

CANTHEREBEAROOM OFONE'SOWN:ACRITICALSTUDY OFIDENTITY AND HOMEIN *THEIN-BETWEEN WORLD OF VIKRAM LALLANDHALFALIFE*



DISCUSSION

Half a Life ThomasWheeler in *The Immigrant Experience* (1971) says:The history of immigration is the history of alienation and its consequence for every freedom won, a tradition lost. For every second genera- tion assimilated, a first generation in one way or other spurned. For the gains of goods and services, an identity lost, and uncertainty found. *HalfaLife*beginswitha probe, a query about one's name, the very first source of identity for any individual. The protagonist, Willie feeling baffled by his unique name asks (2001:1): "Why is my middle name Somer- set? (his full name being Willie Somerset Chandran). The boys at school have just found out, and they are mockingme. Hisfather said without joy, 'You were named after the great English writer. I am sure you have seen his book about the

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Abstract

M oder n cont empor ar y l i t er at ur e i s r epl et e w i t h alienated and estranged beings. It mirrors the general di si l l u s i o n m e n t and spi r i t u a l b a r r e n n e s s f e l t b y m a n i n a w o r l d t h a t s e e m s b i z a r r e a n d u n f a t h o m a b l e t o h i m . T h i s s e n s e o f a l i e n a t i o n a n d u n b e l o n g i n g n e s s h o w e v e r , g e t s e v e n m o r e p r o n o u n c e d i n d i a s p o r i c w r i t i n g s . T h e p r e s e n t p a p e r i s a n a t t e m p t t o t e a s e o u t a n d p r e s e n t a k a l e i d o s c o p i c v i e w o f o n e ' s o r i g i n , w h i c h g e t s u n r e l e n t i n g l y r e p r e s e n t e d a s " i d e n t i t y " i n t e r m s o f a v a r i e t y o f c a t e g o r i e s l i k e o n e ' s l a n g u a g e , c l a s s , r a c e , g e n d e r a n d s e x u a l i t y i n t w o m o s t c e l e b r a t e d w o r k s o f d i a s p o r i c e x p e r i e n c e , T h e I n - B e t w e e n W o r l d o f V i k r a m L a l l b y