

A Critical Study of Mahfouz's Novel *The Beggar*: The Psychological Turmoil of the Protagonist

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Abstract This study examines the journey of the main character in Mahfouz's novel, "The Beggar," who experiences intense hopelessness and struggles in a cruel and unforgiving society. The objectives are to explore how the protagonist transforms from despair to psychological disorders and how these are connected to the social issues portrayed in the story. The study investigates the intricate relationship between the protagonist's internal state and the external social environment, examining how his psychological struggles impact various aspects of his life, such as emotional relationships, self-identity, frustration, the meaning of existence, and alienation. Through psychological analysis, the study delves into the protagonist's transformation from despair to psychological turmoil and examines the influence of external factors like depression, alienation, inequality, and social injustice on his mental state. It also discusses psychological concepts related to the character's journey, including the impact of social environments on mental well-being and the consequences of societal exclusion. In conclusion, the study explores the psychological aspects relevant to Omar's journey, emphasizes the importance of understanding how the social environment affects his mental well-being, and discusses the consequences of societal exclusion during challenging circumstances. Ultimately, "The Beggar" serves as a plea for empathy, compassion, and collective efforts to address social issues and create a just and inclusive society.

Keywords Despair; psychological turmoil; social issues; existence; alienation

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Introduction

Naguib Mahfouz was an Egyptian writer widely regarded as one of the most influential literary figures in the Arab world. Born on December 11, 1911, in Cairo, Egypt, and passing away on August 30, 2006, Mahfouz made a profound contribution to Arabic literature with his captivating novels and short stories. Mahfouz's career was extensive and prosperous, culminating in winning the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1988, the first Arabic victory of its kind. "Naguib Mahfouz's career is an extended and prosperous one; it culminated in winning the Nobel Prize in Literature, and that was the first Arabic victory ever since" (Naem & Janoory 104). "The Beggar," published in 1965, is one of Mahfouz's notable novels, exploring themes of poverty, despair, and social injustice. Mahfouz's works frequently delve into themes related to Egyptian society, culture, and politics, depicting the struggles of ordinary people, their hopes and dreams, and the challenging socio-political circumstances they face. His writings reflect the transformations and conflicts of modern Egypt, spanning from the pre-colonial era to the post-independence period.

Mahfouz's significant contributions to literature and his commitment to highlighting Egyptian culture and society have left an indelible impact on Arabic literature, earning him a distinguished place among the world's literary giants. His literary style, social commentary, and deep character development continue to captivate readers worldwide, solidifying his legacy as a major literary figure. Mahfouz's writing depicted the complexities of Egyptian society, touching upon themes such as political oppression, social injustice, tradition versus modernity, and the struggle for personal freedom. Mahfouz's impact on Arab literature cannot be overstated. Alkhwaja notes that "the high status of Mahfouz in the literary field, due to the capitals he has acquired, makes translators and publishers choose his work for translation and publishing over the work of other authors" (69). His writings have been translated into numerous languages, making his stories accessible to a global audience. He skillfully intertwined elements of realism, symbolism, and allegory in his works, creating vivid portrayals of the human condition.

As a prolific author, Mahfouz wrote numerous novels, short stories, and plays throughout his career. His writing often depicted the struggles of everyday life, the political landscape, and the changing nature of Egyptian society throughout the 20th century. His works continue to be celebrated and studied for their profound insights into the human experience. He invited readers to delve into his protagonists' transformations, discovering profound insights into the realms of human emotions

and the societal factors that shape our existence. “His tales describe the lives of ordinary individuals caught in struggles of identity and faith that reveal the existential, spiritual, and material character of Egyptian Muslims” (Afridi 3). Set against the backdrop of a society grappling with deep-rooted social issues, Mahfouz’s work serves as a poignant window into the complexities of the human condition and the world we inhabit.

“The Beggar” serves as a poignant portrayal of the hardships faced by those at the margins of society, offering a glimpse into the underbelly of social issues that often go unnoticed. Mahfouz’s compelling storytelling captivates readers as he skillfully unravels the layers of his protagonist’s psyche. Set in the city of Cairo, it explores the lives of several characters, including the protagonist, Omar al-Hamzawi. It is just one of many works by Mahfouz that engage with Egyptian society, culture, and the complex dynamics of its people. “Mahfouz’s fictionalized social history provides insight into that middle level of Egyptian society between the upper strata, whose ideas and actions are known through writings, and the lower classes, whose personal reactions to national events remain unknown” (El-Enany 37). His novel portrays the stark disparities and injustices that pervade communities and provides an opportunity to explore the broader social issues prevalent during the time of its publication. Mahfouz sheds light on the inequalities, injustices, and social barriers that plague the characters and, by extension, society as a whole.

Through his novel, Mahfouz illuminates the struggles and challenges faced by his protagonist. In this captivating narrative, Mahfouz skillfully explores the depths of the human mind, examining themes of identity, societal pressures, and the consequences of one’s choices. He emphasizes the protagonist’s deep sense of isolation and detachment from the bustling city life. Mahfouz delves into the beggar’s psyche, highlighting the internal turmoil caused by his destitution. “The Beggar” exposes the harsh realities faced by the socially and economically deprived members of society. Mahfouz’s narrative skillfully portrays the struggles and despair of the protagonist, inviting readers to empathize with the plight of those living on the fringes of society.

Literature Review

As a prominent Egyptian novelist, Naguib Mahfouz is widely recognized as the father of Arabic literature in the modern era. He received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1988 for his exceptional contributions to the literary world. Mahfouz’s works often delve into complex social and psychological aspects of Egyptian society, shedding light on the human condition and addressing themes of alienation

and existential crises. "The Beggar" is one such novel that explores these themes through the protagonist's journey of isolation and his battle with personal demons. Through Omar's character, Mahfouz examines deep-rooted feelings of loneliness, despair, and emotional turmoil experienced by those who are socially isolated and struggle to find a sense of belonging. "*The Beggar* (1965) is a story of isolation and depression, written by the Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz, who is considered the father of Arabic literature in the modern era" (Zghair 25). The story revolves around a protagonist who experiences a deep sense of detachment from society and struggles with feelings of despair. Through the central character, Mahfouz explores the psychological and emotional effects of social alienation and the resulting state of depression.

Naguib Mahfouz's novel, *The Beggar*, provides a poignant exploration of a protagonist's journey from despair to psychological turmoil, offering a window into various social issues prevalent in society. The novel is characterized as a political narrative that critiques the policies and economic measures of its time. One of the significant aspects it targets is the nationalization of private property, which occurred under the revolutionary government led by Nasser in Egypt. The protagonist, Omar al-Hamzawi, experiences a profound sense of apathy, losing interest in various aspects of life, including his family, sexual desires, and politics. He withdraws from public life, perceiving life as a constant struggle, akin to a lawsuit that needs to be won. This portrayal suggests that Omar has become disillusioned and lacks motivation to engage actively with the world around him. According to Naem and Janoory, "*The Beggar* is a thriller-like political novel which attacks the policies and economic measures. This attack also includes the nationalization of private property which takes by the revolutionary government under Nasser in Egypt" (1213). The novel is described as a political thriller that criticizes government policies and economic measures, focusing particularly on the nationalization of private property during Nasser's regime. This critique underscores the socio-political themes prevalent in Mahfouz's work, especially his examination of how governmental policies affect individuals' lives and lead to their disengagement from societal matters.

Naguib Mahfouz's novel *The Beggar* metaphorically represents a specific group of people in the third world. These individuals are portrayed as enlightened idealists in their youth, but as they reach their forties and fifties, they succumb to hopelessness and conservatism. Their plight symbolizes the challenges faced by many in developing countries, illustrating how circumstances and societal pressures can gradually erode one's idealism. These individuals may abandon their

earlier aspirations and retreat into armchair philosophy and mysticism, seeking solace in contemplation and escapism. This can be interpreted as a reflection of the disillusionment experienced by those who once harbored hopes for social change but have been disillusioned by the harsh realities of their circumstances.

The Beggar is a representation of the plight and suffering of enlightened people in the third world—people who have been idealist in their youth but have fallen to a state of hopelessness and conservatism in their forties and fifties. In case they survive the agony, they will have terrible conscience in old age, giving up to armchair philosophy and mysticism. (Hosseini & Sattari 538)

The above quote suggests that these rational individuals, once brimming with idealism and hope in their youth, have now fallen into a state of hopelessness as they reach their forties and fifties. It implies that the challenging circumstances and harsh realities they've faced have led them to doubt their capacity to effect significant change or make a difference in their societies. Furthermore, the mention of "surviving the agony" indicates that these individuals have endured profound suffering and adversity throughout their lives. Consequently, in their later years, they may harbor feelings of guilt and regret for not being able to uphold their youthful convictions.

"The Beggar" narrates the story of an alienated anti-hero living in 1960s Cairo, specifically during Gamal Abdel Nasser's presidency. Nasser, serving as Egypt's President from 1956 to 1970, was known for his nationalist and socialist policies. The novel delves into Cairo's post-revolutionary period, marked by significant socio-political change and upheaval. Central to the narrative is the protagonist's existential quest for meaning and purpose in life. The beggar confronts his own existential dilemmas and seeks personal fulfillment amidst a rapidly evolving urban landscape. Themes of identity crisis, social alienation, and the individual's search for significance unfold against the backdrop of historical events shaped by Nasser's rule. By intertwining the protagonist's personal struggles with the socio-political context of Nasser's era, Mahfouz explores the intricate dynamics of individuals' relationships with society and the larger forces that influence their lives. *The Beggar* "tells a story of the struggle for meaning, and the alienated anti-hero's struggle in 1960s post-revolutionary Cairo, during Gamal Abdel Nasser's rule. Omar El Hamzawi, the protagonist illustrates the existential suffering of man to understand his place in life and understand his consciousness" (Sabry 26). This quotation underscores the thematic depth of "The Beggar," emphasizing its exploration of existential themes, societal alienation, and the turbulent historical context that shapes

the protagonist's journey.

Mahfouz's novel *The Beggar* is considered an emotional journey that raises various political, spiritual, and religious questions about social responsibility and the search for meaning in society. It explores the transformation Egypt underwent under Nasser's regime and the influence of Islam in Mahfouz's writings. The novel also addresses deep social critiques that connect to Mahfouz's broader literary oeuvre. In essence, *The Beggar* delves into significant societal and historical aspects of Egypt, examining how political and religious forces shape the lives of its characters. Afridi describes the novel as "an emotional journey that asks political, spiritual, and religious questions regarding social responsibility and the lack of meaning" (69). This description portrays the novel as an exploration of these themes, emphasizing its depth in probing social responsibility, the quest for meaning, and its thematic continuity with Mahfouz's earlier works that scrutinized the Egyptian bourgeoisie.

Mahfouz portrays Omar al-Hamzawi in the novel as a symbol representing the Egyptian people's quest to discover the true purpose and significance of life. He focuses on existential themes to examine the challenges, sadness, and disillusionment that arise from ideals that ultimately disappoint. Mahfouz suggests a prevailing sense of betrayal and disillusionment within Egyptian society, where people express frustration and despair over these negative aspects. The novel explores themes of desperation and frustration, illustrating their impact on individuals like Omar al-Hamzawi. According to Zghair, "Omer Al-Hamzawi, the hero of this novel, had accepted death instead of reality by looking for another worth of his own life and restoring its importance through the meaning of life and existence" (26). This context implies that Omar Al-Hamzawi has chosen to embrace the concept of death rather than confront the harsh realities of life. He appears to search for purpose and value in his own existence, aiming to reclaim its significance by exploring deeper meanings of life and existence from alternative perspectives.

Research Methodology

The psychological approach is employed to analyze the protagonist's journey from despair to psychological turmoil in Mahfouz's *The Beggar*, providing insight into various societal issues. Freudian psychoanalysis is utilized to explore the protagonist's unconscious motivations, desires, and conflicts. This approach investigates how past experiences, childhood traumas, and suppressed emotions contribute to the character's psychological turmoil. It also examines the protagonist's social interactions, group dynamics, and societal influences to illuminate how social issues exacerbate their psychological distress. This perspective considers the impact of social

norms, cultural expectations, and systemic oppression on the character's self-esteem, sense of belonging, and mental well-being. According to psychology, "repression plays a part in dreams of exhibiting; for the distress felt in such dreams is a reaction on the part of the second system against the content of the scene of exhibiting having found expression in spite of the ban upon it" (Strachey 264). Repression and the conflict between conscious and subconscious desires are recurrent themes in Mahfouz's novel *The Beggar*. The narrative explores the inner struggles and psychological complexities of its characters by delving into their dreams and desires to illuminate their suppressed emotions and longings. Through introspection and the examination of characters' dreams, Mahfouz underscores the tension between societal norms, personal desires, and the psychological repercussions of stifling one's authentic self.

This approach illuminates the protagonist's cognitive restructuring and behavioral evolution throughout the narrative. In the context of *The Beggar*, it involves exploring the protagonist's suppressed emotions, unresolved traumas, and internal conflicts that contribute to his despair and psychological turmoil. Existentialist themes intersect prominently with psychological turmoil, as characters confront existential crises, loss of purpose, and the quest for identity. Omar al-Hamzawi, a prosperous middle-aged Egyptian, outwardly possesses wealth, social status, and a prestigious career. However, beneath this façade, he grapples with profound psychological conflicts. A central aspect of his character is his internal struggle with existential questions, revealing disillusionment and a search for meaning. This is evident through his continual soul-searching and introspection, as he questions the significance of his existence and the emptiness he feels despite his achievements. According to Freud, "the essence of our being, consisting in unconscious wish feelings, can neither be seized nor inhibited by the foreconscious, whose part is once for all restricted to the indication of the most suitable paths for the wish feelings originating in the unconscious" (348). In Naguib Mahfouz's novel *The Beggar*, the protagonist undergoes unconscious processes that profoundly impact his consciousness. Omar's unconscious struggles are reflected in his battle with societal expectations and his own identity.

It also examines the protagonist's psychological development and evolution throughout the narrative, considering factors such as personality traits, coping mechanisms, and internal conflicts that shape his journey and transformation. An analysis of this topic necessitates exploring how Mahfouz portrays social issues like poverty, inequality, and societal pressures, which influence the protagonist's psychological trajectory. This approach emphasizes the interplay between thoughts, emotions, and

behaviors. Omar al-Hamzawi emerges as a multifaceted character in the novel, with a psychological analysis uncovering his internal struggles, motivations, and actions. According to psychology, “the complex problems of human behavior, and clearly demonstrates that the hitherto considered impassable gap between normal and abnormal mental states is more apparent than real” (Freud 3). A central insight of the novel is challenging the perceived boundary between normal and abnormal mental states. Mahfouz illustrates that the supposed rigid division between these states is more illusory than actual. Through his protagonist, the author contests the notion of a clear-cut dichotomy between normal and abnormal psychological conditions. This exploration prompts readers to interrogate and reconsider their preconceived notions about mental states, acknowledging the intricacies and subjectivities involved.

This approach involves understanding the protagonist's psychological state, tracing the factors contributing to his despair, and exploring the underlying social issues depicted in the novel. To begin, analyzing the protagonist's psychological state necessitates closely examining his thoughts, emotions, and behaviors throughout the narrative. This entails identifying pivotal moments where his despair emerges and understanding its impact on his mental well-being. It is crucial to delve into the protagonist's mindset, exploring his hopes, fears, and underlying psychological patterns that contribute to his journey towards turmoil. As Freud that:

If we had before us the unconscious wishes, brought to their last and truest expression, we should still do well to remember that more than one single form of existence must be ascribed to the psychic reality. Action and the conscious expression of thought mostly suffice for the practical need of judging a man's character. (389)

This quotation suggests that understanding persons' true desires and intentions, as revealed by their unconscious wishes, can be valuable. However, it also emphasizes that it is important to recognize that individuals possess various facets of existence and that their actions and conscious thoughts should primarily be used to evaluate their characters. In the context of a protagonist in Naguib Mahfouz's novel, the character's actions and conscious thoughts provide valuable insight into understanding his personality and motivations. It implies that even if the character's hidden desires and thoughts were revealed, they should not overshadow the significance of their observable behavior and conscious expressions.

Mahfouz's *The Beggar* requires employing a psychological method that explores their psychological state, traces the contributing factors to their despair, and

uncovers the underlying social issues depicted in the novel. This integrated approach enables us to gain valuable insights into the complex interplay between an individual's psyche and the social circumstances that shape their experiences. In tracing the factors that contribute to their despair, it is essential to consider both internal and external influences. Internally, exploring the protagonist's past experiences, traumas, or unresolved conflicts may provide insights into the development of his psychological turmoil. Externally, factors such as societal pressures, economic hardships, or political unrest can contribute to his despair. By examining how these social issues intersect with the protagonist's journey, we can gain a deeper understanding of the broader societal context in which his psychological turmoil unfolds. According to psychological perspectives, he emphasizes that "such turmoil is never only a matter of wars, economic slumps, and revolutions," and it is "a crisis of human relationship and of the human personality, as well as a social convulsion" (Çakırtaş 3). In Mahfouz's novel *The Beggar*, the protagonist highlights that the turmoil experienced in society extends beyond external factors like wars, economic downturns, and revolutions. While these events can certainly contribute to societal turbulence, the protagonist emphasizes that the root cause of the crisis lies in the breakdown of human relationships and the deterioration of individual personalities.

Unveiling the Protagonist's Despair

"The Beggar" is a novel that explores the theme of despair through the perspective of its protagonist. Mahfouz delves into the depths of despair through the journey of his character, examining the psychological and emotional struggles he faces. In "The Beggar," Mahfouz skillfully unravels the protagonist's despair by exploring his psychological state and inner conflicts. Omar al-Hamzawi expresses weariness and disillusionment with life, people, and even his own family. He articulates a profound dissatisfaction, suggesting a deep-seated despair. Omar's insistence on sharing his thoughts despite the seriousness of the situation implies that he has reached a breaking point and can no longer suppress his feelings. "Omar continued as though he hadn't heard. 'Very often I'm sick of life, people, even the family. The situation seemed too serious to keep silent'" (Mahfouz 12). Omar's statement reflects his inner turmoil and disillusionment towards life, people, and familial relationships, indicating a tipping point where he becomes overwhelmed by his surroundings. This quote encapsulates Omar's despair and underscores a central theme of the novel: the struggles and frustrations of individuals in a society marked by poverty, inequality, and social injustice. From a psychological standpoint, Akhtar and Kay O'Neil note, "to be caught in a vicious interplay between actual frustration and disappointment

and the gratification and sadistic pleasure he obtained from using experiences of suffering and despair to undermine and torment his objects, and himself" (214). Freud's perspective further elucidates that individuals can unconsciously derive pleasure from experiencing suffering and despair, driven by unresolved conflicts or unconscious desires rooted in the pleasure principle.

Mahfouz's novel portrays the profound despair and hopelessness experienced by Omar al-Hamzawi. He articulates the severity of his condition, indicating its deep distress. Omar is so overwhelmed that he no longer desires any engagement with the world. His depiction suggests a state of despair or hopelessness, where he lacks the motivation to think, move, or feel. He laments that everything around him is disintegrating and dying, implying a pervasive sense of decay in his life or surroundings. The speaker's purpose in bringing Omar to this place was to uncover any physical cause for his condition. "The problem is very serious. I don't want to think, to move, or to feel. Everything is disintegrating and dying. My hope in coming here was to find some physical cause" (Mahfouz 12). This quotation from Mahfouz's novel "The Beggar" underscores the character's distress and decline. The speaker underscores the gravity of the situation by noting Omar's withdrawal from cognitive, physical, and emotional engagement. From a psychological perspective, "the signal anxiety becomes neurotic anxiety framed in a psychoneurotic disposition. Equivalent sufferings for this anxiety are the feelings of inferiority, fear to exposure and failure, and fear of authority" (Arbiser and Schneider 112). This perspective could be interpreted within the context of Freud's theory on anxiety and psychoneurotic dispositions. This quotation further elucidates Omar's sense of despair and significant deterioration in his mental and emotional well-being.

"The Beggar" narrates the life of Omar al-Hamzawi, initially a successful government official who later descends into depression on the streets of Cairo. The novel explores Omar's despair, depicting his downward spiral and the personal and societal challenges he confronts. Mahfouz adeptly portrays the internal conflicts of his characters, with Omar's despair reflecting the socio-political conditions of Egyptian society during the novel's setting. He frequently incorporates themes of alienation, existential crisis, and the impact of societal and political upheaval on individuals. He suggests that despite outward appearances, Omar faces an underlying threat or danger. "Omar gave a slight laugh and said, 'That's the picture, in general, but now I've lost interest in everything.' 'Well, there's nothing wrong with you for the time being, but the enemy lurks on the border'" (Mahfouz 13). In this quote from "The Beggar", Omar expresses his disillusionment and lack of enthusiasm for life, indicating that while his situation may seem mundane, he has lost interest in every-

thing. The mention of an “enemy lurking on the border” hints at a looming threat contributing to his disengagement. According to Arbiser and Schneider, “anxiety is an existential expression of the disturbing emotional impact certain external stimuli generate on the psyche, and not only the affective expression of a disconnected endogenous energy” (114). This perspective underscores how anxiety reflects the profound emotional impact of external circumstances on an individual’s well-being, reinforcing feelings of despair and disillusionment in Omar’s life.

One of the striking scenes as the doctor comments on the protagonist’s various identities or personas. He acknowledges that the protagonist has played different roles in society, such as a fervent socialist and a great lawyer. However, the doctor specifically remembers the protagonist’s face as that of Omar the poet. The protagonist, Omar, responds with a dissembled, or concealed, agitation, masking his true feelings with a weak smile. Omar’s decision to abandon poetry might have internal conflicts or regrets associated with it. The interchange between the doctor and Omar establishes a sense of loss or missed opportunities in Omar’s life as a poet. “You’re a man of many faces: the fervent socialist, the great lawyer, but the face I remember most vividly is that of Omar the poet. ” Omar dissembled his sudden agitation with a wan smile. “That’s unfortunate.” “You’ve abandoned poetry?” (Mahfouz 15). This quotation explores the theme of identity and the multifaceted nature of the protagonist, Omar. The doctor, in this context, is acknowledging the various roles and personas Omar has taken on in his life. He refers to Omar as a “man of many faces,” highlighting his different identities as a socialist and a lawyer.

According to psychology, “the analysis of dreams, in which repressed complexes are operative alike in the healthy and the sick, shows a complete identity both in their mechanisms and in their symbolism” (Strachey 385). The quotation suggests that these repressed complexes manifest in dreams, indicating that even those who appear emotionally healthy may harbor unresolved concerns. By highlighting the “complete identity” in the mechanisms and symbolism of dreams, it further emphasizes how despair can infiltrate both the mentally healthy and the mentally ill; emphasizing the universality of despair in human experience. This suggests that poetry was a significant aspect of Omar’s identity, something that the doctor vividly remembers about him. Omar’s emotional response suggests that he may have given up or distanced himself from his poetic pursuits, which could imply a potential internal conflict or change in his life.

Mahfouz reflects the protagonist’s profound despair and disillusionment regarding his feelings towards a person he once loved deeply. He expresses the realization that Omar no longer loves his wife mentioned. He states that the history of

their relationship, emphasizing the long years of love, shared life, and loyal memories they once had together. He hopes that Omar's lack of love is merely a temporary symptom resulting from an illness or personal struggles, which will eventually disappear with recovery. Nevertheless, they admit that the current absence of love is deeply disheartening and describes it as the most painful disappointment they have experienced. As Omar states that:

I don't love her anymore. After long years of love, shared life, and loyal memories, not a grain of love remains. Pray that it's just a symptom of the disease which will disappear with recovery, but now I don't love her. This is the bitterest disillusionment. (Mahfouz 44)

After years of love, companionship, and cherished memories, Omar declares that their love has completely vanished. He acknowledges that this lack of love is a bitter disappointment and hope that it is only a temporary symptom of some emotional or psychological turmoil he is experiencing. Omar's lamentation reveals the deep sorrow and despair that accompanies the loss of love and the shattered illusions that often accompany such disillusionment.

Omar reflects on a particular period of time. He speaks about these times extensively, emphasizing their importance and unusual nature with a sense of seriousness. His actions during this period are driven by his emotional pain, rather than any primal urges or desires. He was going through a deep sense of hopelessness or sadness during those nights, which impacted his behavior and possibly his relationships. "He (Omar) referred to these times at some length, speaking with a solemnity befitting the mysterious and strange. Those nights I was not an animal moved by lust, but I was suffering and in despair" (52). Omar expresses his thoughts and feelings about a particular period of time. He speaks with seriousness and gravity, indicating the significance of what he experienced during those moments. He states that during those nights, he was not driven purely by primal desires or lust, but rather he was tormented by suffering and a profound sense of despair.

Omar questions the purpose and significance of a dream he is experiencing, expressing frustration with his current circumstances. He grapples with despair and ponders existential questions about the meaning and direction of his dream. Omar also seeks relief from physical pain in his shoulder and desires freedom from negativity. Additionally, he longs for the world to disappear from his dreams. Through his protagonist, Mahfouz portrays themes of hopelessness, frustration, and the search for meaning amidst despair in his novel. "What is the meaning of this

dream, where is it leading me? When will the pain in my shoulder ease up? When will the devil and his follies be put to flight? When will the world disappear from my dreams? I moaned in spite of myself” (139). In this passage, Omar reflects his sense of despair and seeks understanding of his dream’s significance. He asks the direction of his life and when his physical pain will subside. Moreover, he yearns for liberation from negative influences and dreams free of worldly concerns. From a psychological perspective, “delusional schizophrenic behavior seeks to restore the lost fusional sense transforming experienced nameless terror into hallucinatory and delusional projective categorisation of the ill they suffered” (Arbiser & Schneider 115). While autism may lead to a sense of being disconnected from others, delusional schizophrenic behavior aims to reestablish a sense of fusion or connection. This is done by transforming the overwhelming, unnamed fear Omar experiences into hallucinations and delusions. Overall, it captures the protagonist’s deep sense of hopelessness, despair and longing for relief from his struggles.

Tracing the Protagonist’s Path towards Psychological Turmoil

Mahfouz portrays the novel’s protagonist grappling with psychological turmoil. Omar articulates profound distress and despair, underscoring the gravity of his condition. He expresses a desire to disconnect from his thoughts, actions, and emotions, indicating a pervasive sense of detachment and apathy. Omar perceives a world in decay, where vitality is slipping away. His decision to seek help or visit a specific place stems from a quest for a physical explanation for his troubles, hoping to pinpoint an external cause for his psychological anguish. Mahfouz vividly depicts the protagonist’s desperation and the profound depths of his psychological suffering, as Omar laments, “The problem is very serious. I don’t want to think, to move, or to feel. Everything is disintegrating and dying. My hope in coming here was to find some physical cause” (Mahfouz 12). This quotation reveals Omar’s struggle with psychological disorders. He articulates a profound sense of hopelessness and detachment, feeling as though his entire being is unraveling. Omar expresses reluctance to engage in mental or physical activities, indicating a lack of motivation or energy. His hope in seeking assistance or treatment is to uncover a tangible, physical cause for his distress, yearning for a solution that can be identified and addressed. Psychoanalysis is described as “a form of therapy that seeks to heal mental disorders by exploring the interplay of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind” (Hossain 42). Psychological chaos refers to inner conflict, distress, or instability in one’s psychological well-being. Through delving into Omar’s unconscious mind, psychoanalysis aims to unearth repressed thoughts, emotions,

and experiences that may contribute to his turmoil.

This novel portrays emotional turmoil, disconnection from reality, and a growing indifference towards life and its various aspects, suggesting that Omar may be experiencing psychological distress or disorder. He grapples with intense emotions, possibly sadness or despair, indicating emotional instability or a psychological condition like depression. Omar describes his wife, Zeinab, as merely a symbol of family unity and constructive work. Omar reflects, "Here I am struggling to lose weight and I see in dear Zeinab only a statue of family unity and constructive work. Honestly, I've lost interest in everything" (Mahfouz 27). This statement reveals Omar's broader disillusionment and emotional detachment. Despite Zeinab's role in their family life, Omar expresses a deep disengagement from everything around him. This loss of interest suggests a profound sense of apathy or despair that extends beyond his personal struggles with weight loss.

According to psychological theory, "illuminating similar emotional experiences with multiple women, from various stages of his life, include his childhood with his mother. The anger, highly significant in the manifest dream, was understood now as disguising his despair over previous betrayals" (Akhtar & Kay O'Neil 146-147). This suggests that Omar has encountered similar emotional interactions with different women throughout his life, indicating a recurring pattern or theme in his relationships. Such patterns may signal underlying unresolved psychological issues. However, determining a specific psychological disorder for Omar requires detailed information about his diagnosis and symptoms, necessitating a comprehensive assessment by a mental health professional.

Omar expresses a profound connection between his psychological disorders, his perception of work, and his relationship with his wife. He suggests that his psychological sickness not only affects his ability to engage in work but also affects his feelings towards his wife, who is depicted as a hidden force in his life. This portrayal suggests a transition from positive attributes to negative ones, indicating deterioration in Omar's perception of Zeinab as his mental health declines. He feels disgusted with himself, which in turn causes him to feel repulsed by everything else around him. This intertwining of self-disgust, psychological ailments, the perception of work, and relationships underscore the complex and interconnected nature of the protagonist's mental state and how it influences his experiences. As Omar says that:

Dear God, Zeinab and work are the same. This malady which turns me from work is what turns me from Zeinab, for she is the hidden force, she is its symbol. So he is wealth, success, and finally illness. And because I'm sick of these

things, I 'm disgusted with myself, or rather because I 'm disgusted with myself, all else sickens me. (Mahfouz 46)

This quotation explores the protagonist's perspective on psychological disorders and his relation to various aspects of his life. In this passage, Omar expresses a connection between his aversion towards work and his relationship with his wife, Zeinab. He sees Zeinab as a symbol of the hidden force that causes his disinterest in work. He further explains that this force, represented by his wife, transforms him from being driven and successful in his work into being sick or mentally unwell. He suggests that wealth, success, and illness are interconnected in his life, with Zeinab serving as a symbol for this connection. According to psychological approach, "when our relations began to be less friendly, I became involved in the same kind of emotional conflict which, when a misunderstanding arises between a father and son, is inevitably produced owing to the position occupied by the father and the assistance formerly given by him" (Strachey 445). Omar's reaction could be linked to a fear of rejection or abandonment. He might have developed avoidance strategies to protect himself from emotional pain, leading him to interpret disagreements or changes in relationships as potential threats, similar to how a son may fear losing support from their father. Omar describes a change in his relations with someone, which has resulted in a shift towards a less friendly dynamic.

Omar articulates a profound self-loathing, suggesting he detests himself to the same extent as his work and his relationship with his wife, Zeinab. This reflects negative self-perception and possibly feelings of worthlessness. His view that his work, Zeinab, and his own identity are intertwined implies a blurred sense of self and a lack of differentiation among different aspects of his life. These could indicate symptoms of a psychological disorder like a personality disorder, where individuals struggle with maintaining a stable and coherent self-image. Furthermore, Omar's desire to escape from this amalgamation of his work, relationship, and self indicates a deep yearning for freedom and liberation from his current state of mind. "It sometimes consoles me that I hate myself just as much," Omar states impatiently as he crushes his cigarette butt in the ashtray. "My work, Zeinab, and myself are really all one thing, and this is what I want to escape from" (Mahfouz 50). This desire underscores his longing for relief from psychological struggles and suggests he acknowledges the detrimental nature of his thought patterns on his well-being.

According to psychological perspective, "'nocturnal insanity,' in which the patient appears completely healthy during the day but is regularly subject at night to hallucinations, fits of frenzy, etc" (Strachey 114). This means that Omar's psycho-

logical disorder primarily manifests itself when darkness falls, affecting his mental and emotional state at night while leaving him seemingly normal during the day. These nocturnal symptoms could greatly disrupt his sleep and overall well-being, potentially leading to significant distress and impairment in his daily life. This highlights Omar's experience of self-hatred, feelings of entrapment, and a desire for escape, all indicating his potential psychological disorder.

The Beggar indicates the presence of disturbing thoughts and emotions within the character Omar. It suggests a potential psychological disorder, specifically depicting symptoms of intense anger, violent fantasies, and an inner struggle for control. The description of Omar looking sternly at someone and then experiencing an inexplicable urge to kill his partner, Muna, showcases a sense of inner turmoil and confusion. As a result of this, Omar is afflicted by violent and aggressive impulses towards Muna, his partner. The fact that he imagines himself using a knife to rip open her chest further indicates a level of aggression and a detachment from reality. As the speaker describes that:

Omar looked at him sternly and left with Muna. As he pressed her to him, he trembled with an unaccountable urge to kill her. He imagined himself ripping open her chest with a knife, and suddenly finding what he'd been looking for all along. Killing is the complement of creation, the completion of the silent, mysterious cycle. (Mahfouz 95-96)

The mention of Omar trembling with an unaccountable urge to kill Muna indicates a significant deviation from normal and healthy thoughts and emotions. These thoughts of killing are accompanied by a vivid and grotesque imagery of violently ripping open her chest with a knife. This portrayal suggests the presence of a specific psychological disorder, potentially related to aggression, impulsivity, or distorted thoughts. Moreover, Omar's belief that killing is the complement of creation and the completion of a mysterious cycle suggests a distorted perception of reality and a detachment from societal norms. This perception aligns with a potential disorder within Omar's psychological state.

Omar may be exhibiting symptoms indicative of a self-neglecting personality disorder or depression. When he mentions suffering from a peculiar crisis and quickly redirects the conversation away from his own health, it could suggest a lack of self-worth or a tendency to prioritize others' needs over his own. This behavior might stem from low self-esteem, feelings of worthlessness, or a sense of guilt. Omar's satisfaction upon being acknowledged for his health condition could also

indicate a longing for validation or a need for others to recognize his struggles. Such behavior aligns with symptoms of mood disorders like depression or anxiety, where individuals often neglect their own needs and focus solely on others' concerns. "You haven't changed in appearance, but your health is not up to par." Omar was pleased that he'd noticed. Yes, I've suffered a strange crisis. But, please, let's not talk about me. I want to listen to what you have to say" (107-108).

These lines indicate that Omar has undergone significant emotional or psychological turmoil, which has evidently affected his well-being, possibly leading to a psychological disorder. His reluctance to discuss his personal struggles and his preference for redirecting the conversation towards listening to others may suggest symptoms of avoidance behavior, which is characteristic of certain psychological disorders. Psychologically, "psychodynamic conflict—opposition between emotional forces within the mind—can result in neurotic (hysterical) symptoms, which function both to conceal and express an unacceptable idea or impulse" (Mollon 63). This quote underscores that Omar's symptoms may stem from internal emotional conflicts. Psychodynamic conflict refers to the clash between various emotional forces within the mind, and in Omar's case, this conflict might manifest as neurotic or hysterical symptoms. Omar's tendency to avoid confronting his own issues could stem from fear, shame, or a lack of effective coping mechanisms.

Omar's request for explicitness may indicate an inability to grasp abstract concepts or a difficulty in processing information. This response aligns with the characteristics of a psychological disorder such as cognitive impairment or a lack of cognitive flexibility. In response to Omar's reaction, Othman observes that Omar seems to have lost his old vigor. This comment suggests that Omar's psychological disorder has affected his energy levels and enthusiasm for life. It implies a decline in his overall mental and emotional wellbeing. Additionally, Mustapha's comment that touches upon the existential aspect of psychological disorders. It suggests that the psychological disorder Omar is experiencing has led him to question the purpose and significance of his own life. This existential crisis may further contribute to his mental and emotional struggles. As the narrator clarifies that:

Omar turned toward them."Drop the subject and just consider it an illness. Othman looked at him sharply and murmured, Perhaps it really is a disease, for you've lost your old vigor. Mustapha said, "Or he's searching for the meaning of his existence. (Mahfouz 118)

The conversation among Omar, Othman, and Mustapha centers on Omar's psycho-

logical state. When Omar seeks clarification on a particular topic, Othman suggests that Omar's demeanor could indicate an illness, implying a loss of his former vigor and vitality. Meanwhile, Mustapha presents a contrasting view, proposing that Omar's introspection and contemplation may be his attempt to discover the meaning or purpose of his existence. "Psychoanalysis has been seen as a form of therapy that aims to treat mental disorders by exploring the interaction between conscious and unconscious elements in the mind" (Hossain 42). In Omar's case, his psychological condition might involve unconscious factors such as repressed memories, unresolved conflicts, or unconscious defense mechanisms. Psychoanalysis seeks to bring these unconscious elements to light, examining their origins and significance to provide insight into Omar's condition.

The Impact of Social Issues on the Protagonist's Transformation

The encounter between Omar and a mad man on the road exposes the critical social conditions that affecting on them in Egypt during that time. The mad man criticizes the lack of action from the municipality, suggesting that they will view a certain situation as an encouragement to tourism. This, in turn, will lead to an influx of tourists and an increase in population, ultimately forcing the inhabitants to leave and causing the agricultural road to become crowded with emigrants. The rise in tourism and population growth could lead to overcrowding and displacement of the local people, causing them to lose their homes and livelihoods. Despite these changes, the mad man believes that the price of fish will continue to rise. As Omar says that:

I met a mad man on the road about a kilometer before the Glim beach. He assails those who pass by raising his hand in the manner of our leaders and delivering obscure speeches...He interrupted me sharply. The municipality won't do anything. They'll welcome it as an encouragement to tourism and it will increase to such fantastic proportions that the inhabitants will be forced to leave and the Agricultural Road will be packed with lines of emigrants and in spite of all this the price of fish will continue to rise (Mahfouz 25-26)

These lines explore that the actions of a mad man, such as raising his hand like a leader and delivering confusing speeches, represent the hypocrisy and ineffective governance of the leaders in their community. The mad man interrupts the protagonist and expresses his frustration with the municipality's inaction. He predicts that the municipality will perceive certain developments as beneficial to tourism, leading to an influx of tourists. This would result in the displacement of the

local inhabitants, who will be forced to leave their homes due to the overwhelming number of immigrant settlers. Additionally, the mad man comments on the rising price of fish, suggesting that despite the negative consequences of tourism growth and emigration, the economic situation will not improve for the regular working class people.

According to psychology, "such turmoil is never only a matter of wars, economic slumps, and revolutions," and it is "a crisis of human relationship and of the human personality, as well as a social convulsion" (Çakırtaş 3). The psychological disorder may influence Omar's perception to exaggerate or excessively focus on the impact of these internal factors, potentially attributing them as the primary cause of societal crises. Omar's disorder might make him view social convulsions as a manifestation of the underlying issues within human relationships and personalities, highlighting his preoccupation with these aspects. This observation highlights the disparity between the economic benefits enjoyed by a few and the worsening conditions faced by the majority.

The novelist underlines the protagonist's struggle within a society where money is prioritized over truth and highlights the social impacts that shape his perspective, leading him to contemplate death as a means of escape. There is a stark contrast between scientists and the protagonist. While scientists derive their strength from their commitment to truth and knowledge, the protagonist's strength comes from money, which is portrayed as losing its legitimacy or moral standing over time. Mahfouz also emphasizes the protagonist's disillusionment with the social order. The protagonist sees death as the only escape or relief from the corrupting effects of money and societal pressures. It signifies his belief that the social structure is inherently flawed, offering no genuine hope for a better life. "Scientists are strong through their allegiance to the truth, but our strength derives from money which loses its legality day by day." "So I say that death represents the one true hope in human life" (Mahfouz 38).

The above lines explore the social impacts on the protagonist through contrasting the strengths of scientists and individuals influenced by money. On one hand, scientists are portrayed as strong due to their commitment to seeking and upholding the truth. Their allegiance to knowledge and discovery gives them a sense of power and authority. On the other hand, the protagonist suggests that his strength, in contrast, derives from money. However, the protagonist notes that money is losing its legality day by day. This implies that Omar's strength is dependent on an unstable and corrupt system, where the ethical and moral value of money is diminishing. This statement can also be seen as a reflection of the protagonist's disillusionment

with the societal pressures and injustices that result from the influence of money. It suggests that death, symbolizing an escape from this flawed system, offers the only true hope for liberation or release from the social impacts they are experiencing.

According to psychological theory, “wherever antipathetic people or members of an unpopular minority put themselves in the wrong. Their punishment does not as a rule correspond to their wrong-doing but to their wrong-doing *plus* the ill-feeling directed against them which has previously been without any consequences” (Strachey 484). It suggests that Omar tends to find himself in situations where he is disliked or is part of an unpopular minority. It implies that when such situations occur, the punishment or negative consequences Omar faces are not solely based on his actual wrong-doing but are exacerbated by the prior ill-feelings directed towards him.

Omar reveals the social impacts he experiences, expressing his concern that the problem he faces extends beyond his unbearable work conditions. He also emphasizes that his illness, likely caused by his destitute state, not only affects his ability to work but also adversely impacts other important aspects of his life. Specifically, he mentions his wife, signifying that his illness is eroding their relationship and possibly causing emotional strain or distancing between them. Mahfouz underscores the broader social implications of poverty and illness on individuals, highlighting how it can negatively affect personal relationships and the overall quality of life. “The problem is more serious, for it’s not only work which has become unbearable. This illness is consuming other things, far more precious than work-my wife, for instance” (Mahfouz 49).

The above lines highlight the social consequences of the protagonist’s circumstances. The protagonist’s illness not only affects his personal well-being but also puts a strain on his marriage. It implies that the protagonist’s deteriorating condition is negatively impacting their ability to fulfill his role as a spouse and maintain a healthy relationship. From a social perspective, this quotation raises questions about the challenges faced by individuals in marginalized or disadvantaged positions. “Omar is inflicted with what doctor Hamed calls bourgeoisie illness which is incurable. He is drawn to self-gratification and womanizing, resulting in the collapse of his family to the concern of his friends and acquaintances” (Hussein 537). Omar is influenced by the values associated with the bourgeoisie class, such as self-indulgence and a tendency towards womanizing. The consequences of Omar’s lifestyle choices are significant and seem to have affected not only himself but also his family. The collapse of his family suggests that his actions have put a strain on his relationships, causing them to break down. This situation has raised concerns among his friends and acquaintances, likely due to witnessing the negative effects on Omar’s

personal life.

Mahfouz reflects the societal conditions and economic disparities that impact character Omar's livelihood. Additionally, the personal relationships and societal norms can create disruptions or complications in the protagonist's life. This could imply a sense of resilience or adaptability in the face of adversity. Omar's perspective is shaped by a belief in divine guidance or destiny. This perspective demonstrates resilience and an acceptance of the ongoing cycle of life's ups and downs. Finally, the protagonist finds solace and peace by entrusting his destiny to a higher power. This belief in divine intervention serves as a way for the character to cope with the social impacts on his life and find meaning in the face of adversity. As the speaker states that: "Praise the Lord Sometimes business is slow, sometimes the club is disturbed by a love affair like Warda's, but the carnival goes on. . . . So you live knowing your fate rests with God?" (Mahfouz 78).

This quotation reflects the protagonist's perspective on the social impacts that shape his life. The phrase "praise the lord" suggests that the protagonist acknowledges a higher power and submits to the belief that his destiny is in God's hands. The protagonist's environment is subject to various disruptions and uncertainties. These social factors significantly affect his life and livelihood, representing the challenges and unpredictability he faces in society. "Omar's affair with Warda, the dancer, remains a desperate attempt to fill a void and to gain enough sexual pleasure to help stabilize his psychological well-being" (Sabry 32). This quote implies that Omar might be experiencing some emotional or psychological emptiness in his life, which he tries to fill through his involvement with Warda. The social impacts on Omar emphasize his attempt to fill a void in his life and seek stability through his involvement with Warda. It highlights the complexities of human emotions and how individuals might navigate challenging situations in their pursuit of well-being. The affair with Warda may serve as a temporary escape or distraction from these struggles.

Omar's encounter with a brunette has certain social impacts on him. When the brunette is enticed by money and chooses to go with him, it implies that the protagonist's financial situation may have influenced their interaction. His encounter may be driven by transactional motives rather than genuine connection or attraction. He acknowledges that this encounter doesn't truly improve his situation, but he still finds some solace in the fact that the brunette's laughter manages to stir his heart slightly. His search for meaning and connection is impacted by societal factors such as poverty, materialism, and the fleeting nature of relationships based on monetary enticement. As the speaker clarifies that:

The brunette left with him, enticed by money. It didn't really make things better, but he thought his heart stirred slightly as she laughed. If his heart didn't stir, it would die. Poetry, wine, love—none of them could call forth the elusive ecstasy. (Mahfouz 95)

These lines reveal the impacts of societal factors, such as money and the pursuit of pleasure, on the protagonist's mindset and overall well-being. The phrase "enticed by money" implies that the protagonist's involvement with the brunette is driven by financial motives rather than genuine connection or love. This suggests a transactional relationship, underscoring the influence of materialistic values in their society. The mention of poetry, wine, and love as incapable of eliciting the "elusive ecstasy" indicates that the protagonist has sought fulfillment through various means but has failed to find true happiness or satisfaction. From a psychological perspective, "in social life, which has provided us with our familiar analogy with the dream-censorship, we also make use of the suppression and reversal of affect, principally for purposes of dissimulation" (Strachey 477). In social interactions, individuals often feel compelled to conceal their true emotions and present a different facade to conform to societal norms or protect themselves. Omar might feel pressured to suppress or reverse his emotions to fit in or avoid judgment, leading to a disconnection between his authentic self and the persona he presents.

Naguib Mahfouz highlights Omar's social consciousness and his awareness of the impact of societal issues on individuals. Omar views himself as an integral part of a larger social fabric and believes that working towards societal betterment is essential for individuals to attain meaning and purpose in their lives. When Omar gazes at the moon while his friend Mustapha jokes about him sacrificing his life, it implies that Omar is driven by a deep sense of dissatisfaction with his life and the societal conditions he faces. He feels a strong responsibility towards society and cannot be content with his sacrifices alone. He also believes that individuals have a duty to shoulder the collective burden of humanity to make a meaningful impact, seeing this responsibility as a defining aspect of one's worth or existence. As the speaker states that:

Omar was still looking at the moon as Mustapha said jokingly, "Aren't you satisfied with what you've already sacrificed of your life?" "Truth is never satisfied." "My dear friend, it's not your responsibility alone." "Man shoulders the burden of humanity as a whole, or else he's nothing." (Mahfouz 117)

The above citation emphasizes the social impacts on the protagonist, Omar, and his deep sense of responsibility towards society. It portrays his belief that one must actively contribute to the betterment of humanity, striving for truth and justice, rather than being content with personal sacrifices alone. Omar's friend tries to console him, saying that it is not solely his responsibility to carry the burden. This illustrates Omar's conviction in the importance of individuals taking on responsibility for the betterment of humanity as a whole. To Omar, if one does not contribute to the greater good or share in society's burdens, their existence holds no value. According to Hosseini, Mahfouz "defended the rights of the people, because although with the revolution many of his national and social dreams were realized, freedom of expression was not established in his country" (535). Despite the progress in other areas, the lack of freedom of speech remains a substantial issue, suggesting that true societal advancement cannot be fully realized without this fundamental right. This quote reflects Mahfouz's commitment to defending the rights of the people. Overall, while the revolution may have brought positive changes, the absence of freedom of expression indicates a lingering social impact that affects Omar and his fellow citizens.

Finally, *The Beggar* depicts the profound social impacts on the protagonist's life, illustrating the dehumanizing effects of stigma, economic disparities, and power dynamics. The novel critiques societal injustices, highlighting the dehumanization and hardships experienced by marginalized individuals. By exploring the protagonist's journey, Mahfouz prompts readers to question their role in perpetuating or challenging these societal dynamics. Through his compelling narrative, Mahfouz encourages readers to reflect on the social injustices faced by individuals and invites us to work towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Naguib Mahfouz's novel *The Beggar* provides a captivating portrayal of a protagonist's journey from despair to psychological turmoil, offering a window into the intricate tapestry of social issues. Mahfouz skillfully invites readers to reflect on the profound impact of these social issues on an individual's psyche, fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities of human existence. Mahfouz illuminates the harsh realities faced by individuals in society and sheds light on the effects of social structures on one's mental well-being. As readers delve into the protagonist's struggle, they gain a deeper understanding of the social issues plaguing our world. Furthermore, the protagonist is confronted with the dehumanizing effects of social stigmatization. His interactions with others are often characterized

by indifference, pity, or even cruelty, reflecting the devaluation of his worth as an individual. His attempts to find meaningful work or establish stable relationships are continuously thwarted by societal prejudices, leaving him trapped in a cycle of poverty and social exclusion. By delving into the depths of despair and unraveling the layers of psychological turmoil, *The Beggar* not only captures our attention but also urges us to actively engage with the social issues it exposes. The novel emphasizes the power of literature in illuminating the human condition and inciting introspection and action in the face of social challenges.

The Beggar serves as a powerful reminder of the urgent need for compassion, empathy, and societal change to address these prevailing issues and create a more just and equitable society for all. Through its intricately woven narrative and vivid portrayal of characters, Mahfouz sheds light on the struggles of the underprivileged, the oppressive social hierarchies, and the pervasive sense of disillusionment that pervades our world. By delving into the depths of the protagonist's psyche, we are compelled to confront the injustices and inequalities that often go unnoticed in our society. This novel acts as a window through which we observe the intricate struggles individuals face in the face of social inequalities and injustice. As we follow the protagonist's path, we witness the impact of societal pressures and the devastating consequences they have on one's mental well-being. Mahfouz's work reminds us of the need for compassion, empathy, and a collective effort to address these underlying social issues. By diving deep into the protagonist's psyche, the novel prompts reflection on our role in creating a more just and compassionate society. It also leaves an indelible mark in our minds, urging us to examine the humanity in every individual and address the root causes of social despair.

Ultimately, the social impacts portrayed in *The Beggar* paint a grim picture of the protagonist's existence, highlighting the structural injustices and inequalities within Egyptian society. Mahfouz's novel prompts us to reflect on the plight of marginalized individuals and challenges us to address the systemic issues that perpetuate their suffering. Through the intricate narrative, Mahfouz sheds light on the complexities of poverty, inequality, and social injustice that afflict individuals within society. As we witness the protagonist's transformation, we are compelled to reflect on the profound impact of societal structures on human lives and how individuals navigate the challenging path toward autonomy and self-discovery. By pursuing these avenues of further study, researchers can deepen their understanding of Mahfouz's novel and its exploration of the psychological turmoil experienced by the protagonist, enriching literary scholarship in the process.

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