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## Different Images Used In Nature Poetry Of Ruskin Bond

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Received- 05.10. 2021, Revised- 10.10. 2021, Accepted - 13.10.2021 E-mail: dr.seemajainbmdm@gmail.com

**Abstract:** *Ruskin's Nature poetry is a collection of different types of images used by him through each and every object of Nature artistically and beautifully. In his Nature poem 'Looks For the Colours of Life' Ruskin very beautifully paints the different types of images of Nature with various types of colours :- "Colours are everywhere, Bright blue the sky, Dark green the forest And light the fresh grass; Bright yellow the lights. ('Look For The Colours of Life')*

**Key Words:** Nature poetry, collection, artistically, beautifully, various, individual, Education.

In 'Look For the Colour of Life' Ruskin shows his extreme love for different types of colourful images of Nature. He explains that colours are found in every walk of life. From heaven to earth there are so many colourful things. The sky is blue, the forest is green and the grass in the forest is also light green. The sunlight looks yellow like the flames of the fire rising into the sky. The rising flame - like sun rays indicates the summer seasons' beginning. The mangoes are also about to ripe because their colour has turned yellow. The roses are blossoming in the dew-drenched morning. The scene of the dawn with blossoming flowers is really worth-enjoying. The red and white poppies are swaying. It means they are enjoying the morning. Their enjoyment is a source of pleasure to the human beings who are in love with Nature like the poet himself. The fresh morning breeze is in fact, life giving. How ironic it is that the wind which gives colour and life to everything is itself colourless.

It is not without the truth that flowers are a very prominent part of Nature and Ruskin could not remain untouched from the description of them in his Nature poems and has given them their natural image of Nature. In his some nature poems - 'There Are In My Garden', 'Is Isn't Time That's Passing', and 'A Little Night Music' Ruskin talks about 'marigold' 'black rose' and 'lily-pads' as follows - "There are in my garden The burnt bronze petals Of shattered marigolds Spears of golden rod." ('There Are In My Garden') "Black bird on the wing, bird of the forest shadows. 'Black rose' in the long ago summer". ('It Isn't Time That's Passing') "And fragrance of flower Blossoming Champa And Queen of the Night Along on their 'lily-pads'." ('A Little Night Music')

Ruskin Bond has also composed three separate poems on flowers. They are - 'Dandelion', 'The Last Flower' and 'The Message of The Flower' In 'Dandelion' Ruskin says that he is very much disgusted to hear from the people that dandelion flower is a weed. He considers it as an insult on the part of flower. He asks the people how they dare say that this divine flower is a weed. This flower is so much strong that it can bloom even in wind and rain, it can thrive on 'stony soil', 'on walls', 'on strips of waste' and 'even on rubbish'. This flower is quite strong and rebounding, it is an object of attraction. It gives delight to all who look it. When this plant produces its yellow flowers and fruits, it attracts everyone to come to it and pluck one. Ruskin here becomes religious minded and thinks that some people pray this flower to fulfil their wishes and desires. Ruskin also believes that if someone is really pure at heart, this magic flower bestows upon what one wishes for. Therefore, in this poem Ruskin requests the flower to be his own and help him on his way of life. Ruskin expresses his intense love towards dandelion flower in the following lines :- "I think it's an insult To Nature's generosity That many call this cheerful flower A 'common weed'. ('Dandelion')

In 'The Last Flower' Ruskin seems to be extremely concerned with the Mignonette flower. He asks the human beings which flower they would like to choose among Mignonette, the rose or the sweet violet. But Ruskin says that in this mortal world positively choose the red geranium flower blossoming on the Mignonette plant.



Ruskin likes this flower so much that he keeps this flower plant in a flower-pot on his table all the time. This flower claims its importance quite clearly standing on the table of Ruskin. He denotes his liking for Mignonette and other flowers.

In 'The Message of Flower' Ruskin sketches almost all the beautiful natural flowers. He says that the flowers which are a part and parcel of the beauty of Nature, have a number of messages and teachings to impart. He explains them one by one in his own way as follows :-

'Apple Blossom' opens in the spring season. It is very attractive flower, therefore it tempts everybody to come near it.

'Bluebells' give the message of constancy and soothe. They act as a balm to the suffering.

'Carnation' is a lovely flower, specially liked by the women. This flower is a symbol of love.

'Cornflower' is delicate, therefore, it conveys the message of being soft and delicate in our behaviour and manners.

'Daisy' imparts the message of innocence. Innocence is a great quality of every creature whether human beings or animals. This quality attracts everybody.

'Eglantine', the flower of poets looks like sweet thorny rose. It is so much attractive that John Keats liked it very much and called it rain-scented flower with dew-sweet. This flower has been an object of attraction and inspiration to Ruskin too.

'Ivy' flower is a symbol of friendship and faithfulness. This flower inspires us to be faithful. It also signifies eternity. Ruskin Bond tries to teach the human beings that Nature is really the best teacher. The same opinion has been expressed by Willaim Wordsworth in his poem 'Education of Nature'.

'Jasmine' flower also stands for perfection. The poet loves this flower to the care of his heart because it teaches a lesson of perfection.

'Lemon Blossom' is a wonderful flower. This flower instigate the memories of love and play. It inspires us to love one and all the lead this life happily as if we were playing to win.

'Oleander' flowers are red and white in colour. They are also a fountain of joy to Ruskin. Whenever he catches sight of them, he is extremely delighted.

'Poppy' is a favourite flower of Ruskin Bond as is also explained by Sarojini Naidu in one of her poems. This flower is crimson red. Therefore, Ruskin calls it his scarlet lady. This flower has some peculiar qualities such as extravagance, excitement and quickly disappearing. This flower lives a short life but gives a lot of joy and attracts everybody. Ruskin has mentioned the flower not only in his poem 'The Message Of the Flowers' but also in his another Nature poem 'Look For The Colours of Life' as Ruskin writes, in the following lines :- "It's early summer And the roses blush In the dew-drenched dawn, And poppies sway red and white In the invisible breeze." ('Look For The Colours of life')

'Roses' are the most beautiful flowers. Nobody will be there who is not attracted towards them. The main attraction of these flowers is that they are found in a number of colours. The chief of them are black rose, white rose, yellow rose, and red rose. The red rose is thought to be a symbol of love and lustfulness. This flower also signifies faithfulness.

'Snapdragon' is also a very beautiful flower. In addition to beauty its fragrance is also very sweet. It fills the whole atmosphere with sweet-smelling. This sweet-smelling indicates its presence in the natural surroundings. Everybody is attracted towards it through its fragrance.

'Urtica' is a very stinging flower. It has thorns which stings just like a scorpion. Everybody tries to avoid this flower.

'Violet' is a very modest, sweet and shy flower. It generally tires to hide itself from the human eyes.



Therefore, it blossoms in the corners of the garden. This flower teaches us to be modest and shy. This quality is essential for women also.

'Yellow Iris' is a flower of passion. It transfers us into dreams. This flower attracts Ruskin because it entices him to be passionate.

Ruskin's presentation of Nature images are, in fact, luminous, vigorous and poetically strong. His power of description of the beauty of Nature images show his poetic imagination and sensitivity to seasons. Like Sir Aurbindo he is mainly a poet of seasons. Ruskin has described all the five seasons of the year - spring season, summer season, rainy season, winter season and autumn season in his nature-poems.

'Walnut Tree Revisited' is such a poem in which Ruskin has described four seasons - 'summer season', 'winter season', 'spring season' and 'rainy season'.

In 'A Song For Lost Friends' Ruskin has described seasons as a phrase - 'season for dying', 'season for pilgrim' and 'mountain summer'. Ruskin draws these seasons as phrase in the following lines :- "Last week I dug too grave, and now, without warning Here's another. Itnot even the season for dying. Even then were cold It was not the season for pilgrim His memories were good for may drinks In many inns; his face pickled in the suns Of many mountain summers." ('A Song For Lost Friend')

Ruskin wants to retain his love for Nature through out his life like the great English poet William Wordsworth who wants to continue as a lover of Nature or he would not like to survive as he writes in his short lyric 'The Rainbow' :- "My heart I leaps up when I behold A rainbow in the sky : So was it when my life began : So is it now I am a man; So be it when I shall grow old, Or let me die!" ('The Rainbow')

In his Nature poem 'Summer Fruit' Ruskin very beautifully describes the summer season which is also a part of Nature. In this season fruits of many kinds with different colours attract everybody. Who does not like the mango, the king of fruits? The berry and cherry are also the products of this season. Thus the summer season is not only attractive but also a provider of sweet and tasteful fruits. Ruskin describes this season in verses as follows:- "Summer is here, and mangoes too And fruit of every taste and hue; And given a choice of juice or berry, I'll settle for the humble cherry." ('Summer Fruit')

In the concluding lines of the same poem Ruskin describes some other poplar Indian fruits with their Indian knows - 'lichis', 'tarbuj' and 'kharbuj'.

In his Nature poems Ruskin has not only described seasons but also the months of the year. But his description about months is also somewhat different from other Nature poets. Most of the Nature poets have described the months of 'April', 'May' and 'March' in their Nature poems. Chaucer, the father of English poetry, beings. 'The Prologue To The Canterbury Tales' with the month of 'April' and 'March'.

Months are a very important part of Nature poetry as it is described by Chancer, the father of English poetry.

But Ruskin's description of Nature in somewhat different from the Nature poets. Ruskin has described not only the months of 'April' and 'May' but also the month of 'June', 'September', 'November' and 'December'. In some poems Ruskin has described these months as phrases - 'April rain', 'Forest of September' and 'December grass'. Chaucer's 'Prologue To The Canterbury Tales' begins with the month of April. In the same way his 'Love Lyrics for Binya Devi' also begin with the month of 'April' as is displayed in the following lines :- "Your face streamed 'April' rain As you climbed the steep hill Calling the white cow home." ('Love Lyrics For Binya Devi')

Through this description Ruskin displays his keen interest for hill-stations mostly for Garhwal Himalaya where he has spent a long period of his life. Mountains and hills are the part and parcel of Ruskin's life. Ruskin has passed his whole life in the quiet open and hilly areas. It is only because Ruskin is a Nature poet so he wants to live in a place which is full of natural surroundings and there is no doubt in it that mountains and hills are full of



Nature Scenes. Since his childhood Ruskin has been living among beautiful hills-station. He has described these hill-stations and mountains in most of his Nature poems such as 'View From The Window', 'Love Lyrics For Binya Devi', 'A Frog Screams', 'The Fern', 'The Pool' and 'Night Thoughts'. Ruskin sketches natural rocks, hill-stations and mount

Besides the description of the mountains and the foresters, there is also a very beautiful description of small creatures in Ruskin's description of Nature images. Ruskin sketches small creatures in his nature poems according to the time and situation. He is so much fond of small creatures that he has also composed some separate poem for the small creatures as - 'Butterfly Time', 'A Frog Screams', 'The Bat', 'Lone Fox Dancing' and 'A Bedbug Gives Thanks'. In 'Butterfly Time' Ruskin points out that in April when it showers, there are so many colourful butterflies in the forest. In 'Lone Fox Dancing' Ruskin sketch a very beautiful scenery of a Lone fox that enjoys dance in the forest in 'the cold moonlight'. Ruskin displays the life like the picture in the following :- "As I walked home last night I saw a lone fox dancing." ('Lone Fox Dancing')

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