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**Sufferings, Resilience, and Triumph over Despair in Linda Sue Park's *A Long Walk to Water***

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**Abstract**

*This research paper explores the plights of the refugees and their experiences in the place of origin, during the journey and in the host country, which are similar and caused by the same entity of state sovereignty and the use of state of exception in the text A Long Walk to Water. The civil war in Sudan compels Salva and many Sudanese people to leave their home country and live the very painful lives. Their plight is generally universal plight of every asylum seeker. In A Long Walk to Water, Salva starts facing a new set of obstacles after leaving his home country, Sudan and continues even in the host country. Despite the daunting obstacles, Salva's extraordinary resilience, determination, and willingness to adapt enables him to overcome his sufferings. This research paper finally argues that the problems of the right less/stateless people will have to be addressed by creating an unshakable framework by combining ideas of universal right to the political space with ethics of unconditional hospitality. Towards a creating an equal space for every individual, Hannah Ardent's rights to have right, Kant's universal hospitality and Derrida's unconditional hospitality can be instrumental to minimize the sufferings of the refugees in this world. To improve and alleviate the sufferings of refugees, their rights will have to*

*come from their equal access to the political space and legalization of their rights will have to be guided by humanitarian perspectives.*

**Keywords:** Sufferings, unwavering determination, resilience, hope

### **Introduction**

Conflict and dislocation cause people to be refugees in society. They are also the result of indifference to human rights violations. War is one of the dominant causes that force people to leave their native lands. At various times, wars have occurred in different parts of the world, forcing an unprecedented number of people to live as refugees. This research explores this text from the perspectives of suffering, resilience for survival, and the triumph of hope over despair. Specifically, it identifies the suffering that Salva and other refugees encounter due to their lack of political rights, particularly the right to have rights, the right to free movement, the nation-state's flagrant use of negative biopolitics, states of exception, inhospitable hosts, and more. Despite these sufferings, refugees maintain hope and resilience in their quest for equality and freedom, triumphing over despair.

Linda Sue Park's *A Long Walk to Water* presents the experiences of two young people, Naya and Salva, who experience the miseries caused by the civil war in Sudan. Salva and many Sudanese are forced to leave their home country, Sudan. They extremely suffer from the devastating risks during the journey, as well as, in the host country, America. They demonstrate their unwavering resilience for survival, and eventually triumph over despair, which highlights the indomitable human spirit in the face of adversity. Marli Spriggs reviews *A Long Walk to Water* in "An Inspiring Story of Overcoming Hardship" from the perspective of the sufferings of Sudanese refugees and their efforts to overcome them. But this review doesn't touch the core sufferings, and tenacity of the protagonist, Salva. A significant number of Sudanese are forced to make a perilous journey to Ethiopia and ultimately to the United States to escape the conflict in his home country. Despite the trauma of war, the loss of loved ones, identity, and hardships they face, Salva and other characters find hope and strength in their ability to survive and preserve. They learn to adapt to changing circumstances and trust in their own abilities. Through their struggles, they learn the significance of hope, courage, and strong determination, and they show how the human spirit can overcome despair.

### **Methodologies**

This section outlines the theoretical frameworks and methodologies employed to analyze the themes of sufferings, resilience, and triumph over despair in Linda Sue Park's *A Long Walk to Water*. Central to this analysis are Derrida's concept of unconditional hospitality, Ardent's rights to have right and Kant's notion of universal hospitality. By integrating these philosophical perspectives, the research aims to explore the characters' experiences and responses to adversity, highlighting how hospitality and moral imperatives shape their journeys. This multidisciplinary approach provides a comprehensive understanding of the narrative's deeper implications on human resilience and compassion.

Hannah Arendt offers a thought-provoking exploration of the evolving dynamics of politics, citizenship, and human rights in a post-World War II world. Arendt in “The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man” depicts that: “the rights of Man were proclaimed to be “inalienable,” irreducible to and undeducible from other rights or laws, no authority was invoked for their establishment; Man himself was their source as well as their ultimate goal. No special law, moreover, was deemed necessary to protect them because all laws were supposed to rest upon them” (323). Arendt sheds light on the evolving nature of politics, citizenship, and the concept of human rights in a rapidly changing world. She argues that the nation-state, which had served as the primary political unit for centuries, was losing its significance and effectiveness in the face of globalization, mass migrations, and the rise of supranational entities like the United Nations. She introduces the idea of “the rights of man” and explores its limitations. She distinguishes between the rights of citizens, which are tied to membership in a specific nation-state, and the rights of man, which are meant to be universal and independent of citizenship. She challenges the assumption that the rights of man are self-executing and highlights the importance of political structures and institutions in safeguarding these rights. Arendt's work remains relevant in contemporary debates on global governance, migration, and the role of nation-states in upholding the rights of individuals that play vital roles to lessen the griefs of the stateless people.

Derrida's in “On Cosmopolitanism” discusses that: “It is a question of knowing how to transform and improve the law and of knowing of this improvement is possible within an historical space between the Law of an unconditional hospitality, offered a priori to every other, to all newcomers. . . ” (434). It challenges traditional notions of hospitality by advocating for a hospitality that is truly open and unconditional, without expecting anything in return. Derrida argues that conventional hospitality often comes with hidden expectations or conditions, where the host expects some form of reciprocity or gratitude from the guest. Unconditional hospitality, on the other hand, means welcoming the stranger or the other without any preconditions, without demanding that they conform to our norms or expectations.

Andrew Shryock writes, “Derrida describes can only be a foreigner (but one who should enjoy open access to ‘my space’), and the space of hospitality, in so far as it is freely open insiders and outsiders” (410). Derrida's concept of hospitality challenges the traditional notion that hospitality is extended only to those who are known, familiar, or part of one's own community. He argues that true hospitality should extend to the stranger, the foreigner, or the other who is fundamentally different from oneself.

Kant seeks the solution of the refugee problem by proposing the universal hospitality: “He stressed that this is limited to a right to hospitality. . . . Kant actually means is merely the right to present oneself and initiate contact with a foreign individual or state without being treated with hostility or violence” (404). At its core, this notion champions the idea that human beings have certain rights that transcend borders and should be

respected universally. Central to Kant's vision is the principle of "universal hospitality." Kant posits that every rational being has an inherent right to visit and reside in any part of the world, provided they do not infringe upon the equal rights of others.

These theoretical perspectives illuminate the broader implications of the narrative, demonstrating how resilience is nurtured through ethical hospitality and the recognition of universal rights. The interdisciplinary approach of this research not only enhances our understanding of the characters' journeys but also contributes to contemporary discussions on global governance, migration, and human rights. Ultimately, the analysis underscores the enduring relevance of these philosophical concepts in addressing the complexities of human sufferings and resilience in this complicated world.

### **Literature Review**

Park's *A Long Walk to Water* is a heartbreaking story of tragedy, loss, fear, perseverance for survival and hope for better life. Separated from his family and surrounded by violence and chaos, Salva embarks a perilous journey, joining a group of refugees in search of safety and stability. Salva's distressing journey takes him across vast landscapes, where he encounters the harsh realities of war, starvation, disease, robbery, and murder of fellow Sudanese.

The protagonist, Salva is an 11 years old boy who is forced to leave his country, Sudan, for a safe and secured life. Nya is also eleven years old girl, who travels back and forth from her village to the pond, not once but twice, every day. Every year, when the pond dries up, Nya's village moves to an encampment near a lake. When the lake is more convenient to collect water, the villagers only stay there during the dry season due to the fear of fights with Dinka. The fear of the conflict causes difficulties to fetch water from the lake: "Nya hadn't thought about it much, but she realized now she had always assumed that the leader was Nuer, too. The Dinka and the Nuer were enemies-had been for hundreds of years" (Park 114). Since she belongs to the Nuer tribe, she obviously fears for the collection of water from the pond. Due to the domination of Southern Sudan by the Northern government, the state tries to declare Sudan as a Muslim country despite the southern people being non-Muslim. Thus, the Southern people started a war against the government demanding independence. Park clarifies, "rebels were from the Southern part of Sudan, where he and his family lived, were fighting against the government. . . most of the people who lived in the north were Muslim and the government wanted all of Sudan to become a Muslim country" (6). The dignity and the rights of the people in the Southern Sudan are crushed by imposing Muslim beliefs on the entire Sudan, therefore, the people of Southern Sudan aggressively revolt against the government which leads Sudan in critical situation.

The government forces suspect the Southern Sudanese for being rebels whereas the rebels force these same innocent people to join in their fighting group. Double threat by both forces left them no option rather than leaving their native land. He vividly justifies the reasons for leaving the home country, "They had run away because they were in double danger: from the war itself and from the armies on both sides, boys were often forced to

join the fighting” (67). War is said to be done for the sake of the people but common people are mostly affected by both warring factions. Both fighting groups keep less concern about the pains of the common people which is the blatant violation of universal human rights.

In 1985, when Salva is in the school, the rebels attack his village, Loun-Ariik, which compels him to leave the village along with other people. His teacher tells his students, “Go quickly, all of you . . . into the bush. Do you hear me? Not home. Do not run home. They will be going into the villages. Stay away from the villages-run into the bush” (6). Along with others, he is also forced to leave his home country, Sudan. He is one of the “Lost Boys” in Sudan. During his journey from his village of South Sudan to the United States of America, he undergoes through different traumatic experiences. As Salva leaves his village, other refugees show the unwillingness to take him with them because they consider him as a burden. Such behavior of refugees cultivates fear to be left alone so, he makes his maximum efforts not to be slow while walking even without enough food and water.

When Salva meets his uncle Jewiir on the journey, he feels great relief. Jewiir plays a very significant role of guardianship to protect him from every danger. He, a former rebel fighter, leads the group of refugees towards Ethiopia, which gives a huge relief to Salva. Karl Vick laments the loss of life of Southern Sudanese: “The civil war in Sudan . . . has claimed an estimated 2 million lives. . . .The south has paid the heaviest price in the fighting, sparked by its rebellion against domination by the largest Arab north”(1). Insufficient attention of the concern stakeholders of the world to end the war brought much destructions in the lives of the unprecedented number of the people. On the journey to Ethiopia, uncle Jwiir is shot dead by the rebels, which is a big loss for Salva and his teammates. Sudanese refugees endure from starvation, thirst, rebels’ attacks, and loss of their near and dear in their journey. Despite all these sufferings, they have no other options rather than moving towards their destination with the hope of having bright future.

After herculean journey, Salva and his teammates reach a refugee camp in Ethiopia. Life in the camp is not easy because of the excessive number of refugees in a smaller space. Despite serious difficulties, Salva spends six years in the camp of Ethiopia. SE Enagar captures the pains in the refugee camp: “Relief aid in the camp is unreliable. . . .They survive through domestic work, begging, petty trading, or beer-brewing and prostitution . . . psychological problems are the natural consequences of this situation, and aggressive behavior is seen in the displaced children, while trauma and anxiety plague the children in the war zone” (10). Children and the women are the most vulnerable people in the painful journey. Salva, several children and women experience similar types of traumatic experiences in the several refugee camps.

Salva loses his loved ones, which mentally and emotionally disturbs him. Although, he suffers bereavement losing the near and dear on the way to journey, he never quits faith in himself. April Brown reviews Park’s novel by noting how the West overlooks Sudanese refugees; yet they remain optimistic: “Life is harder for these eleven year-olds than we

Westerners can even imagine. Yet they have hope” (3). In this text, in spite of enduring different life threatening obstacles, Salva keeps on his journey with the hope of better future. He endures long periods of walking, scrounging for food, and witnessing the devastating effects of conflict on his fellow refugees. On the way, Salva finds solace and hope in the stories his father once told him about perseverance and the importance of never giving up.

Gail Pritchard explores pathetic condition of the refugee camp where Salva and his fellow refugees extremely struggle for survival: “After two years of barely surviving in a camp with 86,000 other young boys, he decides to leave for Ifo Refugee camp further southwest. It takes him several months of walking. . .” (26). Kakum refugee camp is crowded, and that makes the lives of refugees very miserable. Despite the constant hardships and setbacks, Salva never loses sight of his ultimate goal: to survive, find his family, and create a better future for himself and his war-torn nation.

In spite of numerous barriers, Salva successfully lands in the host country, America and establishes a non-profit organization in the USA with the purpose of supporting the helpless people of South Sudan. His organization collects the fund and makes many wells to solve the severe shortage of drinking water. Park describes Salva's contribution to ease the chronic scarcity of water in South Sudan: “WFSS has installed more than 300 wells in both Dinka and Nuer communities” (120). Salva's contribution in supplying water to the people is a big relief for vulnerable Sudanese people. The novel concludes as Salva, now an adult, returns to Southern Sudan as a successful person. The story ends on a note of positive hope and resilience, emphasizing the transformative power of water and the possibility of creating a better future even in the face of unimaginable challenges.

### **Sufferings during the Journey**

As Salva walks in the group of fellow refugees, others hesitate to take him with them because they think that he makes them slow while walking. “He is a child. He will slow us down” (Park 21). In the early phase of his journey, as the group members try to avoid him, but he remains very aware for not being a burden for the group. Salva's hunger and the pain is a recurring incident, “Nothing was real except his hunger once a hollow in his stomach but now a deep buzzing pain in his stomach in every part of him” (Park 23). His journey is full of painful sufferings that traumatize in each and every step. He even collects enough courage to continue his journey despite all the severe obstacles.

Uncle Jewiir becomes a profound consolation who promises to intensively take care of him. He has a gun and protects Salva as they move to their destination. As they reach the Aruot, the land of lions they spend the night carefully. Despite all the measures they take for safety, Salva's friend, Marial loses his life in the lion's attack in the middle of the night. Salva is mentally disturbed at this loss though, he controls himself and continues his journey: “Marial was gone- vanished into the night . . . He had lost his family member, and now he had lost his friend as well” (Park 40-41). He feels lonely and becomes very upset for losing his best friend, Marial. His uncle, Jewiir, supports a lot to get rid of this sort of traumatic experience. Nhial T. Tutlam documents the data on traumatic experiences of

these refugees: "Sudanese refugees have found high levels of trauma and trauma associated mental disorders. Specially, the prevalence of PTSD, depression, and anxiety has been found to be as high as 48%, 59%, and 26%, respectively" (4). Mental health of Sudanese refugees including Salva is severely affected due to the unprecedented hardships and loss of their partners. The loss of nears and dears, starvation, difficult climatic conditions, unwelcome hospitality of the host country and many more are the causes of the imbalance in the mental health of the refugees.

It is most difficult task to make a journey through the hostile desert. "Each minute of walking in that arid heat felt like an hour" (Park 52). The pain of walking in the desert without basic materials is terrible. He cries so hard because of severe pain while walking in the arid sun without proper foods, water, and rest. Salva sees the people collapsed in the desert due to lack of enough food, water, and rest. While crossing the desert, many refugees lose their invaluable lives. As Salva's group sees the people collapsing on the sand Salva offers some water which brings some of them into consciousness. "Salva's group drew nearer. Salva counted nine of the men, all of them collapsed on the sand. One made a small, desperate motion with his hand." (55). Salva and other refugees face different unpredictable risks while crossing the terrible desert. The scarcity of foods, water, extreme climate, and other insecurities make them deeply suffer.

As Salva and his teammates make a journey through the perilous desert, the group of people with weapons catches and takes, Jewiir away from there and shoots. "Two of the other men took Uncle to a tree several yards away and tied him to it...As Salva watched; one of the men aimed his gun at uncle. Three shots ran out. Then the men ran away" (Park 62-3). Those robbers kill his uncle, rob everything, and run away from there. He loses his uncle Jewiir, friend, Marial, and many others during his journey to the host country. The loss of his many teammates is an unexpected loss for him which really traumatizes him.

After the change of the government in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian government makes the policies to vacate all the refugees from this particular camp in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian soldiers inhumanely shoot many Sudanese and other stateless people and make them leave Ethiopia. The very unethical and unsupportive policies of the countries of the world are adding more pains in the lives of refugees. Park explains the cruelty done to the stateless people by the Ethiopian soldiers: "The soldiers were forcing some of them into the water, prodding them with their rifle butts, shooting into the air . . . he was a floating with his head down, blood streaming from a bullet hole in the back of his neck . . . he would learn that at least a thousand people had trying to cross the river that day, drowned or shot or attacked by crocodiles" (77-8). Park projects the inhumane treatments of the Ethiopian government inflicted to already suffered people. This sort of inhumane behaviors of the several countries add sever pains in their lives.

Then, they begin their journey to Kenya, which is one of the toughest journeys of most neglected people without any humanitarian supports. They are prone to suffer in each and every step from multiple factors. Salva is told different stories of risks while making their journey: "Each group had stories of terrible peril: boys who had been hurt or killed by

bullets or bombs, attacked by wild animals, or left behind because they were too weak or sick to keep up” (80). Despite all the frightening stories, he accepts to be the leader of his team. He is now 17 years young and is capable of leading the group to another camp. As a group leader, he instructs, persuades, and takes people through war-hit areas to the Kakum camp in Kenya within one and a half years. Kakum camp is a dreadful place, isolated in the middle of a dry, windy desert. This camp is overcrowded with more than seventy thousand people. They are not allowed to leave the camp without permission, which is like a prison and suffocating but they have no other options rather than living there. As they find no hope of any better situation in that camp, they eventually move away from there to Ifo camp with the expectation of reducing their hardships. As they reach the next camp, after the painful journey, the most of them are hungry and sick. He finds the Ifo camp no different condition than Kakum. This camp is also not facilitated with even basic facilities for the refugees. Park puts lights on the condition of Ifo camp: “when they reach the camp at Ifo, they found that things were no different than at Kakum. Everyone was always hungry, and there was never enough food . . . Many were sick or gotten injured . . . the few medical volunteers could not care for everyone who needed help” (85). Park clearly highlights the very miserable condition of this camp that further adds miseries in their lives. On many occasion, the refugees blame their luck as being the weakest creatures of the earth.

Education can be the only solution of all the pains and sufferings of the refugees but unfortunately, they are deprived of getting education. Laura-Ashley Wright and Roby Plasterer explores the challenges of education in refugee camp, Kenya: “There are several key factors reported as challenges to the education in Kenyan refugee camps, including cultural/traditional practices that do not favor girl’s education, congestion in schools, dilapidated and under-resourced facilities, and a paucity of trained teachers. However, according to all of our research participants, at the forefront is the challenge of providing sufficient funding for educational opportunities” (47). The cultural, and lingual barriers, lacking funds, and poorly resourced man powers have blocked the ways to get education properly. The refugees including their children have to extremely struggle even to have access to basic education that severely affect their future.

### **Sufferings in the Host Country, America**

In Park's *A Long Walk to Water*, Salva, the protagonist, faces a new set of hurdles when he arrives in the host country, America. He lands in the dreamland after completing arduous journey from war-torn Sudan with the expectation of shining future. The challenges that he encounters in there differ from those in Sudan, they present their own unique struggles and barriers to overcome them. One significant obstacle that Salva faces in America is the cultural and lingual barriers. Upon arriving, Salva cannot speak English fluently, which poses a major challenge in navigating daily life and effectively communicating with others. Park explores: “Salva’s knees were shaking as he walked to the mike. He knew that his English was still not very good. What if he made mistakes in pronunciation? What if the audience couldn’t understand him?” (108). His inability to

communicate in English hampers his integration into the new culture and makes it difficult to seek help or to have access to the resources he needs.

They have to confront with much complicated problems to achieve education in the host country, too. J. Lynn McBrien argues on the barrier to get education in the host country: "Cultural misunderstandings can result in prejudice and discrimination, with the result that students, already struggling with unfamiliar language and confusing cultural change, must also work to overcome the impact of negative attitudes. . . . Victims of discrimination can experience lasting effects on their self-perception, social interactions, motivation, and achievement" (328). Cultural, and lingual differences, and the dominating attitudes of the people of the native country present serious challenges in the path of getting education. Those refugees, who are unable to prevail over such difficulties can hardly imagine prosperous lives in the host country.

The trauma and emotional scars of his experiences haunts him even in America. The memories of violence, loss, and displacement remain with him, causing emotional turmoil and impacting his ability to fully integrate and thrive in his new life. Dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or unresolved trauma may further complicate his journey of healing and adaptation. Despite all the challenges, Salva is determined to address the most serious problem of drinking water in his home country, Sudan. Park also highlights the financial difficulties for his purpose of helping Sudanese people: "Salva spoke to hundreds of people- in churches, at civic organizations in schools. Would he ever be able to turn his idea into reality? Whenever he found himself losing hope, Salva would take a deep breath and think of his uncle's words" (110). Salva tries a lot to raise funds to solve severe water crisis faced by the Sudanese people. He encounters torments to translate this dream project into reality. Financial struggles and economic disparities are additional obstacles that refugees like Salva face in the host country.

### **Resilience for Survival and Triumph over Despair**

The refugees, in this text, do not surrender to hopelessness, but they use their experience to stay afloat and optimistic in the midst of the series of crises: In short, they stay resilient and use it as a capacity to adapt, recover, and flourish in the face of adversity and challenging circumstances. It is remarkable that how they keep their resilience and optimism to bounce back from difficult experiences and maintain a sense of well-being. For these reasons, it makes sense to delve into the factors and processes that contribute to endure and explore how refugees and their communities can cultivate and enhance their resilience. Resilience is not an inherent trait possessed by some and lacking in others, but rather a dynamic process that can be developed and strengthened over time. Hope can be as significant as food and water. Salva and his fellow Sudanese display exceptional resilience and hope even in the most difficult circumstances like extreme scarcity of water, foods, extreme climatic conditions, and crossing the Gilo River which is full of serious risks.

Salva encounters a very painful situation in each moment in the life but never surrenders: "The pain was terrible. Salva tried to bite his lip, but the awfulness of that never-ending day was too much for him" (53). Salva bears unimaginable pains while

crossing the Akobo desert. Even in such adversity, Salva and other Sudanese refugees continue their journey defeating all the obstacles. This sort of ability to endure the pain and optimism of Salva has become instrumental to overcome the sufferings. Michael Unger comments resilience in adversity: “resilience is most often described as the capacity of a stressed system (a trait of the system) to reach a new threshold and achieve balance, return to a previous state of balance, or transform into a new life of equilibrium” (34). Salva is the epitome of resilience and hope in adversity. He is a child, who depicts extreme determination to beat the challenges during the journey and in the host country. Park expresses the unwavering resilience: “The ways they were treating him made Salva feel stronger still....Salva lifted his head proudly. They are wrong, and I will prove it” (66). The hurdles that he faces further makes him more determined and resilient to subdue those pains and sufferings. After Uncle Jewiir is killed by the robbers, Salva is not treated properly by his own group. This sort of ill treatment further strengthens him to overcome the problems. The protagonist, Salva's strong willpower and resilience can be found in the text: “Salva looked around at the masses of people stretched out as far as he could see. He felt his heart sink a little, but he clenched his hands into fists and made himself a promise. If they are here, I will find them” (67). Salva does have strong belief being united with his family members in the future. This sort of purpose and meaning leads him to tackle all sorts of obstacles. This strong determination and willpower are the major factors that always work as motivation for survival.

Salva tries every time to find the opportunities for his growth and development. This interesting nature leads him to learn English to some extent even in the refugee camp. Park projects the enthusiastic nature for learning new things: “The whole rest of the day, Salva went around saying, ‘A, B, C,’ mostly to himself but sometimes aloud, in a quiet voice. He looked at the paper a hundred times and practiced drawing the letters in the dirt with a stick, over and over again” (86). His keen interest to learn new skills has become very helpful to face the adversity and move to the right destination. This exceptional nature supports him a lot to beat the lingual difficulties to some extent in the host country, America. The Lingual and cultural barrier is one of the major obstacles of Salva for proper growth and development in the host country.

His journey is a powerful reminder of the human capacity for strength and perseverance in the face of adversity, and the transformative power of hope and resilience. Marli Spriggs review of *A Long Walk to Water* disseminates the hope and family that motivates for survival: “Salva and Nya's story reminds us of the importance of family and hope, as these ideals propelled them to create better lives for themselves and others” (1). Family is the major source of constant motivation and inspiration, which is essential to beat any difficulties. Salva continues his journey with the sweet memories of his family which constantly prevent him from being demotivated in difficult situation.

Unprecedented ups and downs that Salva experiences develop strong leadership qualities which are evident in many instances: “He organized the group, giving everyone a job: scavenge for food; collect firewood; stand guard while the group slept. Whatever food

or water they found was shared equally among all of them. When the smaller boys grew too tired to walk, the older boys took turns carrying them on their backs” (81). He develops leadership qualities with humanistic feelings, which are the essential components to make better persons. After he leads the group, for the safety, he divides the duties among the members of the group wisely, which helps a lot to tackle the problems that they face.

Gail Pritchard also indicates the resilience and hope of Salva which plays vital role to overcome his problems in the Kakum refugee camp: “After two years of barely surviving in a camp with 86,000 other young boys, he decides to leave for Ifo Refugee camp further southwest. It takes him several months of walking . . . .” (26). Kakum refugee camp is one of the very poorly managed camp, which make the lives of refugees very pathetic. To spend many years in a very crowded camp where there is no availability of even very basic human needs demonstrates Salva’s very tolerating nature of adjusting even in the most difficult environment.

His endurance, and hope are the key factors that defeats the desperation in Park’s novel: “I overcame all the difficult situations of my past because of the hope and perseverance that I had” (116). Salva never gives up the hope for life despite piles of considerable hurdles in every step of his journey. As Salva knows about his father getting treatment in a hospital of Southern Sudan, he desperately prepares to go and meet him. But it is not easy to get permission to visit war torn area of Sudan. After completing a long official process, finally he is permitted to go to Southern Sudan to meet his sick father. His consistent efforts and struggles eventually makes him able to meet his father. His consistency and determination are highlighted in this text: “It was very difficult to make the arrangements. He had to get permits, fill out dozens of forms, and organize plane flights and car transport in regions where there were no airports or roads . . . it took not days or weeks but months before all the planes were in place” (101). Salva is a person with unwavering willpower which leads him to continuously work to reach his destination. After consistent and tireless efforts, he succeeds to travel to Southern Sudan to meet his sick father in hospital.

The struggles of Salva and his fellow Sudanese refugees epitomizes the power of resilience in overcoming adversity and despair. Their journey, marked by severe challenges such as extreme scarcity of basic necessities, harsh climatic conditions, and perilous obstacles, highlights how resilience is not an inherent trait but a dynamic process developed through determination and hope. Salva's unwavering optimism and tenacity, even in the face of unimaginable pain and suffering, demonstrate that resilience can be cultivated and strengthened over time. His leadership, perseverance, and continual quest for growth, even in the direst situations, serve as a testament to the human capacity for endurance and triumph over despair. The hope and resilience are as essential as food and water for survival, and the transformative power of these qualities can lead to personal growth and the ability to inspire and uplift others.

### **Measures to Alleviate the Unbearable Sufferings**

Arendt's exploration of the evolving nature of politics and human rights underscores the challenges faced by individuals in a globalized world, emphasizing the importance of political structures in protecting the rights of the stateless. Derrida's advocacy for unconditional hospitality challenges traditional notions of reciprocity and demands an openness to the other, highlighting the ethical imperative to welcome strangers without preconditions. Kant's principle of universal hospitality champions the inherent rights of all individuals to seek refuge and initiate contact without hostility, proposing a solution to the refugee crisis grounded in mutual respect and universal right.

The 1951 Refugees Convention and its 1967 Protocols protect the rights of refugees. This includes the rights not to be expelled except under strictly defined conditions. Despite some rights guaranteed by such conventions, the refugees are inhumanely treated which is the severe violation of human rights. The sufferings of the asylum seekers are the universal phenomenon caused by the poor implementation of the rights guaranteed by the universal declarations of the human rights.

Gil Loescher demonstrates the vital role of UNHCR in South Sudan that: "In South Sudan, UNHCR, for the first time, assisted people who were internally displaced. In 1972, the UN General Assembly mentioned refugees and displaced person side-by side for the first time, and in 1975 and again in 1979 the high commissioner to promote lasting and speedy solution for refugees and displaced persons." Different international organizations can play pivotal roles to resolve the pains and sufferings of the stateless people. Therefore, the international communities must be very proactive to empower the organizations like UNHCR to minimize the various problems related to the refugees. In different times, UNHCR has been empowered but several works are still left to be done in this area.

Barry N. Stein projects the durable solutions for developing country refugees: "There are only three durable solutions: voluntary repatriation, local settlement, and third country resettlement. Both political will and capacity is necessary to their achievement. . . ." (268). In order to solve the refugee problems only thing is the political will and determination of the governments of the worlds. If the governments of both developed and developing countries demonstrate the strong will power to work on above mentioned solutions, it is not very complex to sort out this humanitarian problem.

Thus, this widespread suffering of asylum seekers arises from inadequate enforcement of the rights enshrined in universal human rights declarations. Highlighting the critical role of international organizations, Gil Loescher notes the UNHCR's pioneering assistance to internally displaced people in South Sudan and its ongoing efforts to find lasting solutions for refugees and displaced persons. Empowering such organizations is essential, but as Barry N. Stein emphasizes, achieving durable solutions like voluntary repatriation, local settlement, and third-country resettlement requires both political will and capacity. Strong determination from governments worldwide is crucial to address and alleviate the humanitarian crisis faced by refugees effectively.

## Conclusion

This research underscores the profound sufferings endured by Salva and other Sudanese refugees due to the civil war in Sudan. Their journeys are marked by extreme hardship, loss, including starvation, harsh climates, and hostile encounters. Despite the traumas they face both during their escape and in their host countries, Salva and his fellow refugees demonstrate remarkable resilience and unwavering determination. Their stories are a testament to the strength of the human spirit, highlighting how hope and willpower can help individuals endure even the most harrowing circumstances.

Furthermore, this also advocates for a multi-faceted approach to addressing the refugee crisis, drawing on theories from Derrida, Kant, and Arendt. It emphasizes the importance of ethical hospitality and unconditional support for refugees, suggesting that a moral framework can significantly alleviate their sufferings. While many national and international organizations strive to address this issue, the proposed ethical perspective offers a promising avenue for creating a more compassionate and effective response to the refugee plight.

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