

Kite Runner: Chapter 18

Element	Notes
Plot summary	Amir storms away from Rahim Khan's house, describing the vivid streets of Peshawar as he goes. He feels disorientated and blames himself for not realising that Hassan was his half brother - the signs were clear (e.g. the harelip surgery which Baba paid for). Amir's mind wanders to life back in the US, but he can't stop thinking about Baba's desire to have Hassan with them after Amir's graduation. Amir also has many questions for Baba - he feels angry and betrayed. But after thinking it through, Amir returns to Rahim Khan's house and tells him to call the Caldwells - he's going to find Sohrab.
Characters	N/A.
Themes and features	Amir has many questions for Baba as he wonders how he could have lied for so long and how Ali could live in the house with him and look him in the eye. Amir also repeats the theme of <i>nang</i> and <i>namoos</i>, as he adjusts to his new view of Baba. Baba is a thief - he has stolen Amir and Hassan the right to know that they're brothers and the right to know their parentage. The idea of a thief is slightly ironic, as Amir's lack of intervention in Hassan's rape stole his childhood. This also shows the theme of betrayal and distrust. Amir is torn and he wishes that Rahim Khan didn't call him at all. His wife, career and family is calling him back to the US, but guilt and atonement for his and Baba's sins are calling him to Kabul - he can finally tie up all the loose ends. Amir's sentence structures change as he starts to make up his mind. He refuses to sacrifice his comfortable Western life for Sohrab and will only do the bare minimum. Although he feels forced into going to Kabul, Amir is reluctant to care for Sohrab and potentially endanger his own life. Pathetic fallacy is used to foreshadow future events with the bloodred sky highlighting the fight over Sohrab with Assef. At the end of the chapter, Amir returns to Rahim Khan's house and tells him to call the Caldwells - he will go and get Sohrab.
Context	N/A.
Afghan vocabulary	N/A.