

Tracing The Narratives of Scapegoating: An Allportian Examination of *Brick Lane*

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Abstract

Brick Lane by Monica Ali centers on the themes of migration, displacement, institution of marriage, identity crises, misrepresentation and so forth. The work has been explored from these aspects but the new dimensions within this context have not been examined comprehensively. This paper aims to investigate the motif of scapegoating in the novel, which draws upon Gordon W. Allport's conception. Scapegoating, for Allport, manifests itself in different characters that project their failures and frustrations to other people who are powerless and silenced. In its South Asian backdrop, it is blaming, killing, or scarifying a person or a group of people for personal, societal reasons or to attain certain kinds of outcomes. In case of *Brick Lane*, Nazneen is scapegoated by her parents when they choose Chanu, forty years old and an ugly person, as her husband. The paper will attempt to go beyond the mythological implications of scapegoating by employing it as a theoretical framework. Moreover, the question of a human being, as a modern scapegoat, in the present time will be delineated. Scapegoating functions on different levels depending upon the contexts where it is exercised. The objectives of this study are to highlight the factors enhancing the victimization by blocking the ways of empowerment. The analytical mood of inquiry will be used to conduct the research.

Keywords: Allport, Brick Lane, migration, sacrifice, scapegoating, South Asian

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