

**AN ACCEPTANCE OF EXISTENT SELF: A CRITICAL STUDY OF
SAUL BELLOW'S *THE VICTIM***

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ABSTRACT

The Victim is mainly a story of Leventhal, who is described as brooding, introspective, moral and volatile with the equalities of struggle. His story begins with the darkness of night, a night that is: "As hot as Bangkok" (TV 3). Leventhal's loss of footing causes behavior, such as drinking too much and becoming quarrelsome, which begets a self imposed alienation. With boundaries everywhere, he is no longer sure where he belongs. Kurt Lewin explains why it happens:

A person seems to know what group he belongs to and to what group he does not belong..... Nevertheless, there are occasions when his belonging to a group is doubtful or not clear for the individual. This unclarity of the situation, this uncertainty about the ground upon which he is acting, leads generally to uncertainty in behavior. The person does not feel at home and will therefore be more or less self-conscious, inhibited, or inclined to over-act. (145)

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