

# **Short stories of Ruskin Bond- A Pattern for Balanced Environmental Wellbeing**

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## **Abstract**

This Research Paper focusses on Bond's association with nature and his concern towards the sloppy approach towards environment in the guise of development and advancement. Ruskin Bond conveys a subtle pain about the undergoing changes of nature's indigenous beauty. Bond's works focus on humanity and exploration of self. As per the author, man gives importance and significance based on his selfishness and individual priority but not based on broad natural framework and its functionality. Every literary work of Ruskin Bond is an ode to nature's beauty and a discovered uniqueness in the human beings that he encounters as a part of his routine. The sensibilities that he apply to study, learn, cherish and express about nature and human beings in an objective manner is a pleasure that need to be observed by his readers.

Keywords: environment, nature, trees, landscape,

## **Introduction**

Nature has always been an epicenter in framing the cultural and religious set up with regard to human beings. India's culture and its ancient literature emphasizes the role and importance of nature and its influence on human beings. Many contemporary authors also staged "nature" and its importance in various genres and attempted to mend the human sensibilities to pave a positive and constructive approach towards nature. Likewise, Ruskin Bond chose short story for spreading the significance of nature and its eminence for a balanced ecological sustainment.

Ruskin Bond is the most prominent author as he sketched his life experiences and his relationship with nature. His works celebrate indigenousness, humane, nature of where he belongs to. The environs around him will rejuvenate his sensibilities and his creative sensibilities. His writing style has a magical touch of simplicity and colloquiality. Innocence, purity and simplicity are the invigorating themes in his works. He reports the complications that arise due to deforestation and pollution with a touch of fancy and imagination. Destruction in the name of development is always being mentioned in a connotating way.

## **Bond's Sagacious Approach to Depict the Anthropocentric Tendency**

Bond has always signified the inseparable relationship of human being and nature. Bond always spelled the interrelatedness between them and always stated that human being is also a part of the nature. Nature has always been referred irrespective of the themes in his works. He has infinite love and affection towards nature and its qualities.

The Himalayan mountains, flora and fauna and his nostalgic reverence towards that place has become evergreen themes in his entire works. In "Good Day to You, Uncle" Bond mention the men crooked approach towards the greenery in making them extinct has been portrayed in a tremendous way. The selfish human beings encroaching into the other inhabitants life and lifestyle and its related negative consequences has been depicted in a quite creative way. Human being is always in a misguided assumption that exploiting nature and manipulating the ecological balance is the most easiest and quickest way to progress. Bond alarms that misguided approach is an impending peril to the entire human kind.

"Where have all the trees gone" is the work that stages the organizations that hinder the nature for the sake of so called development. Nature especially trees were introduced by his father and grandfather in his childhood. The inheritance of adoring nature took place in a quite naturalistic manner. The trees, the beauty of nature has penetrated so deep into his psyche as his observant spectacle speaks and states irrespective of the state being in a story. His concern towards converting jungles into concrete jungle thus the fauna which bred, nurtured

and existed on the lap of flora have become homeless.

Dust on the Mountain, human beings selfish deeds in the hilly area which ultimately results into devastation. He also takes up those exploitative policies framed by the supreme institutions of mankind which led towards the ultimate debacle. For example, Bisnu's mother faces the fire and collects the reminiscent of the wonderful post before the spread of the area's production and goes on to state that "there are fires everywhere" (Bond 2008). When the entire family sits outside and sadly and ineffectually notices that in the wildfires thousands of the Himalayan trees are dying.

Bond also highlights the elite contractors of wood loggers. When Bisnu migrates to the city in look out for a job an old character in the bus reminiscently states that "there were trees here once" (Bond 2008).

Romi was struck in a dreadful state surrounded by wild fire in the forest. He was terrified and was struck in grief after witnessing the pathetic condition of birds and animals. That dangerous fire destroys flora and fauna. Romi expresses his grief as "not only pheasants but smaller birds too were screaming across the .... and the air was filled with their cries" (Bond 2008). Human being was the solo responsible species for the cause of this grief which the grief has to be faced by the entire sections related to the nature.

Nature has always shown mercy and helped the human being to survive and live on this planet. In return man could not do anything in favour of nature. Instead of tendering gratitude he was merciless and dishonest towards the nature. Forgetting the fact that he depended on the nature's mercy he took it to task and started plundering to meet the imposed selfish priorities which are unending.

In the story, Good Day to You Uncle Bond narrates that sometime ago "Ganga had provided food and shelter for some thirty or forty tigers.... and now there remained only one old tiger in the jungle" (Bond 2008). This sentence by itself speaks about the negative impact of being "anthropocentric". Human being mistook that he is the supreme on this planet and all the elements of nature on the planets are meant to serve his purpose. The same philosophy has also been into the younger generations of humankind. Consequently, exploitation continued to commence in a perennial manner. Ramu addresses his friend in the story Good Day to You Uncle, "Perhaps we are a little better, in some ways. To be able to laugh and to be merciful are the only things that make man better than the beast" (Bond 2008). This statement is a clear significance that individuals are tend to dominate and they take the other elements of nature as granted. In contrast, Ruskin Bond considered and adored the insects that have a little lifespan.

### **Ruskin Bond- Representative of Serenity and pristineness of Nature**

In Good Days to You, Uncle, Ramu's father states that "A man needs the land as much as a tiger needs the jungle" (Bond 2008). The ownership on the earth is common and same for all the species that live on this place. Human being with his sensibility became a domineering species on this planet. Bond reports that around thirty to forty tigers used to exist in that jungle but the number has been confined to one at present. The greedy poachers are even trying to trace out even that lonely left tiger.

Ruskin Bond is more optimistic. His life and learning started on the mountains. Thus, create a deep sense of respect and affection towards nature. He has a fabulous knowledge about the various varieties of plants, flowers that grow in that mountains. He exhibits an unending quest to understand the voiceless creatures of nature and thoroughly enjoys the process of observing and conceiving the versions of those voiceless creatures.

Connectivity and relationship between man and nature should always be intimate and maintain the cordiality of exchanging and interdependence. He proposed the ways for mutual existence on this planet. He also conveys a sensible understanding of the other living beings for creating the much required harmony that is essential for co-existence and well being. To safeguard the same Bond did not intend to shoot or convey any didactic message. He intends the fact that the other creatures are equally important and have their own role to play for protecting the ecological balance.

Bond feels the essentiality of relationship between man and nature. He believes that it is a lifetime study of observing the nature and to communicate those experiences to the self and derive those unique implicit reactions. He is quite aware of the environmental issues that arise in the name of development and the litter generated by the visitors and tourists and the destruction caused by mine traders. Ruskin Bond promotes nature as a whole through his compassion for a single tree in -touch not a single bough! In youth

itshelteredme,AndI'llprotectitnow.(2008)

He is outrightly concerned about the nature's conservation and tries to engage readers with his never-ending love and affection towards nature. Bond also mentions that a few pilgrims did not disturb the wild places. They developed a deep sense of relationship and a special connection between human and non-human world. But the current situations stand in contrast as the vacationers' barge into those restricted places.

### **Conclusion**

Ruskin Bond's works not only bears autobiographical tone but also his never-ending love towards the hills and innocence of that locale. All of his works signifies the role of nature and if pursued with that objective sense to learn and cherish would give joy and experience in abundance to cherish on a continuous and consistent basis. Caring and showing concern towards nature and accepting the locales and their way of living without any judgement always takes the reader into the new world of joy, excitement, and vibrance essential for zestful living. It also conveys a sensible message caring nature and safeguarding it is the only way to experience the joy through nature not only for the existing generation but also for the forthcoming generations also. Caring to protect the dignity of the nature is a steppingstone for a healthy, happy and prosperous wellbeing.

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