand, Romesh stands out as a person who sticks to custom and is honest even when things go wrong. Romesh is a good example of hard work, persistence, and respecting custom, even though he doesn't have Tinny's money or social status. His dedication to his family duties and respect for great people like **Gandhiji** led him to success and happiness in the end.

Sharma questions the idea that modernity and material wealth are the same things when it comes to happiness and fulfillment through the stories of Tinny and Romesh. Instead, he stresses how important tradition, morality, and spiritual fulfillment are in the search for a worthwhile life. Tinny's sad death is a lesson about what happens when you give up morals for short-term joys. Romesh's journey, on the other hand, shows how important custom and honesty are over time. It led him to achieve his goals and be happy with a life well lived. In "IAS Today," Sharma asks readers to think about morals, tradition, and the search for happiness, which are issues that will

never go away. He sends a deep lesson about how important it is to stay true to your values and principles in the face of the challenges of modern life through the story of Tinny and Romesh's journey.

Conclusion:

The conclusion reveals a striking contrast between the lives of Tinny and Romesh, highlighting the profound impact of decisions taken in the pursuit of temporary contemporary ideals against enduring virtues. Throughout the story, we observe Tinny's gradual decline into a state of moral corruption, as he recklessly wastes his advantages and gives in to the temptation of indulgence and immoral behaviour. His journey, filled with unsuccessful endeavours and ethical decline, ultimately ends in a tragic outcome, as he perishes due to his own carelessness and the repercussions of his unlawful actions. Romesh stands out as a symbol of unwavering determination and moral excellence, firmly committed to the values of diligence, honesty, and respect for customs. Romesh achieves his goal of becoming an IAS officer by demonstrating unrelenting determination and a strong belief in the wisdom of great leaders such as Gandhiji. Professor Vikas Sharma effectively highlights the enduring values and cultural legacy as the source of true fulfillment and inner serenity by contrasting the dissimilar paths of Tinny and Romesh. Ultimately, Romesh's steadfast dedication to tradition and moral correctness serves as a clear indication of the way to a purposeful and satisfying life. It serves as a poignant reminder of the lasting influence of timeless wisdom in a constantly evolving world.

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