

Reverberating Voice of Nature to the Human World in the Select Works Of Ruskin Bond

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Abstract

Nature, since times immemorial has been an engaging theme for men of literature of all times and all climes. Man is linked with nature as if with an umbilical cord. Nature influences man; shapes him up, conditions his thoughts and instincts. A man living in harmony with nature enjoys a state of bliss while a man who interferes with the natural world, receives nature in its malevolent, terrifying mood. Bond firmly believes that nature always offers its blessings upon mankind. Both animate and inanimate worlds protect and help human world and do not, in any way, threaten it. The world of nature ennobles man by purging all that is impure, dishonest and crooked in him. Ruskin Bond in his novels, novellas and short stories weaves a world where man is constantly in interaction with nature and through this interaction, he evolves into a truly wholesome personality - full of charity, love, compassion, sympathy and friendliness. Even the negative aspects provide an opportunity to the character to look at life in a critical manner and understand it in the proper perspective.

Key Words: Nature, human kind, intertwined, great harmony, solace

Nature, since days immemorial has been a connecting with subject for men of writing, everything being equal, and all climes. Man is intertwined with nature as though with an umbilical cord. In the anthropological sense, man developed in the very midst of nature. All the social structures that were built or the other, identified with the dispositions and the states of nature. All the social relations or institutions, in this sense, are entwined with the notions of nature. The social and civilizational history of man developed through his different encounters - sweet and bitter comparable to nature. Nature impacts man; shapes him up, conditions his considerations and senses. A man living in amicability with nature appreciates a condition of euphoria while a man who meddles with the normal world, gets nature in its malicious, startling mood. For a companion, nature expands its cordial hand and shows its favors upon him, while for a man unsympathetic with nature, the gifts transform into curses. In Bond's fictional world, the reader encounters the varied aspects of nature and its connection with man and his world.

In Ruskin Bond's fiction, one effectively sees the author's love for nature and natural objects as almost the entirety of his stories and books are dabbled with magnificent, elaborate portrayals of natural world - trees, clouds, rivers, snow-capped mountain peaks, lakes and more all the birds and animals. This world has a particular appeal for the author and he is excited to wind up in the closeness of nature. He pines for its mindful, motherly companionship and tries to get one with it.

This aching with respect to Ruskin Bond, brings him close to William Wordsworth who observes a kind of divinity in every single part of nature. Bond additionally feels comfortable in the lap of nature quicken just as lifeless. Each object of nature delights him and simultaneously, it comes as a motivating, restoring power to him.

Bond solidly believes that nature consistently offers its gifts upon humanity. Both animate and inanimate worlds ensure and help human world and do not, in any way, compromise it. The animate world is, all around, shaped by animals and birds. Bond tries to propose that animals and birds do no damage to man. Actually, they unpretentiously help him by keeping up the ecological balance. Additionally, the twittering of birds, and awesome sights of rabbits, playing fawns enchant man and appeal him to the enticing lighthearted world of theirs. Indeed, even the furious creatures, similar to the tiger, panther and so forth do not meddle with human world gave their yearning is satisfied.

Aside from his genuine concern for animals and birds, Bonds emerges as a genuine pantheist. Like Wordsworth, he also strongly believes that each object of nature is enriched with life and soul. To him the trees, fountain valleys, mountains and streams - all have life, soul and emotions in them. Wordsworth in his acclaimed poem *Nutting* reaches this determination after a violent nutting campaign embraced in his juvenile days. He regrets over how he had played ruin with the hazel trees and in the end, he exhorts his sister Dorothy to be caring and amiable to all objects of nature:

In the entirety of his works, Bond proceeds to introduce the radiant excellence of the snow-capped mountain peaks. They mollify his physical perceptions as well as revive his psyche too cleansing all strains, fret and fever; from his personality. The mending impact of the mountains is vividly seen in *Delhi Is Not Far*, where Suraj a young boy who was totally under the impact of fits, is able to beat them after his visit to the hills.

These blue mountains fill the author's heart with huge delight and he transparently concedes in his poem: "There is nothing to keep me here / Only these mountains of silence" (P.10). These mountains help him to remember nature's divine aspect and stir his reasonableness to a profound observation.

Nature in Ruskin Bond is not just a decorative background. Like any extraordinary admirer of nature - Wordsworth, Lawrence, Hardy or Frost - Bond is endowed with a sharp impression of nature's excellence and power. To him, nature is a power that influences the personality of man considerably. It alters his contemplations, applies an enduring effect upon his actions and gives another significance to his life. As such, it has a crucial influence in deciding man's behaviour and character. Bond's fiction is loaded with so much character as live in the lap of nature and their conduct can be placed in strong contrast with the individuals who lead a fake existence of the cities and are selfish, mean and degenerate. It is the repository of legend as in the story, *Listen to the Wind* where the persona is told the legend of two sweethearts by the old woman Miss Mackenzie. Following day, he visits the ruins on Burnt Hill where the sweethearts took shelter and later got killed by lightening.

Bond does not restrict his perception of nature to its beguiling aspect as it were. He does not see nature just as a kind, considerate power that secures human beings. He, then again, portrays nature as a ruinous, terrifying force too however his treatment of this part of nature is not as frightening as that of Robert Frost. To Frost, nature can be kind, caring and sympathetic and yet, it could be hostile too. Bond

also appears to concur with Frost in such manner. However, his treatment seems to be tilted a little towards nature's motherly aspect. In any event, when he portrays the hostile aspect, he legitimizes nature's violent mood as a conspicuous response to man's unnecessary intrusion into its realms.

It obviously shows that Bond's body and soul are indivisible from the valleys and hills of Dehra. Actually, they are an integral part of his personality and integrity and give life and breath, vision and vitality to his writing.

Another special feature of Bond's universe of nature is its perpetual connection with that of human beings. Bond needs the friendship of nature yet he never wants it without human beings. What Bond seems to be supporting is a decent and harmonious blending of the two worlds. This longing in him is created out of his strong belief that the two worlds are not two unique, mutually unrelated entities; rather, they are integral to one another.

Rusty, the adolescent hero of *The Room on the Roof* has a sense of security in the forest where he has been enjoying the celebration of Hob – the celebration of hues and desserts throughout the day. He would not like to get back home which represents order, discipline and stereo typed daily routine. He yearns for an eternal stay in the forest to remain in the closeness of nature: "He did not want to leave the forest; it was safe, its earth soothed him, gathered him in, so that the pain of his body became a pleasure ..."(P.569). Forest here represents the world of pretend where the adolescent hero looks for asylum to get away from the sordid realities of life.

To sum up, nature possesses a central position in the fictional world of Ruskin Bond. It fascinates the author and his different characters with its different manifestations. Regardless of whether animate or inanimate, it is a consistent wellspring of pleasure for them independent of their ages. Yet, it is not simply the physical dimension of nature that attract these characters. Indeed, nature goes about as a companion, guide and philosopher for the characters. Its benevolence has a pleasant touch and its lap helps them to remember the comfortable lap of the mother, which is loving, friendly, benevolent, caring and warm. Man feels so comfortable and cosy in its embracing arms. Nonetheless, in Ruskin Bond's reality, nature shows up in another dimension moreover. At times, its furious, malignant aspects are also there as though to help man that the beauty to remember the universe of nature lies in its ferocity and diversity too.

The universe of nature ennoble man by cleansing all that is unclean, dishonest and crooked in him. Ruskin Bond in his books, novellas and short stories weaves a reality where man is continually in communication with nature and through this collaboration, he develops into a truly wholesome personality loaded with charity, love, empathy, compassion and friendliness. Indeed, even the negative aspects give a chance to the character to take a gander at life in a basic way and comprehend it in the proper perspective.

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