

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSIONS

Identity is one of the basic humans needs every individual has to provide for himself. No exception to Kim, the main character in Rudyard Kipling's novel *Kim*. The period of adolescence of Kim presents an identity crisis powered by genital puberty, setting in motion a powerful drive to learn the truth about himself. Indeed, the search for an identity is the most important activity for Kim to seek, which brings him the burning question of who he actually is. The concept of self-discovery by Tyrone M. Robinson provides a comprehensive framework that applies to Kim's struggle. Robinson describes self-discovery as an ongoing process of introspection, where individuals gain insight into their character, values, and beliefs, uncovering their true passion and purpose. This process involves answering the "why" of someone's life path through logical reasoning and navigating through life's meaning from a state of recurring deception and confusion.

Kim's travel across colonial India is an Illustration of Robinson's paradigm of self-discovery. From his attachment to the Lama to his participation in the Great Game, Kim's actions and choices reflect a continuous attempt to understand and reconcile his dual heritage. All these experiences give Kim insight into his values and beliefs in the middle of the turmoil of genital puberty and the accompanying identity crisis he experienced. The novel describes Kim's inner conflicts and the conflicts of his divided self-image, which make him quite often ask, "Who am I?" This confusion of identity is, however, crucial to Kim since it eventually leads to the stable and autonomous identity he forms. At the end of this journey, Kim comes

to find his real self through cultural, religious, and national identities. It gives him positive values such as loyalty towards India, independent decision-making regarding his identity, and trust in the Lama, who is a parental figure leading him to his life's aim. Kim's decision to remain the Lama's disciple is testimony to the dedication towards the path he chose and the completion of his journey of self-discovery as envisioned by Robinson's concept of self-discovery.