

Was Amir Too Hard on Himself?



I think Rahim Khan thought too highly of Amir in that he believed Amir would be courageous enough to face his debt. Throughout the book, Rahim Khan always praised Amir in everything he did, and the act of Rahim Khan calling for Amir from the US is a testament to his faith in Amir. He always believed in Amir, that he would perhaps mend his ways, and when Amir didn't, Rahim Khan still continued to persist in his belief by continuously calling Amir back. Despite Amir's doubts, Rahim Khan never thought Amir was too weak to handle things, and even gambled with Amir by telling him to "grant an old man his dying wish."

I don't think Amir was ever *too* hard on himself. In fact, I actually believe it was right for him to feel guilty about his actions. It was pretty clear that he did things wrong, and the fact that he was able to reflect on his wrongdoing shows that he is a good person at heart. However, he is too weak to speak up against others, and instead tries to go around the problem and remove it from his life. Although Amir may *seem* to too hard on himself, I think that his guilt was well-deserved, and that his inner turmoil is not "being too hard," because it almost is equal to his punishment. It was his decision to not speak up for Hassan, and therefore, the guilt that followed was merely a consequence.

What Amir didn't know was Hassan being his half-brother. If Amir had known about his relationship with Hassan, perhaps Amir wouldn't have been as reluctant to defend him. Amir's hesitance to accept Hassan as one of his own may have ceased if he knew that they were related. Without this relationship, firstly, I don't think there would be a plot. Amir would never have had to fight for Baba's affection if Baba only had one son. Amir would probably never proceed to make foolish decisions in order to win Baba's affection. Also, this relationship that Amir and Hassan shared probably gave Amir *more* reason to find Sohrab. Amir was reluctant to find Sohrab at first, but after knowing Hassan was his half-brother, it made their bond even more special. Without this "hidden" relationship, I don't believe Amir would have done things the way he did as a child, but also, he would not have decided to find Sohrab.