

Kite Runner: Chapter 25

Element	Notes
Plot summary	Sohrab almost dies and Amir is not allowed to see him in the hospital for many hours. Amir is also kicked out of his hotel room and visits Sohrab to read to him/ Sohrab is discharged, but ambivalent about going to the USA. Nevertheless, Soraya greets Amir and Sohrab at the airport enthusiastically, but Sohrab still will not speak. The Taheris meet Sohrab and the General is worried about his reputation being damaged by the "Hazara boy". Sohrab stays mute, but a breakthrough is made when Amir takes him kite fighting in a nearby park.
Characters	Sohrab, Dr Nawaz, Soraya, General Taheri and Jamila Taheri.
Themes and features	<i>"They won't let me in"</i> builds tension from the beginning of the chapter, due to the short declarative which draws a divide between Amir and the hospital staff. Hosseini also uses sensory language, such as the <i>"smell of iodine"</i> and <i>"the woman in green"</i>, to show how he has reverted to a state of shock and, much like after his surgery, cannot recognise people again. The <i>"windowless corridor"</i> which Amir is kept in also creates a prison-like sense of claustrophobia and sinister tension. Amir feels a need to declare his faith and pray for forgiveness, remarking that <i>"I have betrayed, lied, and sinned with impunity"</i>. This suggests that religion is ingrained in Amir, as he can remember vague prayers from his childhood. This also reinforces the sense of guilt. It also the importance of Islam in Afghan culture - his desperation makes him feel like God is the only option. He makes a life-long dedication to do zakat, namaz and pilgrimage, as well as memorising the Quran, as long as Sohrab lives. This highlights the close bond which has developed between them and Amir's fatherly love. Sohrab's suicide attempt is narrated to the reader through one of Amir's flashbacks, as he wonders if it was all a dream. The repetitive plosives of the <i>"bloody bathwater"</i> and <i>"blood-soaked razor"</i> create a stark and visceral image, which emphasises the impact abuse has on children's mindset. Disgust towards the Taliban grows in the reader, as the realities of conflict are once again revealed. The doctor reports to Amir that Sohrab has cut himself very deeply and has to have multiple blood transfusions due to the loss of blood. Sohrab also had to be revived twice and they <i>"would have lost him if his heart hadn't been young and strong"</i>. The narrative here is interspersed with prayers, rhetorical questions and promises to Allah, showing Amir's desperation.