



Robert Frost's views on Life and Nature

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Abstract: *Robert Frost is one of the greatest of American poets. Frost is a great lover of nature. It is the hills and dales, rivers and forests, trees, flowers and plants, animals, birds and insects Have been described in one poem after another. Frost love of nature is more comprehensive many sided, and all inclusive. Frost is great and original nature poet. His nature treatment is unique and distinctive in many ways. He does not take any theory of nature for granted. He writes from his own personal experience and observation. His natural world is impersonal. Frost does not idealise or romanticise nature, he gives us the truth about her. He rarely makes his lesson or philosophy of nature as overt and obvious. His attitude towards nature is realistic than romantic.*

Key Words: love, nature, rivers, forests, trees, flowers, plants, animals, birds, insects comprehensive .

Robert Frost was a great artist, a great poet. The writings of a poet are largely mood - dictated. However, when certain views are expressed repeatedly in one poem after another, one may be excused for taking them as expressive of his considered view of life. From a study of Frost's poetry, we know much about his views on life and his views are a measure of his sanity and profundity. As Wilfried Gibson tells us, beneath his apparent simplicity and whimsicality, there runs, "The clear stream." Of his, "rich and ripe philosophy," Nature has always been a perennial source of inspiration for poets, it is also a source for Frost to reach the truth and beauty and to ultimate. Frost pictures man as a solitary, lonely figure isolated from nature and from God. According to him man and nature are two different principles separated from each other by unsurmountable barriers. Nature may, on some special occasions show some love or concern for Man, but such occasions are in the nature of a 'forever' and not the general rule.

Nature is not only separate and impersonal. Man must wage a constant struggle for survival. Nothing in nature seems to be made for man. He is separated from stars, by immense voids, and the contemplation of the Starry heavens only brings out his own littleness and insignificance in the scheme of things. The Star splitter tells of a farmer who buys

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a telescope because he believes that the best thing for which we have been placed on this planet is "to see." But the telescope is imperfect, and it splits every star into two or three. The farmer thereupon exclaims: We've looked and looked, but after all where are we? Do we know any better where we are? And how it stands between the night to-night And a man with smoky lantern chimney? How different from the way it ever stood?

The universe in this poem is depicted as incomprehensible. There is nature's wilderness, the vast desert places, which he must tame and cultivate. Nature is a companion to Frost but he did not idealize the objects of nature. It is our inherent emotion that we are strongly bounded with objects with whom we are related in our childhood days. Same is in the case of Robert Frost who passed his life in daily conversations and the occurrences of nature. Gardens, Pastures, Rivers, brooks and meadows have served as enchanting mouth pieces. He regards nature as a teacher to teach precious moral lessons to man. Frost is regarded as a poet of nature, but man holds a more important place in his poetry. He has picturised the life of man without any glorification. He believes that human beings were intrinsically great and capable of infinite development.

Robert Frost has been called the interpreter

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of New England but he might also be called the interpreter of nature and humanity as a whole, for his poetry shows that he is a close observer of both nature and people, and that he portrays their fundamental elements. Frost writes lyrics, fantasies, and character portrayals and always uses meter. But it is a very flexible meter, conversational in tone. Frost uses nature to a great extent in his poetry. Through his close observations of nature Frost shows his deep love for it but never comes right out and sings its praise.

He always portrays nature in a friendly light never seeing in it anything cruel. In his lyrics and fantasies. Frost shows his interest in nature.

His characters are usually rural anyway, their background being that of rural. His descriptions are not just pretty pictures. He shows what he has realized and observed. Frost is the observer of people and as a result there is a great thread of humanity running throughout his poetry.

He has a keen interest in people and their troubles as seen in his character portrayals. For he is always sympathetic towards people. He has an excellent power of creating characters. We have seen Frost's use of nature and humanity in general but this is also a suggestion of a friendly rivalry between nature and man in his poetry.

Robert Frost's poetry is a blend of realistic portrayals.

"Frost takes a twilight view of man and his existence on this earth. Frost is a realist. He studies the human predicament, examines its different facets, He advocates devotion to work which in his view is necessary to make life bearable".

Nature is imperfect and Chaotic, and man must seek to perfect and order it through a constant process of garlanding. One must do one's duty under all circumstances. He advocates that man must have faith in God. While we must do our duty with faith in divine and then most certainly. God would assuage the cruelty and injustice of man's lot on this earth. He tells us in the Mosque of Mercy:

"I can see that the uncertainty

In which we act is a severity
A cruelty, amounting to injustice
That nothing but God's mercy can assuage."

Man can be saved only by God's mercy. Man can impose his will over the chaotic world of nature and order and complete it. Man is superior to the lower creatures and other objects of nature. In the Tree at My Window, he tells us that the tree is concerned only with, 'outer whether' and a concern for 'inner whether' is possible only for man.

Frost is a wise poet-philosopher who advocates not a rejection of life, but an acceptance of it with all its limitation. He loves the world and life, even though he often finds faults with it, quarrel with the world is a, 'lover's quarrel.' In Birches, he tells us, "Earth is the right place for love." (4)

He does not regard the universe as chaotic, though he is conscious of its many imperfections. He does not shut his eyes to the hardness of a man's lot, but suggests ways and means for its amelioration. His message to his fellow-men is to have,

.... "Courage in the heart
To overcome the fear in the soul,
And go ahead to any accomplishment."

Action, determined and fearless, in the living present, is considered by Frost as essential for human salvation Frost is a great artist with words. His words are carefully chosen both with reference to their sense and their sound. The main quality of his poetry is its extreme simplicity and clarity. Frost is a great nature poet. He writes of the natural scenes and sights. Flora and Fauna, hills and deals. He loves both her pleasant and unpleasant aspects. He enjoys his sensuous beauty, but he is also alive to much that is harsh, bleak and barren in her. His approach is-realistic, no doubt, Frost takes a rather bleak and gloomy view of man's earthly existence. In fact, he is a realist. He is realistic enough to recognize the ills. He does not shut his eyes to the evil, sorrow and sufferings which beset man's life on this earth. His approach is never cynical and nihilistic. Human lot may be hard but it can be made bearable by doing one's duty, sincerely and devotedly. His approach



to life and its problems is safe and healthy his philosophy is ripe and mature.

Frost is a modern in his attitudes towards nature. He is great poet of boundaries and he shows at every step that same fence or boundary ever separates man from nature. Frost represents the terrible actualities of the life in a new way. A careful study reveals that Frost's simplicity and his poetry has layers. The expressiveness and richness of his poems is remarkable.

Frost is a great poet in more ways than one. His treatment of humanity is free from romantic exaggeration, but at the same time it is not mere photographic representation.

His realism is free from any taint of vulgarity.

It seems safe to say about him that a realist who really knows what he is talking about.

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