

SYNOPSIS

Clear Light of Day recounts the saga of the Das family, a Hindu clan from Old Delhi. The main characters are three of the four Das siblings: Bim, who is unmarried and teaches history at a women's college; her younger sister, Tara, who lives in America with her diplomat husband, Bakul, and have two teenage daughters; and their elder brother, Raja, who has given up his aspiration to become a poet and lives as a rich, fat businessman in Hyderabad with his Muslim-heiress wife, Benazir, and their five children.

The story was opened Tara's visit in a suburb of Old Delhi before she attended her brother Raja's daughter wedding in Hyderabad. She did wanted to visit Bim and Bhaba. While staying there, Tara was questioned by Bim why she came back to dull place like Delhi and she argued it is for re-connecting with Bim, Bhaba, and the country. She was also insisted by Bakul to come with him to stay in his relative's house in New Delhi since he assumed Tara was inactive, but, she strongly refused until Bakul let her to stay. Also, Tara also encountered some surprising yet dissapointing facts. She found that everything left unsaid in that house. She was surprised that Bim felt hatred to Raja whereas she was used to so close and admire Raja while they were young. Bim, reluctantly, tried explaining her this bad feeling. Unfortunately, Tara misinterpreted by thinking it because Raja ignored Bim. In fact, it was more than that; Bim hate that she should depend on Raja since he became her new lanlord.

Then, the story goes into their youth in 1947s and 1940s Old Delhi. As another people in India, their family also entrapped in political chaos in 1947. During this time, several miserable moments happened in sequence. The first was the quarrel between Raja and father about Raja's school submission. Raja insisted to enter Muslim college but father forbid him since it was a danger a Hindhus to enter Hindhu school. It ends with Raja entered Hindhu college. Not so long, their mother died. Raja caught in severe ill became more restless after he knew her vulnerable moslem poets was in danger. At the time, Bim should pay attention to nurse Raja therefore she absence from college for a year. Then came a time Tara married to Bakul. After Raja got well, Bim thought of continue her study and she even joined in social mission. She proposed by Dr. Biswaz but she refused it. Suddenly, Aunt Mira's depressions got worse and ended up with she died. Finally, Raja also leave Bim for Hyderabad. After his leaving, Bim got serious financial problem due to Raja's refusal to run the business. After that, the readers were brought into their childhood. After the birth of retarded brother Bhaba, the responsibility of running household was handed to mother's cousin named aunt Mira. She was young widow who was treated badly by her passed away husband. We may found Bim was closed to Raja while Tara was excluded. Bim was excellent at school while Tara not so capable.