Fragmented Childhood and the Psychology of Absence: Trauma, Narrative Memory, and the Urban Subaltern Mind in *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line*

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the psychological landscape of urban marginality in *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line* through the lens of trauma theory, narrative psychology, and cognitive literary studies. The novel presents the story of missing children in a Delhi slum, narrated by Jai, a nine-year-old boy whose imagination is shaped by crime television and urban myth. This study argues that the text constructs a fragmented narrative space where childhood innocence intersects with systemic violence, poverty, and state neglect. Drawing upon trauma theory and narrative identity frameworks, the paper explores how absence becomes a structuring principle of both psyche and narrative. Jai's perception does not merely recount events; it reconstructs reality through imaginative compensation. The novel exposes how marginalized communities internalize fear, grief, and helplessness. Furthermore, the research highlights how narrative voice becomes a site of psychological resistance. Ultimately, this paper demonstrates that the novel transforms individual trauma into a collective urban memory, revealing the deep interconnection between psyche, narrative fragmentation, and socio-political erasure.

Keywords: Trauma, Narrative identity, Urban marginality, Childhood psyche, Collective memory.

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