

Diaspora Literature Studies in Theories and Culture

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**Memories on the Move :
The Dalai Lama's Autobiography
My Land My People as Narrative of Exile,
Pain, Relocation and Resistance**

Khem Raj Sharma

The latter half of the twentieth century has witnessed the emergence of memory as a central concern in contemporary culture and politics. A forced territorial uprooting, caused by a tangible social and political reality, is much more than social alienation or a metaphor for estrangement because the exoduses brought about by materialist regimes affect the corporeal and emotional reality of the exiles. It is a disruptive event that unsettles a way of life and disturbs a way of being. Expatriation becomes a question of self-definition because the situation initiates a series of changes—national, geographic, social, political, economic, familial, and personal—which in turn destabilize the self because components of identity undergo modification. The 'past within' and 'the difficult past' resurfaces in the form of autobiography which embodies the 'ruptured histories' for representation and identification of the people who has become fugitives, refugees and nomads in the globalised world.

Autobiography, as a distinct mode of literary expression, brings personal snapshots of time and place in public domain. It is a literature of personal revelation in which lies the