



Intimacy Between God And Man Through Nature In The Poetry Of Ruskin Bond

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Abstract: *Ruskin Bond's poems are general songs that we use in our daily intercourse of life. So Ruskin has very rarely displayed God through Nature. Ruskin finds spiritual quality in trees and so he worships them like God so the trees are not only inspiring objects but also a symbol of God for Ruskin Bond. On the other hand Ruskin's Nature poetry is teemed with intimacy of Man with Nature. He has displayed a great harmony between Man and Nature. He presents Man trying to subdue the forces of Nature to make it useful for him. He shows man all alone, isolated in and alienated form, a hostile universe. Since Man and Nature are found in closer proximity in rural areas, than in the cities, he delineates Man belonging to the countryside and engaged in rural activities. Whenever Man is tired of day's work and returns home with heavy steps specially a farmer or a shepherded, feels comfortable in the lap of Nature. At that time Nature works like soothing balm for the weary man. Ruskin Bond believes that human nature can be found in its pure and original state in the poor community who lives in the lap of Nature. The children are hungry at noon, yet they forget it and enjoy the sun-set to sing sweet songs. They are so much happy with natural surroundings that they forget even their hunger. It is really wonderful that some children grow old in their mother's arms sucking milk.*

Key words- God, man, nature, children, intimacy, trees, spiritual.

Ruskin Bond, undoubtedly in the above mentioned chapters have been very akin to Tagore but in the description of intimacy between God and man through nature, there is a huge difference between Ruskin and Tagore as Tagore's Nature poetry is full of mysticism but in Ruskin Bond's poetry there is no mysticism. His poems are general songs that we use in our daily intercourse of life so Ruskin Bond has very rarely displayed God through Nature. Ruskin Bond finds spiritual quality in trees and so he worships

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them like God so the trees are not only inspiring objects but also a symbol of God for Ruskin Bond. This feeling of Ruskin Bond shows him a complete Indian poet because Indians have full faith in tress as they have in God. In his non-fictional book 'The Rain In the Mountain' Ruskin Bond says, "Deodars have often inspired me to poetry. One day I wrote:-

"Trees of God, we call them

Planted here when the world was young

The first trees."

'Mountains In My Blood'

In his poem 'Garhwal Himalaya' Ruskin Bond describes some trees along with deodar as "Trees of god" they are mentioned in the following lines:-

"Deep in the crouching mist, lie the mountains.

Climbing the mountains are forests
Of rhododendron, spruce and deodar

Trees of good, we call them - soughing"

'Garhwal Himalaya'

On the other hand Ruskin Bond's Nature poetry is teemed with intimacy of Man with Nature. He has displayed a great harmony between Man and Nature. He presents Man trying to subdue the forces of Nature to make it useful for him. He shows man all alone, isolated in and alienated form, a hostile universe. Since Man and Nature are found in closer proximity in rural areas, than in the cities, Ruskin Bond delineates Man belonging to the countryside and engaged in rural activities.

In his non-fictional book 'Rain In The Mountains' Ruskin writes, - "The peepal was a good tree to sit beneath on hot days. Its heat-shaped leaf, sensitive to the slightest breeze, would be flapping gently when the clouds were standing still and not another tree witnessed the least movement in the air. There is a peepal tree is very Indian village, and it is common to see a farmer, tired at the end of an afternoon's toil in the fields, being lulled to sleep by the

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rustling of its leaves."

Through this statement Ruskin Bond points out that there is a great intimacy of Man with Nature. Whenever Man is tired of day's work and returns home with heavy steps specially a farmer or a shepherd, feels comfortable in the lap of Nature. At that time Nature works like soothing balm for the weary man. Ruskin Bond believes that human nature can be found in its pure and original state in the poor community who lives in the lap of Nature. Ruskin Bond describes all the charming natural objects with Man in most of his Nature poem 'Garhwal Himalaya' Ruskin points out that there is a deep and close harmony between Man and Nature:-

**"Where the herds men pass,
their lean sheep cropping
Short winter grass.**

**And clinging to the sides of mountains,
The small stone houses of Garhwal,
Their thin fields of calcinated soil torn
From the old spirit - haunted rocks."**

'Garhwal Himalaya'

Ruskin Bond further points out that the men and women are so much concerned with Nature that they are not afraid of thunder. On the contrary they appear to be challenging it. The children are hungry at noon, yet they forget it and enjoy the sunset to sing sweet songs. They are so much happy with natural surroundings that they forget even their hunger. It is really wonderful that some children grow old in their mother's arms sucking milk. This is the great irony on the part of poor people of Garhwal. Ruskin draws this intimacy of Man with Nature in the following lines:-

**"There is hunger of children at noon; and yet
There are those who sing to the sun sets
And the gods and glories of Himaal,
Forgetting no one eat sun sets
Wonder, then, at the absence of old men;
For some grow old at their mother's breasts,
In cold Garhwal."**

'Garhwal Himalaya'

In 'Hill Station' Ruskin Bond finds a great intimacy of Man with Nature. Ruskin Bond points out that he feels quite all-alone at a hill-station but the beautiful mountains give him company as a companion to remove his loneliness and allure him to dwell in. Not only these mountains but also shepherds and woodmen know him as a resident of this and trees also remove Ruskin Bond's

loneliness. Here Ruskin Bond shows a great harmony between Man and Nature because both Man (here shepherds or woodmen) and Nature in the form of mountains and trees provide him companionship. Ruskin Bond shows this harmony in the following:-

**"There is nothing to keep me here,
Only these mountains of silence
And the gentle reserve of shepherds
And woodmen
Who know me as one who
Walks among trees."**

'Hill Station'

In his long narrative from 'A Song For Lost Friends' Bond seems very attractive towards banyan tree and in its sight. He feels much delight in its sight. He feels much relieved to touch the old rugged wood and feels it is singing to him. This shows a great harmony between Man and Nature because banyan tree provides Ruskin Bond musical tune which gives him comfort and invites him to enjoy himself with its music as he shows in the following:-

**"Of Aerial roots,
Intruder in your pillared den, I stood
And shyly touched your old and wizened
wood,
And as my heart explored you, giant tree
I heard you singing!"**

'A Song For Lost Friends'

Ruskin Bond becomes very emotional and shows the banyan trees as his friends which attracts him to 'silent throbbing heart'. He further shows banyan tree not only as a friend but also as a 'preceptor' as William Wordsworth shows Nature as 'the best teacher' in his poem 'Education of Nature'. Ruskin calls this banyan tree as his 'first tutor' because he learns a lesson of stillness from this tree. This is the best illustration of intimacy of Man with Nature. Here the writer is the Man having intimacy with Nature. Here the writer is the Man



and the banyan tree is Nature itself as he expresses in the following:-

**"The sprit of the tree became my friend,
Took me to his silent throbbing heart,
And taught me the value of stillness.
My first tutor, friend of the lonely."**

'A Song For Lost Friends'

In 'This Land Is Mine' Ruskin Bond sketches a few lines on intimacy of Man with Nature. He calls this land his own, though he is not the genuine owner of this land. His feelings are attached to the whole earth simply because he is born on it. He wants to be associated with natural objects as 'the dust', 'the grass', 'the tender leaf' and 'weathered bark' till his last breath because these objects are the part of upbringing. Through the use of oxymoron Ruskin justifies his love for Nature and expresses this in the following lines:-

**"This land is mine
Although I do not own it
This land is mine
Because I grew upon it
This dust, this grass,
This tender leaf
And weathered bark
All in my heart are finely blended
Until my time on earth is ended."
'This Land Is Mine'**

In 'To The Indian Foresters' Ruskin Bond points out the forests. If the foresters do not save the forests from being cut down, this land will be a 'bowl of dust'. Man does a lot to maintain all the natural surroundings of the world as foresters, farmers, gardeners etc. Although farmers and gardeners do a lot to maintain fields and gardens which are also a part of Nature but Ruskin Bond in this poem emphasizes only on the forests as defenders of Nature. Most of the nature poets talk about farmers and fields, gardeners and gardens but Ruskin Bond displays somewhat different intimacy of Man with Nature in which foresters are Man and forests are Nature Ruskin Bond sketches this intimacy in the following lines:-

**"You are the quiet men who do not boast
Although you've done much more than most
To make this land a sea of green
From here to far Cake Comorin.
Without your help to nature's thrust**

This land would be a bowl of dust.

**Dear foresters, you have not sought for
Fame or favour,
You have been a love of labour
Our thanks! Instead of desert sand
You've given us this green and growing
Land."**

'To The Indian Foresters'

In the poem 'Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark' Ruskin suggests the readers not to be afraid of Nature, on the contrary we should be friendly with it. 'Darkness' is also a part of Nature as is 'the light'. So we should not be afraid of darkness. Man has a great intimacy with Nature because Man is also a part of day and night and day and night are a part of Nature. Ruskin explains it in the following:-

**"Don't be afraid of the dark, little one,
The earth must rest when the day is done.
The sun may be harsh, but moonlight-never
And those stars will be shining for ever
And ever,
Be friends with the night, there is nothing
to fear,
Just let your thoughts travel to friends far
and near
By day, it does seem that our troubles won't
cease,
But at night, late at night, the world is At
peace."**

'Don't Be Afraid of The Dark'

In his short lyric 'Listen' Ruskin Bond asks the readers to pay attention to all that in a part of Nature. The night, the day, the trees, the pebbles, the leaves, the summer, the winter, the sky, the earth, the sun and the moon, the down and the evening etc. all are the part and parcel of Nature. Man can not be separated from these parts of Nature. That is why it indicates that Man has great intimacy with Nature as he draws in the following:-



**"Listen to the night wind in the trees,
Listen to the summer grass singing:
Listen to the time that's tripping by,
And the dawn dew falling
Listen to the moon as it climbs the sky
Listen to the pebbles humming;
Listen to the mist in the trembling leaves,
And the silence calling."**

'Listen'

'Look For The Colours of Life' is out and out a Nature poem. There are attractive and charming flowers of different colours. There are also green trees laden with fruits life mangoes etc and the blue sky as well as green forest. Ruskin is attracted towards these natural objects. This attraction of the poet towards the natural objects creates a great intimacy of Man with Nature. Ruskin sketches this intimacy with the help of colours to create a complete natural scenery:-

**"Colours are everywhere,
Bright blue the sky,
Dark green the forest
And light the fresh grass,
-----**

**The Flame trees glow
At this time of year
The mangoes burn bright
As the mansion draws near."**

'Look For The Colours of Life'

In his poem 'The Message of Flowers' Ruskin expresses a great intimacy with Nasturtium flower that is also a part of Nature and addresses it as 'humble friend' as is expressed in the following:-

**"How can I forget you,
Humble friend?
You gladden my heart to
Winter's end."**

'The Message of Flowers'

In 'Night Thoughts' Ruskin seems to be so much attached with Nature that he calls the part of Nature his mother and father as is sketched in the following :-

**"This mountain is my mother,
My father is the sea,
This river is the fountain
Of all that life may be....."**

'Night Thoughts'

'Dandelion' is such a nature poem in which dandelion flower seems to be a great companion of Ruskin. He has so much love for this flower that he adds that this can help you in any way if you have a great intimacy with flower. This shows a great intimacy of Man with Nature as he draws in the following:

"-----

**And if you're kind and pure of heart,
Who knows? This magic flower might just
respond**

And help you on your way.

**Good dandelion,
Be mine today."**

'Dandelion'

In 'Butterfly Time' Ruskin writes that all the beautiful things of nature give charm to the human life and keep everything in good order. So no man can be away from Nature and can create no border or obstacle in the way of Nature as he has great intimacy with it :-

**"Nor Nature does thing in good order
And birds and butterflies recognize
No man-made border."**

'Butterfly Time'

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