

THE ROLE OF SERENE AND PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT IN RUSKIN BOND'S WRITINGS

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ABSTRACT-

In the present research article researchers tend to focus on the serene and pristine environment used as a background for literary work by one of the beloved authors of India, Ruskin Bond. In this paper, researcher tries to describe the role and the place occupied by the environment in which the characters act, and, in response to their background, the surrounding also has tremendous of influence on them. He is Anglo-Indian writer, but having lived and born here, he became thoroughly Indian. He sets his characters in the lap of nature. He is in a real sense, a product of the environment that he loves nature to the utmost level .He settled down at Dehardun, lays in Himalayan ranges. He used to avoid the hustle and bustle of the city. His choice, to live in a remote place, with the expectation of staying in permanent contact with nature that shows his behavior, in this way he exhibits his affinity with the environment.

Keywords: Pristine,Serene,Environment,Tremendous,Exhbit

Bond started displaying his true talent in England. He wrote his first novel “Room on the Roof” when he was seventeen years old. It was a semi-autobiographical story of an orphaned Anglo Indian boy, reflecting parts of his own life. The book won the prestigious John Llewellyn Rhys prize. Its sequel named “Vagrants in the Valley” followed it. His writing style is distinct in a way that he tries to make the reader understand the landscape and ethos through carefully mastered words. His mesmerizing description of the flora and fauna of the Himalayas cannot be missed in any of his stories. The inspiration of his work has always been the hill-stations at the foothills of the Himalaya. It also has a lot of information about where his parents live and his relationship with them. His works have inspired several generations of writers, authors and script writers.

It would not be an exaggeration to call the Ruskin bond a product of his environment because of his great attention to his nature. As far as his works is concerned, it is highly influenced by nature, His works is replete with human values and universal appeal. The plots of his novels and stories emerge from the silent sympathies of human soul, which he has stored up in his conscious. Bonds characters are also drawn from the section of society who live in close association with nature. They are born in the hills and as such have fellow fillings for insects, animals, flowers, trees around them. His upbringing is of Indian by nature and he is the product of nature in which he lived and was brought up. So there is a tremendous impact on his writings.

Ruskin Bond stands distant as a class by himself. He avoids writing about the conventional themes of the Great Gandhi-an era. Even the post-independence bad 50's

insurgency of class throwing up and varied socio-political, economic, Ethico-religious or psychical tribulations born out of the new egalitarian order of country does not magnetize him. He, on the contrary, exults in describing his characters of a precise physical area in its natural surroundings. His delineation of life is sharp. He deals with common people and inscribes about common events. He presents women and children in their modest positions of life and in their natural milieu. His settings are natural but exotic, without appearing so. His efforts to be an author, personalities of his neighbors and friends, and well-known landmarks of Dehra became the subjects of his stories in various forms. Nature formed the most important backdrop in his stories. As time fled away, industrialization has increased and people's approach towards life and their treatment of nature changed stunningly.

Whenever I am struck in the middle of a story or an essay, I go into my tiny hillside garden and get down to the serious business of transplanting or weeding or pruning or just plucking of dead blooms. (Scenes from a Writer's Life 225)

The above statement suffices to say how much he is attached to the environment in its pristine form where he does not let the unfavorable activities which may pollute even the human thoughts. Living in the lap of nature, he was influenced by the serenity of the surrounding. He finds the panacea in the pristine environment for everything. The nature is presented everywhere in his writings in one or other forms. Ruskin Bond puts his themes in to the lap of nature that enlivens his art and characters; his characters come from their surrounding, live and cheerful. His themes are full of nature and good humans; very basic philosophy of life he focuses on. Gulnaz Fatma in her book explains the impact of nature on his writings:

The clattering of raindrops, the warbling of birds, the rippling and gurgling of brooks, the whispering of plants and the dancing summer breeze inspire his fiction with an exquisite softness. (Fatma 32)

Ruskin Bond does not concentrate on Social, Political, and Economical issues like his contemporaries; observing nature is quite enough for him. He has always found new plots for his stories in nature. Bond is far away from the materialistic world; he believes in simple living and has always remained close to nature. He is so much attached with his surroundings that he feels it easier to explain nature more than any material things...this is made clear in the following statement by him.

If someone were to ask me to choose between writing the essay on the Taj Mahal or on the last rose of the summer, I'd take the rose even if it were down to its last petal. "(185)"

He loves nature so much from the bottom of his heart who is inevitably attracted towards nature and its need for human beings; he believes in the coexistence of humans with nature, in this way, he is prone to have many ecological aspects in his writing before the Eco-criticism emerges the late 1970s.

Ruskin Bond doesn't subscribe to the blind adoration of nature. He considers it as an integral part of the human world. Indeed, Bond is so much concerned with the environment and the crying need for conservation that he cannot resist the temptation of indulging in bit of campaign for the conservation of nature's harmony.

The illustrations and discussions of nature in his novels make it palpably clear that Bond is not merely a committed ecologist but a genuine ideologist. Naturally, therefore, in his case the love for nature and the passion for conservation of ecology is not something borrowed or even acquired, it is innate and instinctive. For him, each drop of water, coming with the rain or flowing with the river, is God's bounty and therefore divine.

The novel 'The Blue Umbrella' is the exposition of his intimacy with serene and pristine nature. Its theme is set in the lap of nature. It is the story of a girl who is in love with her Blue Umbrella and away from vice and malice: dominant and indispensable part of human heart, but the impact of nature and its kindness; she would keep herself unprejudiced and untouched. Binya is allotted a job to bring back the cow from the hill to her home; one day, inadvertently, she meets the people from the city, an absolute commercial mind as shown by Bond, who comes for the picnic there. The woman from the group of picnickers gets attracted to her magic pendant that, Binya used to wear around her neck.

Here, the purity of thoughts due to long dwelling in the lap of nature is shown by Binaya, which results in expressing serenity of behavior.

. Jasbir Jain says:

Ruskin Bond's sensitive portrayal of the countryside, his being so much in tune with nature and the vignettes of childhood remarkable for their range, opens out a new dimension of Indian writing in English which is not at all self-conscious. (83)

Bond's fiction has a powerful appeal to eradicate the roots of evil and violence against man and animals and to keep this earth beautiful and healthy.

Conclusion:

Ruskin Bond is one of the towering and pioneering figures of Indian English literature. He is much more influenced by the love of environment. He believes in, that the human being is the product of his surroundings. If the human being is brought up in a pristine and serene ambience of nature away from the humdrum of city life, he would be different and more sincere and remain attached to the feelings and emotions of others. The purity of ambience lays the foundation for kind and good heart and behavior, and even can change the evils into good ones.

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