

Chetan Bhagat's *Revolution 2020: A Tale of Love, Corruption and Ambition*

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Abstract:

Love, corruption and ambition are three powerful-cum-passionate tendencies of humans. While success in love leads to marital bliss, love-failure wrecks lives. Similarly, circumstances and the corrupt socio-political establishment makes one corrupt. Also, the spirit of ambition separates humans from animals. Chetan Bhagat in his novel, *Revolution 2020* has dealt with the powerful forces of love, corruption and ambition on which this article is based.

Key words : Revolution 2020, love, corruption, ambition

The literary-icon Chetan Bhagat's novel *Revolution 2020* deals with the themes of love, corruption and ambition in human life. The novel, probes the contemporary, burning issues of our volatile society of the 21st century. The novel, attacks various types of corruption existing in our society and country. Ambition is essential in bringing success in life. But when ambition turns into obsession, it is dangerous as it happens in the life of Gopal Mishra, who fails not only in the Entrance Examinations for IIT and other Engineering colleges, but also in his journey of life. He searches his space but does not locate himself anywhere. At the end, he gets the comfort zone in his business, but in the reality of life, he recognizes himself as a failure. He has had enough money to please himself, but he does not find his emotional space in this vast and fast developing world. He resembles Jay Gatsby of Scott Fitzgerald. Though Gopal was surrounded by the sea of prosperity, still he could not relish even a single drop just like the Coleridgean-hero figuring in his intriguing poem, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner".

"Water, water everywhere,

And all the boards did shrink,

Water, water everywhere,

Nor any drop to drink". (Poetry foundation.org)

Revolution 2020 is not merely a story of three childhood friends. Bhagat gets an opportunity to delve deep into the emotions and passions of Gopal, Raghav and Aarti. He is successful in handling their relationship and shows maturity and objectivity in the presentation. Bhagat's talent specially lies in his mode of candid remarks on various issues related to society. A.R. Rahman, a well known music icon acknowledges Chetan Bhagat's manner of articulation: "Many writers are successful at expressing what's in their hearts or articulating a particular point of view. Chetan Bhagat's books do both and more"(quoted in *TIME Magazine*).

Bhagat links social issues with esoteric characters and it has multiple benefits. It helps to retain the objectivity of the characterization and at the same time he finds himself involved with each and every character in time and space. *Revolution 2020* is not an exception. It does deal with the themes of love, corruption and ambition associated with Gopal, Arati and Raghav. Bhagat's unique style of presentation makes him the most widely read writer in India. According to Donald Greenlees , "Bhagat has touched a nerve with young Indian readers and acquired almost the cult status. "(quoted in *New York Times, March 14, 2008*)

The novel opens with a prologue which marks the unique style of Chetan Bhagat. Gopal Mishra invited the writer to give a motivational speech in the coaching institutes in Varanasi, the age-old city of learning and culture. Here, Gopal unburdens his soul by telling his own story of success and failure to the writer. The entire story has been told by Gopal in the first hand narrative without any coyness. His early childhood, his education in the school where he got the company of Raghav and Aarti, his love for Aarti, his failure to get success in IIT JEE and AIEEE, his life in Kota, his return from Kota to Varanasi, his company with MLA Shuklaji, his life in Gangatech- all these things take place in the form of his journey from innocence to experience. The book covers all these events in detail.

In the initial chapters, the attraction between Gopal and Aarti has been shown. They find some time to be together with each other. Gopal and Raghav have appeared in IIT JEE and AIEEE. Gopal gets the 52043 rank while Raghav gets the much higher rank of 5820. Raghav's father feels proud of his son while Gopal's father feels bitter.

Actually, Gopal's Father is too anxious to know his son's performance in AIEEE. When Gopal comes home, he puts several questions. He wants to know his result. Gopal's father hopes have been shattered. Every father wants his son to bask in success and not in failure. Gopal also realizes the feelings of his father. He is also unhappy about his own performance in the exam. He broods:

I went to my room and sat in silence. I had never really missed my mother all these days. However, on the day of the AIEEE results, I wished she was around. I kicked myself for not getting those six extra problems right. I kept rewinding to the day of exam. As if my brain could go back in time recreate the same scenario, and I wouldn't make the same mistakes again. Regret—this feeling has to be one of the biggest manufacturing defects in humans. We keep regretting, even though there is no point to it. I stayed in my bed, dozed.(33)

Baba insisted him to go to Kota for further coaching. He believes that his son might succeed with the help of the coaching received in Kota. In spite of economic hardships, he persuaded Gopal to reach Kota for coaching. Gopal is aware of the economic condition of his father as well as his own talent. He does not want to take risk. But Baba is a typical Indian father who wants to do everything for his son's future. He wants to see him, an engineer.

Baba is not ready to hear any word form Gopal. When Gopal tells of his own desire to take admission in some other degree, he tells him the importance of technical degree in getting suitable placements: "What's the point of a useless degree? And how will you do a repeat attempt without better coaching? You just missed a good rank because of a few marks. Maybe Kota will help you get those extra marks"(41).

On the other hand,

Gopal also thinks about Aarti who seems to be a real consolation for him in the state of his failure. It seems that he does not want to leave Aarti in Varanasi. Gopal respects the words of Baba and decided to be in Kota for extra coaching to fulfill Baba's dream. His association with Aarti cannot stop him either. Kota has emerged as the new educational centre for IIT aspirants. A large number of students come here to fulfill their dreams and the ambition of their parents. There are many coaching institutes which help them immensely to realize their dream too. So many hostels and houses are built by the land owners to accommodate these students who left their paternal roof and the laps of mother in tender age. Gopal is not an exception. He comes to Kota along with the memory of Baba and Aarti. Gopal struggles to find suitable place in the beginning. He has to make several decisions within a week: which coaching institute he has to join, how much he has to spend, etc. Bhagat describes the dilemma of Gopal in these words:

One week in Kota and had a few decisions made for me. One, I did not clear the Bansal exam. I could join their separate correspondence programme, which defeated the purpose of being in Kota. Resonance hiked its fees at the last minute. It became unaffordable for me, so I did not write their entrance exam. I made it to the wait list of the Career Path programme.(63)

Gopal always used to talk to Aarti on internet. He loves her but on the other hand Aarti does not seem to clarify her stand. She refuses to answer such questions asked by Gopal time and again. At the same time, he is also conscious about Raghav's attachment with Aarti. Gopal does not want to see Aarti in the arms of Raghav. He is disturbed to imagine Aarti in the company of Raghav. Thus, "Gopal is distressed, and the novel explores the strains of unrequited love between intimate friends, which are a major part in the novel" (Wankhade,82)

Every talk with Aarti disturbs him too much. He ponders over the sensitivity of his relationship with her. He also describes the habit of a large number of students who visit internet café either to watch porn or to visit IIT websites. They are free from any kind of guardianship and there is no one here to check them. Gopal also does the same when Aarti disconnects the line: "I spent them doing what most guys who come here did – surf the official IIT website or watch porn. I guess these are the two things

boys wanted most in Kota. At least the coaching centres could help you get one of them” (67).

The first three months are fruitful for him in Kota. He begins improving his scores in the internal test exam. His hard work and concentration places him among top twenty students in the boys’ class. But once more, Aarti’s birthday comes to disturb him. He wants to wish Aarti as the first one. He directly comes from the coaching classes and tries several times to connect her from the STD booth. Having failed, he ran almost five kilometers to reach Kota Station to get other STD Booth because anyhow he would like to wish Aarti as the first wisher. His love for Aarti was turning into obsession. He cannot tolerate to imagine Aarti in the company of someone. When Aarti’s mother tells him that she has gone to Kanpur with Raghav, he loses his temper. It is shocking for him to see her in the company of Raghav:

“Aunty, is Aarti around”?

She left early morning with Raghav for Kanpur.

“Kanpur?” I said, shocked she had gone three hundred kilometers away from Varanasi with Raghav.(72)

The growing relationship between Aarti and Raghav causes mental shock for Gopal. The more he begins to think about her the more mental shock he suffers. He loses control over his emotion. Life seems to be totally out of control for him. His inner voice begins to crash with his outer.

His obsession for her makes him restless. He cannot sleep and everything slips away from him. His mission in Kota has been diverted. He stops thinking to complete AIEE or IITJEE. He finds himself in a difficult situation: “I did not sleep the whole night. I kicked myself for thinking about her so much”(73).

Gopal gets the company of Prateek who is really the embodiment of frustration. Gopal tells about him: “Prateek studied at Resonance, as a second time repeater. He had become a quitter the first time, and even now he had almost given up. We became friends; meeting at Chaman’s every night.”(80)

The residence of Prateek symbolizes his nature and future prospects. He seems to be a typical depressed fellow. The writer describes his room: “Prateek’s room did not look like that of a hardworking repeater in Kota. Beer bottles outnumbered books, cigarette butts exceeded pens. The walls had poster of scantily-clad women instead of Resonance circulars.”(80)

Prateek tells Gopal about his own experience. He tells him how he could improve his grip over his subjects and make required progress in the right direction. Systematic preparation must help anyone to achieve the goal. He tells Gopal:

Grip, Yes, that’s the world. The trick to these entrance exams is that you have to get a grip on them. You need a game plan. What are your strong subjects, which are you weak ones? Are you working with the teachers on the weak areas? Are you tracking your progress on the mock tests? Are you thinking about nothing but the exam all day? Do you eat your meals and take your bath as fast as possible so that you have more time to study? If your answer is yes to all these question, that’s when you can say you have grip. That’s the only way to have a shot at a seat. Of course, you could be one of those naturally talented students who never have to study much. But most of us are not.(81-82)

Gopal’s birthday comes as a new source of happiness in his life in Kota. Aarti calls and wishes him. It inspires him so much and it is quite enough for him to come on right track. He realizes the same thing: “I felt so good that even the Physics solutions guide on my disk looked kissable. I wanted to study. I wanted to live”(86).

The importance of Aarti in his life is too high. He cannot live without her. He lives for her, studies for her and wants to do everything for her. Her few words of love get him on right track once more. He begins to improve his rank as well as devotes much time on study.

Now the day of exam has come. Gopal has to perform well. Many parents have also come to join their children and pour blessings. Mothers begin to perform extra pujas to get divine blessings for their children. Gopal does well in IITJEE and

AIEEE entrance tests in Kota. He wants to leave Kota as soon as possible. His mission in Kota is now over. He has not informed his father about his coming to Varanasi, his real destination where he would like to flower. He embraces the city so much as he confides to Aarti: "It's my happiest day ever; I hope I never leave Varanasi again.(97)

The day of results has come. Baba is more anxious about the result than Gopal. Unfortunately, Gopal was not selected in AIEEE. His failure disturbs Baa. He slaps his dearest child: "Slap! I felt my right cheek sting. For his age and strength, my father could strike quite a blow. He had hit me for the first time in more than ten years. I deserved it"(105).

Baba died leaving behind Gopal an orphan. His cremation was to be done. Gopal's condition became painful. His uncles and other relatives came and showed affection and sympathy to Gopal. But he seems to be a typical fellow in depression and nothing consoles him. His uncle Ghanshyam Taya-ji wants to console him but Gopal is not in a mood to get his love and affection. He watches the funeral-pyre of his father in calmness and compassion.

After his father's death. Gopal finds himself in loneliness. No one is left to look after him. But for him, this situation comes as a boon. He is now free to enjoy his time. He meets with Sunil and Vineet who have some other notions in their lives. Sunil takes him to the residence of MLA Shuklaji. He is the boss of Sunil. With the support of Mr. Shukla, Sunil has organized several events and earned a lot. Gopal mentions his land dispute case before MLA Shukla who becomes quite eager to know the details. Sunil suggests him to open a College in his disputed land. He tells Gopal: "Most people, who own college in India, haven't. [only] Stupid people go to college. Smart people own them, said Sunil"(120).

A person like MLA Shukla is always in search of needful persons like Gopal to exploit their innocence and simplicity. They try to grab the situation and make profitable business. They do not care about the welfare of public wealth. They are bound to live ironical life. MLA Shuklaji is the typical flower of our new political scenario. For the land dispute of Gopal which had not been solved for more than thirty years, the solution came out within a few days because of MLA Shuklaji. Bitto, the

four years old grandson of his uncle Ghanshyam's son. One can guess who has done all these things. Ghanshyam came to the door of Gopal which he had avoided for a longer period. Gopal's aunt told him directly of Bitto's not returning from nursery school.

Soon, Gopal manages to get the entire land from his uncle Ghanshyam Tayaji. For this, he gets the blessings of Shukla. Now, the entire deal was ready. They want to open an engineering collage. Mr. Shuklaji is ready to provide fund. He would like to use his black money for the pious purpose. Gopal's temper suits with the temper of Shukla. Thus, a platform has been set to open Gangateck. Shukla blesses Gopal in his own way: "Well done. I like you Gopal. You will go very far". Shuklaji personally filled my glass to the brim with whisky"(136).

Now Gopal sees new horizons in his life and is ready to touch the zenith. He has the blessings and parental roof of Shuklaji who also wants to do something for society in order to compensate for his crimes. He would like to wash his hands of corruption and his involvement in Ganga clean scam. Shuklaji seems to be using Gopal as a tool for his own business. Gopal also understands these things, but he has no option.

The establishment of Gangatech is not far from enhancing further corruption. It is not easy for even the persons like Shukla to open a technical college like Gangatech. In spite of his high reach and money power, he has to face many hindrances. For instance, the novelist writes: "No, any government work, especially in education, requires a fee. Get used to it. He then listed out the palms we had to grease in order to open a place to teach kids in our country."(138)

After three years of hard work, Gangatech came into existence. So many faculty members have been appointed. Mr. Srivastava from Allahabad NIT has been appointed as the dean. More than six crores has been invested to open this engineering college: "We had spent six crores already on construction, equipment, faculty, and of course, fixing government officials"(166).

The inspection event went on without any hindrance. A dinner has been arranged for AICTE inspection team. The entire faculty members and the government officials have been invited to celebrate and bless the occasion. Shukla began to share

his private feelings: “Shuklaji and I went to the dinner buffet. We filled our plates with food and came to one corner of the room. “The cash will arrive in an hour: he told me. ‘Why do you trust me so much, Shuklaji. I could steal your money’. ‘You don’t have a family. Whom would you steal for?’” he said” (167).

Now, the opening day of Gangatech comes. Everything is ready. But Gopal’s friend Raghav has some other notions. He publishes an article in the Dainik: The headlines said: “New engineering college opens in city – with corruption money?”(175).

Raghav gives details about the college in his article. But his main motive is to get answer to his question over the origin of the huge funds at Shukla’s disposal. He would like to highlight the corruption in Ganga Action Plan. His article highlights all these malpractices:

Interestingly, MLA Raman Lal Shukla is one of the trustees of Gangatech. He has helped to fund the college. Shukla also owns land around the Gangatech campus, estimated to cost between five and ten crores. Where did Shukla obtain these funds from? Incidentally, he floated the college three years ago, around the same time that his name came up in the Ganga Action Plan scam. Is this college an attempt to clean up his reputation? People come to the Ganga to clean their sins. Is Shukla trying to clean away his sins against Ganga?(176)

The CM cancels his programme in the last minute due to Raghav’s article. Everything is rambled. The State Education Minister unveils the college plaque. Shukla answers some of the questions put by the media reporters. Shukla also scolds Raghav without his presence. He calls Gopal to look into the matter and how it could be stopped. Gopal promises him to do accordingly.

The article of Raghav brings trouble for Shukla and Gopal. Both of them become disturbed. Gopal fears to face Shuklaji. He realizes the importance of his relation with Shuklaji: “I threw the newspaper away. I had improved my relations with Shuklaji with great difficulty. I had told him that the reporter had apologized to me and that this would never happen again. I know Raghav was taking revenge for the ‘sorry’ that day. He must have obtained Gangatech’s building plan from his shady sources in VNN”(191).

Hot words are exchanged between Gopal and Aarti on Raghav's concept of Revolution 2020. Arti tells Gopal about Raghav's mission of Revolution 2020: "Revolution 2020. That is his goal. That India must have a full-blown revolution by 2020. Powers will be with the youth. We will dismantle the old corrupt system and put a new one in place"(197).

Raghav would like to bring revolution in society since people have lost their faith in the existing system. Everyone is totally dissatisfied with government rules and regulations. Rich people are busy in amassing public wealth. They open colleges and other types of educational institutions which plunder public money all the time. All these things must be stopped. Raghav is not a culprit as Gopal thinks. Raghav's mission is not liked by Gopal because Gopal has been trapped by the existing system. But no one can stop Raghav in his mission. He writes more in the same article:

Of course, this won't happen overnight. This also won't happen until the real suffering begins. As India's young population increases, we will need more good colleges and jobs. Soon, there won't be enough. People will realize who is fooling them. It could take ten years. I call it Revolution 2020, the year in which it will happen, the movement that shakes the muck off India. When the internment will connect all colleges across the country when we will on strike, shut down everything, until things are fixed. When young people will leave their classes and offices and come on to the streets. When Indians will get justice and the guilty will be punished. (205-06)

Raghav is not alone in his mission. Gopal also realizes the same thing. Raghav's thought cannot be suppressed by the power of cash and influence as Shukla-ji thinks. Both Gopal and Suklaji are aware of the power of truth. Truth may be ignored but cannot be suppressed for a longer period. Revolution must start: "And it will all begin in Varanasi. For that reason, we bring you revolution 2020"(206).

Raghav's new bomb seems to claim MLA Shuklaji as victim. He realizes the inevitable result. This time Raghav does everything with full proof. He writes further in the article:

Revolution 2020 found many truths about the GAP scam. However, the most shocking one is about MLA Raman Lal Shukla's Dimnapur Sewage Treatment

Plan in Varanasi. Built at a cost Rs. 25 crores, the plant remained dysfunctional for years. When finally made operational, it never cleaned the water. We have startling facts, with proof, on what happened inside the plan.(235)

The CM suggests Shukla to resign and send a good signal among people. Unwillingly, Shukla does so, Shukla is quite aware of the future prospects. He says to Gopal: “Once I resign, I have no power. Many MLAs have made money in the GAP scam. Before it spreads, they will lock me up to show they have taken action”.(241) The resignation of Shuklaji makes Raghav a new hero in the field of journalism. His report about Ganga Action Plan comes on the front pages of every newspaper:

Every newspaper of Varanasi city carried the Dimnapura Plant Scam story on the front page the next morning. Shuklaji whose resignation became public, had become the new villain in town and Raghav Kashyap, the new hero. Everyone spoke highly of stupid pink paper. Local television channels covered the scam for hours on end.(243)

MLA Shuklaji was sent to jail for his involvement in the Ganga Action Plan Scam. He has given entire things to Gopal. In his absence, Gopal runs his business, by fair and foul means. Shuklaji loves Gopal for several reasons altogether. He also persuaded him to become a politician and fight election from his own seat. When he comes to know about his friendship with DM’s daughter Aarti, he seems to exploit the situation. He calls him to marry Aarti and fight election with her family help because Arti’s grandfather had once great reputation in the political field. Shuklaji says: “Yes, politician, business and educationist – power, money and respect – perfect combination. You are destined for big things. I knew it the day you entered my office”.(256)

These few words of Shukla make Gopal enthusiastic towards his mission to get the hands of Aarti. Gopal wants to meet Raghav in order to clear his mind on Aarti. Gopal prepared himself for his meeting with Raghav smartly. He would like to impress him as far as possible. He would like to show him his power, his status and his influence: “I pressed the nozzle of a Gucci perfume five times to spray my neck,

armpits and both wrists. I wore a new black shirt and custom –made suit for the occasion. I put on my Ray – ban glasses and looked at myself in the mirror”(258).

When Gopal reaches Raghav’s office of Revolution 2020, he finds him talking with Bishnu who has come for Roshanpur where many children had died because of sewage. Nobody is reporting about the alarming situation of Roshanpur. Gopal was hearing the talk between Raghav and Bishnu with full concentration. He found himself in a difficult situation. He realizes the power of truth and honesty. He saw that a man like Bishnu had come for Raghav only because of his honesty and his wish to do something for society. He talks to himself: “My mind continued to talk. What did you come here for? You come to show him that you have made it, and he is ruined? Is that the high point of your life? You think you are a better person than him, because of your car and suit?(263)

Gopal realizes the power of honesty .He does not have courage to face Raghav. He is now in typical dilemma.”What to talk or what not to talk”. He reveals his own situation: “I didn’t know what to say I had my whole speech planned. On how Aarti deserved better than him, and that better person was I. On how I had made it in life and he had failed. On how he was a loser, not me. And yet, saying all that now would make me feel like a loser”(263).

Gopal comes back to his campus without talk about Arti. He does not find enough courage to face Raghav. The power of money seems to be defeated by the power of truth and honesty. His pump and show have no meaning at all. He becomes totally disturbed. Gopal comes to meet Shuklaji in jail. Shuklaji consoles him for future. He says to Gopal: “Life may not offer you the same chance twice”.(269)

These words of Shuklaji seem to be symbolic in meaning. Certainly, life does not offer same chance twice. Now, Gopal wants to do something else. He became tired of doing same thing again and again. On his twenty-third birthday, he wants to do something different. The campus celebrates his birthday. He also gets the company of two call girls sent by Vinod, an agent. Gopal is on bed with two call girls- Pooja and Roshni. At the same time Aarti comes in Gangatech to wish Gopal at his birthday. She caught her sweetheart Gopal in the company of two call-girls. She becomes surprised. She tells Gopal: “What is it then? I came to surprise you and this

is how I found you. Who knows what.... I haven't seen anything, more sick in my life"(280).

Aarti's eyes become full of tears. She does not find suitable words to express her anger. She slaps Gopal two or three times. She leaves Gopal forever within few seconds: "She didn't say anything, just slapped me again. My hand went to my cheek in reflex. In three seconds, she had left the house. In ten, I heard her car door slam shut. In fifteen, her car had left my porch"(281).

Now, Gopal has many things to do. He wants to do something for Raghav. He, ironically, wants to help him in his mission of Revolution 2020. He also wants Aarti to do in favor of Raghav. He is ready to help Raghav for this also. He suggests him to give more time to Aarti and take care of her. He tells Raghav: "Don't call her. Go meet her at the hotel. Take an entire day off for her. That's all she wants, your time and attention. She'll return your love ten times over"(288).

Gopal fails to realize the importance of the principles and ideals of life. For him, power, money and respect matter much. But he does not realize the fact that these also put someone in the stigma of false vanity. In the company of Shuklaji he gets everything, but he is still empty in terms of real satisfaction. He realizes this, when he says: "I look around my big house as empty as my soul"(290).

It is not easy for him to forget Aarti. His condition can be realized when he gets the invitation of Arti's marriage with Raghav. He does not want to attend the marriage party of Raghav. But he books a room at the Taj Ganga. He wanted to see the entire events from the distance. Still, his heart beats for her. After seeing her in the bride's dress, he tells: "She looks an angel, in an onion-coloured lehnga with silver sequins. And even though I did not have binoculars, I could tell she looked perfect" (292).

Thus, Gopal Mishra, once a failure to pass the entrance tests of ITI JEE and AIEEE, now a Director of an Engineering college, revealed his own story of success and failure to the writer candidly. It is not only his own story, but it seems to be the story of the generation which is the victim of time and space. There are several Gopals, Raghavs and Aartis in our society. It is a typical tale with a straight-forward message. It is the story of love between Gopal and Arti, it is the story of the

ambitious plight of Gopal, and above all, it is the story of Raghav and his mission 'Revolution 2020'. Both Raghav and Gopal seem to be the inner self and outer self of the same. Both are present in everyone. Gopal himself praises Raghav. "Raghav is good man. I am not half as good as him"(295).

Gopal is not ready to accept his fault completely. Still, he searches for something good in him. He has become fed up with the existing system. He acknowledges himself. "The revolution will come. We will have a better nation one day"(295).

The Raghav in Gopal becomes evident when he says:"Once Gangatech becomes big, I will try to fix the system. I am sick of giving envelopes to people"(295). One more instance of the same is there when Gopal admits:"Everyone must sacrifice for it "(295)

Revolution 2020 is a unique tale with its first-person narrative. The novel offers multiple insights on human love, corruption and ambition. "Chetan Bhagat, in his novel *Revolution 2020* very clearly elucidates the fact that the weak stem of 'love' ends up being the only consolation for human survival in the midst of the creepers of corruption that have been watered by unbridled ambition" (*Babu and Livingston*). In the novel, it becomes difficult to realize the presence of the writer in the particular character. Sometimes, the writer finds himself in Gopal and sometimes in Raghav also, Similarly, It is very difficult to call a hero in the novel. Gopal and Raghav both seem to be the heroes. One is the man of ambition or we can say passion and the other is the man of emotion and mission. While Gopal wants to be a man of power, money and respect, Raghav wants to transform India in a better direction. One willingly accepts the corruption for achieving the heights in life while the other fights against corruption for general people. "The character of Raghav can be described as the rarest of the rare ideal characters from the novels of Chetan Bhagat, as almost all his characters do not show the idealism of traditional kind" (*Wankhade*, 83)

At the end of the novel, Raghav has been shown 'victorious' and Gopal 'defeated'. It can be said, as the victory of goodness. But Gopal too gets the sympathy of readers for his frankness and uniqueness. His tale is more realistic than Raghav's.

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