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## The Crisis in Spatial/Material Belonging/s in Narendranath Mitra's "The Four-Poster Bed": The Idiom of Loss and Rupture in 1947 Partition

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### Abstract

The traumatic history of the world is riddled with flux, not with fixities, with transitional turbulence, not with an undisrupted state of existential reality. The psycho-social crisis, as a response to the fracture of collective identity embodied in a subject, may be linked to the traumatic rupture caused by an emerging conflict marked by migration and displacement. The space of belonging, nurtured in the psychic imagination of a subject, is a product of interrelations and co-existence with the spatiality which is part of them. Such an intertwined sense of belonging is violated in Rajmohan, a representative of the landed gentry and an upper-class Hindu, in Narendranath Mitra's short story "The Four-Poster Bed". He appears to be an eccentric character in the story as he, unlike many upper-caste Hindus, did not leave behind his *vite* (foundational home) in East Pakistan amid the looming crisis set in the aftermath of the 1947 Partition. The paper seeks to examine the interaction between the spatial belonging and material belongings, the ontological disruption and the traumatic rupture of Rajmohan, illustrating his plight immediately after the Partition. It also throws light on a kind of crisis that portrays how he remains reluctant to relinquish the space of belonging in an altered geopolitical reality. The paper also aims to deconstruct the *maan* (dignity) of the feudal class, which Rajmohan stands for, highlighting the interplay of class positions embedded in the social fabric at the time. The fragmented family vis-à-vis Rajmohan's rooted belonging also foregrounds the argument of this paper.

**Keywords:** Partition, Belonging, Spatial, Ontological, Trauma.