



REPRESENTATION OF NATURE IN THE SELECTED POEMS OF ROMANTIC AGE

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ABSTRACT:

Right from the age of Anglo-Saxon to present day in literature the nature has been depicted by the writers in one or the other forms of literature. In the History of British Literature the theme of nature and care, concern and love for nature can be seen in Romantic Age. The writers like William Wordsworth, S.T. Coleridge, P.B Shelley and John Keats have used in their writings to protect the environment from the destruction. They have spoken about the nature and have acted as the preachers and protectors of the mother nature. The themes like industrialization, materialism, nature and other subthemes related to nature have been picturized in their poems.

KEYWORDS: Environment, Nature, Romanticism, Literature, Poetry

Literature is the mouthpiece of each and every subject of the earth. Literature is very important in changing the mindset of the people as it contains moral, ethical philosophical, psychological and many other contexts in it. It lays lot of influence on the human mind and its reach is very helpful in protecting our environment. Man and his material world is changing day by day. He because of his selfish greed is destroying the earth. Humans are forgetting that we totally rely on the mother nature but for our ambitions and for the material greed we are slowly diminishing the environment, polluting and poisoning, along with this we are fastening our belt towards the end.

“Nature never did betray, The heart that loved her”

-William Wordsworth.

As Quoted by William Wordsworth nature has never betrayed anyone who has loved her but in the modern world we can see that we humans are not treating the environment properly and even as part of curse we are facing natural calamities. To give a latest example, we all have witnessed the Covid-19 virus affected a lot on the people and even on the nature. In the name lockdown mother nature tried to heal, humans have suffered a lot we have lost our dear ones but all the other creature were happy.

REPRESENTATION AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LITERATURE AND ENVIRONMENT.

There has always been a very close relationship between literature and environment we can witness this relationship in the writings of romantic poets such as William Wordsworth, S.T Coleridge, P.B Shelley and John Keats. William Wordsworth is one of the versatile writer of the English literature. He has written most of his works on the environment. ‘*The poem composed upon Westminster Bridge*’ talks about industrial revolution.

*“A sight so touching in its majestic;
This city now doth, lie a garment wear
The beauty of the morning silent, bare,
Ship, tower domes, theaters and temples lie
Open unto the fields and to the sky”*

‘The poem composed upon Westminster Bridge’ by William Wordsworth

The poet in the above lines explains us that the earth is very beautiful and it is majestic but because of humans the world has become more materialistic were ever he looks he is only witnessing the human prints in the form of ships, towers, domes, theaters, temples in the poem he also speaks about the smock smog which refers to the industrial revolution and because of the revolution the air is getting polluted. People are cutting down the forest and building the houses and industries which does no better to environment. One of the most famous poems of Wordsworth is ‘I wondered lonely as a cloud’ which is most commonly known as ‘Daffodils’.

*“I Wondered lonely as a cloud
that floats on high oer rales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A Host of golden daffodials;”*

Daffodials, William Wordsworth

In this poem we can see that the poet is in relationship with nature and he treats nature as god. He is the preacher of nature and he loves each and everything about it t and has compared himself to nature. He feels the mother nature with all senses open and tell us that he is a cloud who is floating on high o’er rales and hills and all at once he saw a crowd a host of golden daffodils. He enjoys his relationship with environment.

One of the most influential and controversial figures of the Romantic period is Samuel Tylor Coleridge, his most famous works are ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’, Kubla Khan and Christabel the main themes of the poems are supernatural and exotic images which in affected by the use of the drugs called opium.

*“God save thee, ancient Mariner!
From the fiends, that plague thee thus!
Why look st thou so? With my crossbow
I shot the ALBATROSS.*

‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’-S.T Coleridge

In the above lines we can see that the poet shot the Albatross bird which is part of nature. When the bird dies the nature tries to take revenge by bringing heavy currents and rain eventually the nature forgives the humans when they feel sorry for the death they have caused. Mother nature always forgives us for all the deeds we have done to her. Even today we do much harm to environment but in return we get only good. Sometimes to teach a lesson the

earth causes destruction in the name of natural calamities those must be seen as warning signs so that we must correct ourselves. Another poem by Coleridge on environment is 'Ode To Nature' .

And the blue sky my fretted dome shall be,
 And the sweet fragrance that the wild flower yields.
 Shall be the incense I will yield to thee,
 Thee only God!, and thou shalt not despise
 Even me, the priest of his poor sacrifice.

Ode To Nature By S.T Coleridge.

In the above mentioned poem we can see that blue sky is poets dome and the sweet fragrance which the wild flower has yielded, shall be his incense and he will yield to it. Further he says that thee-Nature as the only god and you shall not despise even the poet is the priest of nature and his too poor in front of the sacrifice made by the nature. Nature has given us all that we want for the survival and we must treat it as god even this god is in need of the protection.

The main themes of Romantic poets are love for nature and protection of nature or environment. In all the romantic poets Shelley is also an ardent lover and worshipper of nature. All of his poems flourish about nature imagery and some of his poems are poems of purely nature to name 'the Cloud', Ode to West Wind' and Ode to a Skylark'. Shelley talks about the powerful force of nature in his poem "ode to West Wind" Shelley in his poems treats nature as nature not as any other subject of human. To him nature is a ceaseless source of inspiration and power. He tells that nature is both the preserve and the destroyer, it has immense power to give life and if it is not protected it will also bring end.

"Oh, life me as a wave, a leaf, a clod!
 O fall upon the thorns of life! Bleed!
 A heavy weight of hours has chained and bowed
 One too like thee: tameless and swift and proud"

Ode To West Wind- P.B Shelley

Shelley in his poem Ode To West Wind says that wind has lot of strength and impulse and he has lost his youthful energy and has fallen upon the 'thorns of life'. He has been juggling in circle of lie. Voices and faith will be restored by wind and the lost energy will also be given by wind. In the reference to the poem we witness that environment gives us everything we want. Even though we have not kept the nature at its best.

John Keats in his poems like 'Ode To Nightingale', 'Endymion', Ode To Grecian Urn' 'Ode to Autumn', etc. depicts about the nature. 'Ode to Autumn' talks treatment of nature and in two ways, one tells about the beauty in nature and the second he tells us about the joy and relief which nature can bring to us. Title of the poem gives the picture of the poem. The poet writes about the of seasons and how it changes with rich abundance at almost every turn. Later the poem turns melancholic as the season draws to end and winter approaches. Keats uses the line called 'The Thing of Beauty Joy Forever' in his "Endymion" the line specifies us that the nature is a thing of beauty which is joy forever i.e. which remains forever in our mind heart. In the poem "Ode to Nightingale" he compares himself to nightingale and says that is very lucky because it is carefree, immortal and happy where as poet or other humans have entangled with one or the manly pleasures and tensions. He has heard the nightingale singing somewhere in the garden, he is so attracted by its song that he feels as if he had drunk hemlock(the poison) after a minute the leather words had been sunk.

"Tis not through envy of thy happy
 Lot but being too happy in thine happiness."
 "Ode to Nightingale-John Keats

To Conclude all The four poets of Romantic age have shown their love towards the nature in their poems. The first and second generation romantic poets as mentioned in this article William Wordsworth and Samuel Tylor Coleridge P.B Shelley and John Keats in their poems have the themes like industrialization and its impact on nature, Materialism, supernatural elements, love for nature and such. William Wordsworth in his selected poems has treated nature as god and he says that his the preacher of the nature on the other hand S.T Coleridge has given the touch of supernatural elements in his poems. Shelley and Keats are the poets who want to be the part of nature.

*“Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your teacher.”*

-Tables Turned by William Wordsworth.

In the modern era we are day by day destroying the and are slowly Poisoning the nature. Nature is the best teacher we get all most all the things from nature for survival yet we are not using those in proper manner. We are excessively using the things and emptying the resource. We must protect our nature for our future. The romantic poets has shown their love, care and concern towards the nature now its our time to do the same.

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