



Gurdial Singh's *The Last Flicker*: The Tragedy of a Dalit



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Abstract :

*This paper analyzes Gurdial Singh's *The Last Flicker*, it is a Punjabi novel under the English title *The Last Flicker*. *The Last Flicker* is a tragic story of a dalit, Jagseer is a protagonist, who meets a tragic death. It is also a tragedy of unfulfilled for Bhani, who is Nikka's wife. Dharama Singh's father looked Jagsir's father as a brother. Dharama Singh is belonging to a Jat and Jagsir is a dalit, when Dharama Singh's father was in death bed, he told his son to take care of Jagsir and his father Thola. Dharama Singh does it sincerely and unquestioningly but his son leads to a rift within the family, his mother siding against her husband with her son. The problem was an half an acre of land which had been gifted to Jagsir's father by Dharam Singh's father. It could not be transferred legally but merely there was no question about it, this single incident triggers off so many other developments. This conflict over a small piece of land provides the structure of the novel and Jagsir's unexpressed love for Nikkar's wife, who comes as a bride to the village. The tragic end of Jagseer, a dalit poor farmer, his lips was dried, his eyes could not move away from the ceiling. He kept lying*

rigidly on his back. His eyes stayed open and then on the fifth day their glow dimmed disappeared. His eye balls turned into stone, his ash was remaining in the holy water. Raunaki had constructed Jagseer's tomb as he had wished, but he did not dare to ask Bhoni to paint the tomb after she returned from her brother's marriage.

Keywords : *Gurdial, Dalit, Flicker, Tragedy, Caste*