



## SIGN OF THE NATURE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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### ABSTRACT

Since time immemorial man's attachment with nature is inseparable. Man is a part and parcel in the nature. The primitive man adored nature. Writers, poets have been using nature as an object in their writing for many centuries. Romanticism is one of the areas in English literature, which is closely associated with nature. Particularly a few poets branded themselves as nature poets. Nature gives an immense pleasure to all sections of people, and all aged people too. Forests, rivers, mountains, seas what are the part in the nature are used by the poets in their description.

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The nature is the man's best companion in times immemorial. The primitive man lived closely with the nature. He depended on the nature for all his needs. He prayed nature as a mother, god etc. As man has been advancing scientifically he started to live mechanically keeping himself away to the nature. When he was closely associated with the nature he had not any problems. When he started to live mechanically then all the problems came to him. The nature itself is the ultimate solution to man's all problems.

"The river on whose bank it stood was small for a river of Bengal, and kept to its narrow bonds like a daughter of the middle class. This busy streak of water never overflowed its banks, but went about its duties as though it were a member of every family in the villages beside it. On either side were houses and banks shaded with trees. So stepping from her queenly throne, the river – goddess became a garden deity of each home, and forgetful of herself performed her task of endless benediction with swift and cheerful feet."<sup>1</sup>

The beauty of the nature and its selfless service to mankind is clearly explained in the above

mentioned paragraph. Nature has not any discrimination like human beings. Tagore beautifully explained how the nature performed its duty. The river became as a responsible member in the village people. It succeeded performing its basic duty.

Gieve Patel explained the strong bond of all living things with the earth through the poem "On Killing a Tree" its not an easy thing to kill a tree or to separate a trees bond with the earth. Through this poem, poet questioned all the selfish world like when you have no power of creation, where you have right to destruction?

The nature is personified in many ways by different poets and authors. Kalidasa who is called as Indian Shakespeare beautifully crafted nature in his one of the classics "Meghasandesam". Poet used the cloud as a mediator. In the same way Edmund Waller in his poem "Go, Lovely Rose" here poet requested the beautiful rose to tell the truth of the nature and convey it to his lady love.

"Go lovely rose – tell her that wastes her time and me,  
That now she knows,  
When I resemble her to the,  
How sweet and fair she seems to be."<sup>2</sup>

Poet requested the elegant rose to pass the law of nature to his beloved that women must be in position to accept the praise of the men and have the heart to respond in a good manner to the men. If not both will suffer. That is why he requested the rose repeatedly to make her beloved to understand the reality. Here poet chose the elegant rose as his mediator how Kalidasa chose the "Cloud."

The nature does not know any disparity among the people. It does not classify people like black and white. It does not respond according to economical and social status of the people. The nature treats all equally like a mother. William Shakespeare a great dramatist of all times in one of his plays, "As You Like It" Act II, scene V by one of the main characters, Amiens invited through a song all the light minded people to lead their lives peacefully keeping away themselves to Hippocratic world.

"Who doth ambition shun  
And loves to live i' the sun,  
Seeking the food he eats,  
And pleased with what he gets,  
Come heither, come heither, come heither  
Here shall he see no enemy  
But winter and rough weather."<sup>3</sup>

Here William Shakespeare beautifully portrayed what are the essential elements human beings get from the nature. The nature gives shelter, food and water. Amiens, Jacques the central characters of the play, tell about the true characteristics of the nature, and motherly treatment. They invite the people who can search food by their own and who can live in sun and shower. Who has the limitations in their lives.

Finally they assure the people who are interested to come to the forest, they can see the true beauty of the nature. They can listen the real voice of the nature and they can feel the nature finally. There is no enemy to the people except the nature itself. Living in the lap of the nature is totally different to living in the country. In the living mechanical country life it is really difficult to identify whose words and deeds are fair and whose are Hippocratic.

Alexander Pope, an English poet mentioned in the poem "Happy Man" how contentment gives utmost satisfaction in one's life.

"Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread,  
Whose flock supply him with attire,  
Whose trees in summer yield him shade,  
In winter fire.  
Blest! Who can unconcern'dly find  
Hours, days, and years slide soft away,  
In health of body, peace of mind, quite by day,"<sup>4</sup>

In the poem "Happy Man" Pope keenly interested in simple life he hates materialistic world. He wants all the basic needs of the man from his native field, and from his belongings only. He is very happy what he has he doesn't worry about what he has not with him. The saints can only predict what is the reason for the satisfaction. And they can satisfy with that only. Such a simple life poet wants lead.

Shel Silverstein explained the motherliness of the nature. Through his poem "The Giving Tree", nature's philosophy is that it never expects anything except giving. When a lonely boy approaches the tree, like a mother it treats, cares the boy and gives apples to eat and shelter to rest. After giving all to the boy, it says

I am sorry, boy,  
Said the tree, but I have nothing  
Left to give you –  
My apples are gone,  
My teeth are too weak  
For apples, said the boy.  
My branches are gone,  
Said the tree, you can not  
Swing on them –  
I am too old to swing  
on the branches said the boy  
My trunk is gone, said the tree  
You can not climb –  
I am too tired to climb said the boy  
I don't need very much now, said the boy  
Just a quiet place to sit and rest.  
I am very tired:  
Well, said the tree, straightening  
Herself up as much as she could,  
Well an old stump is good for sitting and  
resting  
Come boy sit down. Sit down and rest."<sup>5</sup>

At the end of the poem poet showed the nature's real ideology, philosophy. After enjoying everything. The boy returned to the left over trunk of the tree.

Even in that position the tree wants to offer something to the boy. Finally the boy asked a place to sit and take rest. The left over trunk felt very happy for providing a place to sit to the boy. Man's great qualities, compassion, envy, love, hatred are part and parcel of the nature. So authors, poets of different languages succeeded in their attempt using nature as one of their themes. The nature is beautifully portrayed by many writers projecting its greatness in English literature.

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