

# EmperorThought Reading Review

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# 1 Introduction

Emperor thought was a book recommended by my mother. I believe a friend of her's wrote it. It is published under Amazon kindle e-books if memory serves correctly.

I generally read books which help me expand my world view of offer new tools of thinking. To offer respite from those I read fiction which inspires new thoughts and perspectives on the same old situations. I've read a modest number of books in English and far fewer than I'd like in our regional tongues.

While my personal beliefs play a necessary role in the opinion I form about the book, I do try to keep a populist mindset when reading general fiction and thus take into account the fact that there will be things that I might find offensive/prejudiced/ill-informed while others may not.

This review is structured chapter wise simply because that is the structure the book follows.

Before commencing, I congratulate the author on penning down the book. It is not without it's perils and completing the manuscript, facing the editor's pen, spreading the word about the book, and receiving feedback are all difficult acts and not performed by those of a weak heart.

I'll be penning down my thoughts as I go through the book. On thoughts I find particularly interesting / important I'll highlight *like so*. This will necessarily be a running review so grammar/typing errors may abound. please forgive those. I'll try to fix those which may cause a change of meaning but will otherwise leave proper punctuation and spelling out as long as it is obvious what was meant.

## 2 Chapter 1

Hmm. 4 June. 4 july is the american independence day. is this date important? 730 PM. there's a sunset. why an abysmal ocean? did she admire the sunset or the abysmal ocean? The para does paint a pretty picture. Reminds me of a friend of mine. It looked like a scene out of othello.

Crash and splash. are there rocks nearby? foam only forms when there is a rocky floor. could she be in danger? why ask her to bless them? usually nature is the divine. narcissism? she does hold herself above nature.

dive deep? touch of a suicidal nature? L'appel du vide? or just fancy words? so far this character is beginning to look sad and suicidal.

What? arid sand? she's at a beach no? why is the sand arid? it's supposed to be moist once the wave retreats. is something wrong with the sand? wait. it was not mentioned that this is the Earth. are we on another planet? is this the world building phase?

She's Maansi. good technique for introducing the character. so there are other people on the beach. is she a professional photographer? "these days"? selfies were alwats popular as selfies. before that were they called something else? dunno. maybe self portraits? or just pictures? yes. i love that feeling

when the wave retreats and the sand beneath the foot recedes leaving your foot on a hill of sand held in place by your weight and soon crushed by it. it was a surprise when it happened the first time.

i don't understand this. kid "between the waves"? he's worried for the sand being taken away it seems. i can't picture this scene.

so she has a DSLR, since a normal camera cannot capture all those fancy colors let alone a setting sun. I don't know half those colors but I know what she saw because I've seen the same thing. she's a professional photographer. or at least an amateur.

she has blue eyes. wow. talk about stereotypes. perhaps she has to be stereotyped? is that the point? she's a perfect fit for a "beautiful western woman"? he is a square face. of course bodyguards are gun metal eyed. sign. so this world follows stereotypes.

this dialogue. is there discord between them? "dear", "Maanav". I never use names when talking. I only use them when I want the other person's attention. wedding woes? she's not affected by the show of affection. perhaps they speak different love languages? is that the point?

wait a second. "overflowed with joy". but she's using his name. is she emotionally stunted? something wrong? bipolar? he's had to wish her 3 times. is he just overdoing it or is something really wrong? she did show hints of narcissism and depression early on in the first few paras.

json brown? json bourne? veery similar name. is the author hinting at some underhand business? what a missed opportunity. looks like he's a one-off character. why name him though? what was the point? does he become important later on? So he has black eyes. square face. what else? he's got a six pack? I bet he is a fitness freak later on in the book. every stereotype in the world for a "male" man would try to stick to him. the same for her.

dollars. hmm. does that mean he was born outside india? indian would count in crores and rupees. or does the rupee not matter to him since he lives outside india? are they on vacation? news through a website? what now? this needs more thought. why is a news broadcast going through a website? "through" means it's a medium. what happened to TV? it is 2017 so TV is still on.

so he does not talk business with family. a wise policy. mixing work and home can never end well for a married person. they are in sydney? I guess they do live here. hence the dollars. I see. peepal sounds an awful lot like amazon. json brown again. that amount of money means he was not just a one off character.

kerfuffle. this author is fond of big difficult words. i don't know. this dialogue feels ... 'plastic'. not how normal people speak. sometimes it's ok but naming everything, making everything obvious. it sounds like how children are taught to construct sentences. not how we speak. perhaps they are adopted? we know their names are india but that does not mean they are indian. something like the movie 'lion'? their speech feels 'foreign' i suppose. not the way I'm used to people speaking.

see i told you. every stereotype of a 'beautiful' woman. sigh. i don't like the looks of this. more narcissism? she likes dressing up? is that normal? idk.

eyes crimsoned? or crinkled? typo? crimson means red. is she holding back tears? no. does not fit the scene. her love language is speech. she requires regular speech reminders of love. is he the same? he may be different. from what we have seen so far, he likes giving gifts. they are different love languages. have they leared each other's or is this a one sided love? there was discord (or foreign sounding speech)? I'm having trouble making up my mind.

sounds like lip service. her tears could be something else. he was curious. not concerned? do they even love each other or are just carrying out each other's idea of love?why photos in a mobile? she had a camera no? keeping up appearances? photos for social media? this character is very insecure if that's true. why this mention of do not disturb? it's a one off. why? is that a hint to she wanting other people? she wanting out of the marriage? is that a metaphor for her life? while married she was on DND. others still had interest in her.

the narration keeps insisting that they are in love. the story otherwise. what's going on? bobbing her head. that phrase again. she just does as he says does she not? a trophy wife? she leavs a tip so she has access to money. her own? does he supply her? her photography? where does the tip money come from? are their finances separate or combined? if they are indian then most probably combined.

he wants to get back to the room. is the romanticism just a facade? this narration is at odds with the story. what is the author trying to tell me? the narration insists that they are happy and married and in love but the story, the unsaid things, the way they say, all of that insists that there's something wrong.

he really wants to get back. that's the second time he's asked. perhaps the meeting was tiring? does he not care for her wishes? wait what? she agrees? how long have they been walking? BOBBED. again. she really has no will of her own does she?

so that's why he wanted to go back. the diamond. he really likes gifting her things. that's another ego trip for him I suppose. he does not seem to care much for her if the story is to be believed. this gifting is more to satisfy his ego that make her happy. aaaand a kiss. stereotype galore! she likes compliments. that much is obvious. is that how he binds her to him? they are both on their own ego trains. love I think has never been expressed in this relationship. it's a symbiotic relationship. parasitic or not we will know later.

so she has a gift too. a shirt... a token gesture. she's not going out of her way to get gifts. understandable as her love language is speech not gifts.

nope. the diamond is not why he wanted to come back to the room. it's the sex.

she's so easily manipulated. but then again. those without their own wills often are. or does she understand her position? i think she understands.

## 2.1 digest

what a first chapter. I'm thoroughly confused about what is going on. the narration and story are at odds with each other. The dialogue is a little plastic but that could be because of my own lack of experience. I remember feeling a little disoriented when I read 'beloved' because of the way everyone spoke. it does not feel like natural speech. it feels ..... 'constructed'.

Maansi. what a character. she could be trapped in a marriage where she's reduced to a pretty doll. she could genuinely be happy in that marriage in that state. or she could be happy and oblivious. the narration insists that maanav respects her and cares for her but the actions/dialogue mean other things. they signify a rift.

who is narrating? the author? or maansi. if maansi is narrating and it is later revealed to be so, then this makes a little more sense. she could be writing down her anguish. trying to justify her life.

## 3 Chapter 2

so they are back in mumbai. is this their home? they are indian it seems. she's a tourist in india. she's surprised by the lack of footwear. the poor often wear none. she's not been out on the street much. a comfortable life? she comes from money. the weather is cruel? of course. she's lived in AC. the weather is something they can control. the poor cannot control the weather. to them it's not cruel or generous. it just is. the beggar speaks english now. although i suppose it is to be expected. so far the language in the book has been 'aloof' from the story. perhaps the author writes for an english audience.

of course. maanav needs to do something. she has no will. she will not do anything. no surprise that he says yes. perfect fit. HE can save the world. is this their first time in the city? surely she must have requested him to 'help' them before this. what has happened to that help? as if all those troubles could be taken care of with a phone call. but perhaps that's the point. he is soooo powerful that he CAN. it reflects poorly on him that so far he has not chosen to do this. or perhaps this is another of his 'gifts' to his wife. if he fixes that problem, he cannot gift it to her anymore.

"no one in this world provides them with ..." her thought betrays that she's never the action taker. her world relies on someone else running it. perhaps this is intentional on the author's side. then she does not really know the nature of her relation with her husband if she truly believes this dialogue. this is a long monologue. does not make a lot of sense. i think I'll read it again. John Galt's monologue had to be read 4-5 times for me to understand it.

so the first part is about establishing that the poor suffer. they suffer because they are poor. then she says how nobody provides them with their needs. this indirectly takes away the blame from the poor themselves. it absolves them of the situation they are in. they cannot change it. the comparison is similar to a genetic condition. "it is what it is". then she proceeds to list their difficulties.

weather, seasons, pest, and health are some. that people loathe them is taken for granted. this is a classic remnant of the old Indian colonial thinking of babus. I'm reminded of Naipaul's wounded civilization. the poor were seen as 'why are there so many of them?'. the view was distinctly upper class. this character definitely comes from money. she was born in it. or her husband has fed her needs until she has become this way. she implies guilt. guilt of what? previously she hinted that they have no hand in the situation. oh. she meant that the poor have guilt in being poor. they are angry. yes. classic rich thinking. the poor have no right to be anything but angry at their situation. they are poor. they are in a non-desireable state. anger is the only answer. I'll leave this unquestioned. perhaps more research is needed on my part as to the lives of poor people in india. Perhaps this is a populist view. I'm not sure. then where does this anger go? she says they release on those they can lord over. much like a colonial babu no?

another source is given for the anger. repugnance of other humans? what? it's her thoughts which she's transferring to them. chawl life is lived in the open. with other people. i remember that shanty's in delhi were treated only as places to sleep. life was outside! how could they be repelled by people? on the other hand. she could. she's had a rich life. she's angry at her situation (or maybe not, depending on whether you trust the dialogue or the narration). I think she's projecting her anger onto a socially acceptable group. what? ethical? how does that connect to this? there's an assumption that the poor are unethical. how did that come about?

I think this was just an empty attempt at sounding smart and deep. after all she has to keep up appearances with her husband. that's part of the deal isn't it? he keeps her comfortable and she feeds his ego. a 'beauty with brains' stereotype has to be satisfied. maybe marx's theory applies here? economy dictates the spectrum of thoughts. dunno. need to read more about social power structures.

so he's not really interested. fits with the symbiotic relationship assumption. as long as he keeps her comfortable his relation with her is safe. she sees this. she's troubled by it. *the easiest person to fool is yourself*. she's constantly trying to avoid accepting the truth of her relation with her husband. 14 years. she's in pain. very real and unsettling pain.

another monologue. sigh. this is tiresome. there's so much confusion and beating around the bush. what is this story ABOUT? two chapters in and we're still in character building and definition. it was a novella no? chalo we'll see. so the new monologue.... let's go through it.

so already she assumes that the boy is innocent. after all the common story is that there's always a man who employs the children. I don't know if that's true but I wouldn't take it at face value. I know things are rarely as they seem.

this monologue is more of idle musings. nothing actionable. she has to entertain her mind somehow. this is how it is done. there's a black and white nature to her vision of sin. it's either this or that. she reduces complex phenomenon and systems to simple yes no questions. she's religious. no other class of schooling can cause such a powerful bias. religious musings... i have a com-

plex relationship with religion. better leave that alone. these are idle thoughts. she never intends to take action on them. these thoughts are self-medication of a sort. she cannot take action because to take action would imply that she has to first recognize her own situation. that would shatter her world. she has to satisfy herself with the knowledge that these questions occurred to her. but then because of her limited thinking, these are the only questions that will occur to her. there is a whole class of questions she will not explore. like daniel denett says, she's criticizing the 90

there's a hinting towards past imprints. since she's from money, perhaps it's domestic abuse? perhaps molestation? we'll have to wait and see. that would explain her current situation with her husband. it's a lesser of two evils.

That big a house in mumbai. they are reallly rich. maanav has to have some sort of a flaw. dunno. I have a feeling. if she's the victim so far... what is maanav? classic european architecture I see. it's a recent construction. not ancestral. post british raj if I'm correct.

I'm getting tired of these dialogues. they sound like transliterations of hindi. quiet literally speak in hindi and transliterate to english. I wish this book was in hindi. I would have been more comfortable with the dialogue I think. this english sounds very strange. this hand holding again. "Trish come soon". then varun called his wife trisha. It's a novella. get to the juice already. why waste time with all these introductions? readers can infer them no? why no feet touching for the daughter? sexist much? the family is old school. they have new money. they haven't had time to open their world view I think. maybe 2 generations? the money came in during maanav's childhood I'd say. hmm. lot of feet touching going around. why does maanav not touch feet? is something wrong? or is maansi trying to maintain her position as a picture perfect wife? this is confusing.

oh. here's the pairi pauna from maanav. just in time. punjabi huh? their indian descent is confirmed then. at least for maanav. that makes his language even more foreign. this scene seems straight out of a commercial bollywood movie. which one was that? K3G? the helicopter scene? I'm not sure. or baaghbaan? seems like that. fake smiles everywhere. or maybe real. don't know. this writing could fit both scenes. they have a chef! wow.

wait. head chef! that means a full crew works in the kitchen. english butler style huh? the maharaajas of india are not dead. they are now businessmen. :) I'd hope that a chief finance advisor would be involved in the acquisition and it wouldn't be news to him. whatever. ignore for now.

he does mix family and business. i was wrong. the women of the house don't participate in the business. classic india. her qualities are all a stereotype grandmother. so far nobody in this book breaks stereotype. maybe the kids will do something interesting. maanav is looking at her. do the parents not know about the nature of their relationship? perhaps the demon is hidden from the parents as well. why did he look? no. stare? why stare? was is sexual drive? if I recollect last they had sex was in sydney. does he have high libido? this needs clarification. they both go up. IDK. this writing supports both situations. the libido and the unaware parents. that last scene could have ended in another

coitus or an innocent walk to the bedroom to plonk down on the bed and relax. never mind. we'll just go on.

cosmetics. more gifts from him? she does not use them. those are gifts. a way of keeping social appearances it seems. general hulchul here. lunch. just like at home. I can relate to this. ma calls for lunch. but they have chefs. is Trisha continuing a ritual that no longer makes sense? more gifts. what is it with gifts. every occasion is special? if they are so rich how come a foreign trip is special. or perhaps they are so rich that gifts are their way of saying 'hello'. after all, maansi does nothing else with her time than idle thought and fool herself. she has to occupy her time and so gifts are a nice outlet with her level of wealth. or maybe i'm reading too much into the situation. IDK. the author could have done a tighter job of dispelling these ambiguities. it's like a half hearted attempt at a tale. I'm beginning to not like this book so much.

it's a tech shop. that's what peepal is. an attempt at TCS. this should have been more well researched. amazon is not like that. nor is the tech community. nobody gets up to wish bosses. at best they nod. the work is worship. maybe I'm biased in this because I work in the field. anyways, moving on...

Breaking news indeed. it's been in the front page of the morning newspaper I'd say the Enlightened's breaking new is already broken. what can we say about maanav saying yes to a clearly poor reporting company. ego feed? or just poor writing? dunno.

there is definitely something fishy about maanav. pink panther. oil and gas is an old business. he's pushed out existing players. how? how does he run his business? there's not a single explanation about how he did it. "churning gold". perhaps strong arm? something more? "expert advice" that sounded sarcastic. does he know that he's going to get his way no matter what advice he is given?

hmm. the channel did publish it first on their TV. but he owns the world's largest TV network now. did he leak? does he prefer this news channel? the interview is quiet friendly. is there a power play here? does the company act as a propaganda machine for him? he's giving the 'correct' version of the answers. waaaaait what?... underwater township? there's too much there. well, that was a propaganda interview. why? what did he want to sell there? the township? he could ride the goodwill from the merger and sell a dream? i remember the game bioshock. similar concept. except they had an entire city underwater. I wonder if this book will explain 'plausible' tech which can be used to build that. Or is that left out? underwater sustainable structures are notoriously hard to build and maintain. especially if we look at something as long term as housing. case in point the underwater datacenters of mictosoft(?).

### 3.1 digest

don't know. this chapter was very meandering. a lot of characters introduced. dialogue does not improve. storytelling remains shallow and unresearched. there's confusion throughout the situations. it could be anything. I'm growing tired. perhaps I'll stop the review until I've read the full book and provide a digest after that.

the author's biases and world view mix too readily with the character's I think. this book read like another version of 'kyunki saas bhi kabhi bahu thi'. no new ideas so far. no new ways of telling things. hand holding storytelling in fact. Two chapters in and I've got no idea what the characters are like. I'm confused about their nature. Kindle tells me 25

Even kafka becomes interesting at 25

Here's what I'll do. I'll pause the running review here. finish the book and provide a digest of the rest. this is too boring to type out right up to 10 chapters.

## 4 Chapter 3-10

Nothing new here. the rest is as confused as the beginning. a lot of time saved by skipping the full running review.

The author's own experiences and way of thinking seep into every character; robbing them of their .... character actually.

They move into the bungims. Underwater living. other rich people move in with them. the rift between husband and wife starts to show up. She complains of him not talking enough. Turns out that she's a scientist, although the description of science that has been given is almost laugh worthy. more research could have been done. definitely. I mean, the science the author portrays is the kind that's shown in CID and movies. a feeble attempt to fool the lazy reader. I kid not there's a word 'investigative scientist'. what else is a scientist. the author is confused between science, engineering, and invention. The lazy idle thinking flares up in maansi. she goes to her friend's place. the narration lingers on useless details which I found quiet distracting. it confuses the reader. once I realized that the details were quiet superficial and only use by the author to .... sound author like I suppose the story was quiet straightforward. I had to reinterpret the first two chapters. There was nothing of the sort I had been thinking. just bad dialogues and misleading details. Believe the narration. that's what the author intended. forget the subtle clues. there are none by intention.

If the science part of maansi was so under-researched (being a big part of her identity) it makes me wonder if the gell-mann effect can be seen in other parts. perhaps manav's business? I know little of business to spot a made up situation. I know enough of science and tech to know made up situations.

A friend of her's comes home for a story on the husband. she obliges without consulting with him. She goes on a charade meeting a swami and 'devi'. another idle act. serious thought will put this to rest but dunno. the author chose not to. it follows the new stereotype of 'there is a god but these godmen are false'. goes on to meet a friend who is unable to distinguish between loneliness and solitude. perhaps the author's mistake? She takes on a form of pseudo-science practice. gathering knowledge from authorities (which is not what scientists do). a populist's idea of science I suppose. there's a big list of name drops. I wonder if the author has read half the works of those people. I haven't but I'm making my way through the list. she visits a doctor who freely mixes science,

myth, religion, and what not. I would put it down to placebo treatment but clearly everyone in the story believes in these things. her invention then dips into a lazy attempt at a mind control device. rick and morty had better ideas.

In the end she does nothing. persuaded half by her husband and by reading ancient texts she reaches the conclusion that people deserve free will. that's that.

## 5 Conclusion

This book. I don't know. It's not the type of book I'd pick up generally. The title tells me nothing about it. the abstract tells me nothing about it. In fact, all read and done the book has nothing to offer other than a lazy attempt at an introspective story. It follows all stereotypes to the tee. I know that stereotypes exist for a reason but generally speaking not all stereotypes co-exist in real life. People are .... varied. they change. they are interesting. the characters in this book do nothing out of the ordinary. they are... daily saas bahu characters. you can see the plot as soon as the trailer airs.

the dialogue keeps feeling fake and non-spoken. Perhaps because of transliteration. That kept throwing me off. I could not get into the scene without feeling it was made up. Then there was the .... **flood** of distracting details. Lazy I'd call it. more care should be put into the words one writes. especially a book. I've put more care into poems I've written. Then there was the pointlessness of the story. By chapter 5 you wonder if this will ever end or get to some point. It does not. There's the use of big words and heavy names without actually providing an idea or insight or even a different perspective. all in all if this was a first attempt at writing I'm willing to be generous but an editor vetted this and published means I'll be reading less from that publishing house in the future. simply because I have limited time.

Flatland was shorter, more strange in it's cast and crew, tighter in it's story telling and world building, while revealing the satire on social structure in victorian england. All in, this was a much shallower read than what I'm used to. perhaps someone else can find it to their taste. Someone new to the habit of reading maybe?