

Responses to Khaled Hosseini's book

The Kite Runner



"There is only one sin, only one. And that is theft. Every other sin is a variation of theft...When you kill a man, you steal a life. You steal someone's right to the truth. When you cheat, you steal the right to fairness."

The book *the Kite Runner* teaches us that there is only one sin and that it's theft. I believe we get to that point of stealing because we become ungrateful for what God does provide for us. It's as old as Adam and Eve, not being satisfied with the part of the garden God provided for them. They were led to concentrate on the tree they didn't have permission on, the forbidden fruit. So they justified their desires and emotions until their heart (conscience) was hardened, and emotions pushed them to act on it. They became blind to what they had, and consumed with what they didn't have. They gave up so much, the whole pie, for some crumbs.

I believe the secret to being content is learning to be thankful in all the things God gives me. Even the lessons that the flesh doesn't like but the Spirit rejoices when the flesh submits, this becomes

joy. I've learned that God's blessings come in all shapes and sizes so I've learned to appreciate the good

with the bad, the ups with the downs, every moment God gives me is a gift from God.

-John

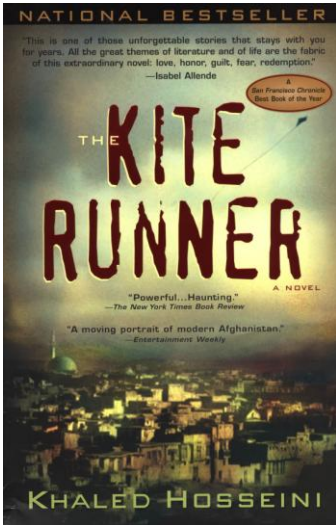
"Children aren't coloring books. You don't get to fill them with your favorite colors."

Each of us comes to the earth with our own destiny to fulfill. As parents, it is often tempting to try to shape your children in your image –your image of what you think they should become. Perhaps we are simply looking for a do-over because we're not so satisfied with the results of our personal artistic efforts. I, for one, kept trying to color within the lines and have always regretted that it took me so long to develop my individual artistic flair.

But children are best left to design their *own* lives. The coloring books that parents put before them should be thought of as a springboard, full of guidance and suggestions without expectations. Children have their own ideas about coloring and should be encouraged to move beyond the rigid lines and to use colors without regard to the rules.

As much as I was often tempted to shape my son's destiny, I gave him his own box of crayons and let him create his own work of art. He developed a delightful self-portrait that exceeded all of my expectations.

-Peggy



"Children aren't coloring books.
You don't get to fill them with
your favorite colors."

This was a saga of
several generations.
Children become parents
and they carried their

stories onward to more children. One member chose
this quote from *The Prophet* to share. It reminds us
of the responsibilities of generations:

Your Children are not Your Children

They are the sons and daughters of life's
longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong
not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

© Kahlil Gibran, 1923

-Raymond

"...but better to be hurt by the truth than comforted with a lie."

Sometimes, looking in the mirror isn't an easy
thing to do, simply because the reflection doesn't lie.
Maybe that's why the mirrors in here are fogged. It's
easier to tell half truths to the guys sitting around you,
hoping they believe you like a potential juror, than to
stand up and be held accountable. However, only
after you accept the truth and take responsibility can
you truly free yourself of the guilt, pain, and sorrow
that are a lie's best friends. Only then can you move
forward, only then can you change.

-Joe

"...but better to be hurt by the truth than comforted with a lie."

That's a very true statement, because when you tell a
lie you have to tell another lie to cover up that and the
lies keep going on. But if you come with the truth and
face up to the issue, then the matter can be resolved.
If you keep telling lies, you will be known as a person
who cries wolf and no one would ever trust you or
believe what you have to say. .

-Devin

"It always hurts more to have and lose than to not have in the first place."

There is a lot of loss in the Kite Runner. The
happy world of Amir's childhood in Kabul is
destroyed, piece by piece. Because he lost so much,
Amir also knew what could be regained. This
knowledge guided him to "be good again".

Knowledge and experience form a double-
edged sword. By learning and doing new things, we
change our lives and have to rearrange our views of
the world to fit new pieces in. Whether terrible or
delightful, new experiences still become part of the
picture. In the same way, no matter how bittersweet
life is, our stories are part of the huge picture of life
on Earth. Hassan seemed very wise in this way. He
didn't travel far and was not very educated. He had a
view of the big picture, however, and knew how to
cherish his little piece of it.

There is a lot of pain / Trying to be good again
But in the healing / Will be a blessed feeling.

-Elizabeth