

# Examining Identity, Nationality, and Resistance Among Israel's Palestinian Minority in khulud khamis' *Haifa Fragments*

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## Abstract

This paper presents an exploration of the complex and unique challenges which characterise the lives of Palestinians who were not forced to undergo external displacement and currently reside as citizens of the nation-state of Israel (also known as the '48 Palestinians), through an analysis of khulud khamis' novel, *Haifa Fragments* (2015). For '48 Palestinians, the tension between their national identity as citizens of the Israeli State and their cultural identification of themselves as Palestinians generates a primary conflict in their lives: their desire to seek assimilation into the socioeconomic and political framework of the Israeli State—from which they have been traditionally excluded on account of Zionist laws and attitudes—is met with a demand for social integration, which involves a shedding of their ethnically distinct Palestinian identity. Employing Partha Chatterjee's idea of the 'fragment' as a tool of analysis, this paper also examines the contradictions within the collective identity of Palestinian nationalism which lead to the creation of fragments around ethnicity, sexuality, gender, and class. khamis' narrative also highlights the paradoxical situation of Israeli Palestinians, as participation in the Israeli political system, even if it is to achieve greater rights, also paradoxically aids in the legitimization process of the Zionist regime. Thus, this paper also explores the strategies adopted by Israeli Palestinians in khamis' novel to counter Zionist and nationalist hegemones, as a means of personal and collective preservation. Ultimately, this paper argues that khamis' characters, by navigating between many forms of alliances and divisions, hold up a 'fragmented' lived reality that cannot be adequately expressed through totalising discourses.

**Keywords:** Palestine, Israel, Zionism, National Identity, fragment