Midnight's Children

Summary of "The Perforated Sheet"

Midnight's Children begins with the narrator Saleem Sinai introducing himself as the child born at the same time as India gained its independence from the British Empire. He says that, even though he is nearly thirty-one years old, he can feel his skin cracking and peeling as he gets closer to his death. Saleem believes it is important that he tells the story of his life and how it coincides with India's own history.

Saleem's story begins in 1915 with his grandfather, Aadam Aziz, returning to the Kashmir region after obtaining his medical degree in Germany. While praying on his mat upon reaching Kashmir, he hits his nose on the ground. Three drops of blood fall from his nose onto his mat. Saleem also mentions that Aadam has a large, cucumber-sized nose, which is the most prominent feature of his face. After the accident, he vows never to follow any religion. This causes a "hole" to open inside him.

He is waiting for Tai the boatman to take him to his village when he reminisces about how Tai once told him that his nose would always guide him in the right direction for his life. Tai yells out that the daughter of prominent landowner Ghani is sick and needs his assistance. Once Saleem arrives at the house, the blind Ghani has his daughter hidden behind a large white sheet with a seven-inch hole cut in the center of the sheet. Ghani informs Aadam that, because of his daughter's purity, Aadam can only perform the check-up through the sheet.

As Aadam is called countless times to Ghani's house to treat "illnesses", he begins to fall in love piece by piece with Naseem, the girl behind the sheet. However, he has never seen her face, only the part of the body that she claims is in pain. Finally, on the day that World War I ends, Naseem says she has a migraine and needs Aadam to treat her head. When Aadam sees Naseem's face for the first time, he is completely smitten with her. When both his parents die, he decides to ask for Naseem's hand in marriage. The two are married and move to Amritsar.

Notes:

- The narrator of 'Midnight Children's is Saleem Sinai.
- He was born at the same time when India got Independence from British Empire.
- He feels that he is getting closer to his death (because of his skin cracking and peeling)though he is only 31 years old.
- In 1915 Saleem's grandfather Aadam Aziz was returning from Germany after getting his medical degree.
- He fell on the ground and hits his nose,while he was praying on his mat and fell three drops of blood in it.
- Aadam has a large cucumber sized notes, which is his great feature.
- He promises that he would not follow any religion.

● Aadam was waiting for his boatman Tai. He also remembers Tai saying how his nose guides him in his life.
● Tai informs Aadam about Ghani's daughter who is sick.
● Aadam arrives and blind Ghani hides his daughter behind a white sheet of seven inch hole in the center of the sheet.
● Ghani informs that Aadam can perform the checkups only through that white sheet(because of her purity).
● Aadam who goes to Ghani's house to treat his daughter Nasseem's illness, he falls in love with her.
● On the day of the end of the I World War, Nasseem had a migraine and Aadam came to treat her head.
● He sees her face and completely fell in love with her.
● Aadam decides to ask Nasseem to marry him(when both of his parents died).
● They both gets married and moves to Amritsar.

Summary of "Mercurochrome"

On August 7th, Mahatma Gandhi called for Hartal, a day of mourning in protest of British imperialism. Riots break out, however, and Aadam tries to help the wounded by using Mercurochrome. Days later, the people hold a peaceful protest and are rounded up and put into a compound. Aadam is there by accident. His nose begins to itch violently, causing him to sneeze. He falls to the ground right before the troops fire on all the people. The bullets miss Aadam.

Notes:

Mercurochrome - Mercury free first aid antiseptic to prevent from skin infection,skin cuts and burns.
Riots - Violence
Protest - Objection
Wounded - Injured
● On August 7, Mahatma Gandhi declared Hartal, a day of mourning in objection of British rule.
● Violence breakout and Aadam tries to help the injured people with mercurochrome.
● After some days, a peaceful protest was held.
● Aadam came there accidentally.
● He got itchy nose and when he sneezed he fell down to the ground and the bullets missed Aadam.

Summary of "Hit-the-Spittoon"

Immediately after their marriage, Aadam and Naseem (who now goes by Reverend Mother) are having difficulties. Aadam despises Naseem for her religious fervor, and Naseem hates that

Aadam acts like he is more intelligent than he is. Regardless of their feelings toward one another, they have five children: three daughters and five sons.

In 1942, Aadam begins to politically align himself with Mian Abdullah, who is known as the Hummingbird because he is always humming. He is the leader of the Free Islam Convocation, a group that does not want a Muslim state separate from India. He and his assistant Nadir Khan are attacked by political assassins. Abdullah begins to hum, which causes the killers' eyes and the windows to shatter. His voice also calls the local dogs to the scene, and the dogs begin to kill the assassins. Abdullah is killed, but Nadir manages to make it out. Aadam and his family take him into hiding, letting him live in the house's basement.

Throughout these chapters, present-day Saleem is telling this story to Padma, a woman who has been tasked with taking care of the decrepit Saleem. He is critical of her sturdy stature and hairbody, and he constantly makes fun of her name, which means "dung." She takes offense at his jabs at her, but she still tries to have sex with him. Unfortunately, he is unable to perform regardless of how hard she tries. Saleem's body keeps deteriorating and cracking, which makes him want to tell his story faster.

Notes:

● After their marriage, Aadyam and Nasseem fights with each other frequently.
● Aadam disagrees and gets angry at Nasseem for her religious faith
● Nasseem dislikes Aadam's behaviour(he acts like he is more intelligent).
● Even though they fight often but still they had three daughters and five sons.
● Aadam keeps friendship with Mian Abdullah.
● He is also called as Hummingbird(because he is always humming). He is the leader of Free Islam Convocation.(A group that doesn't went Muslim state separate from India).
● He and his assistant Nadir Khan gets attacked by the political assassins.
(Assassins-killers)
● When Abdullah began to hum,the killers notices and the dogs came to bite the killers.
● Abdullah is killed but Nadir escaped.
● Aadam and his family hid behind their house basement.
● This story was told by Saleem to Padma who takes care of Saleem who is decreipt.
decreipt- weak
● Saleem makes fun of her body and height and her name which means "dung".
● Sometimes she becomes angry hearing this but she still makes love with him.