
An investigation of the nature of RUSKIN BOND's writings

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Abstract:

This research project has been done in order to investigate and evaluate the style of Ruskin Bond's short tales about nature. Any appraisal of Ruskin Bond as a nature lover must take into consideration the genre of his short story writing, which has developed the fragrance of nature in its many forms. The Himalayan Mountains are in this region. Bond's imagery and sensuality are not overpowered by the other characters. any portrayal of nature that is metaphorical in character. They develop as a consequence of his affection for and concern for them. a dedication to the environment He does not suffocate the spontaneity of natural images by using a camera. associated with a second layer of significance or as a demonstration of his understanding Stunningly beautiful and He is stirred by the spectacular vibrations of nature, which he enjoys sharing with his readers. Nature, the Himalayan region, exploration, and imagination are some of the key phrases.

Introduction

Ruskin Bond, a writer who has lived in Mussoorie for more than thirty years, has incorporated the Himalayas into his life and writing as a result of his residence there. He The trees provide an unending supply of fodder for storytelling. wildflowers, birds and animals, rocks and rivers, and other natural features Hill people are simple people who are an important component of the community. mountains. Through his poetry, articles, and other works of art, Writings of fiction and autobiography for children and adolescents Bond investigates his own and his father's backgrounds. shifting nature of the characters' connection with the From the freedom of youth to the depths of adulthood, the Himalayas have it all. The feelings of love and connectedness with the different expressions of nature. Discussions Rain in the Mountains¹ is a diary that documents the effects of rain on the mountains. , he says extols the virtues of the mountains and high peaks with a great deal of enthusiasm Ruskin Bond is an Indian novelist who has written a number of books. Despite the fact that he writes in English, he is not well recognised. outside of the Indian subcontinent This, however, does not seem to be the case. not worry him, and he is pleased to compose little passages His tales are set in little communities around his favourite Himalayan region. foothills; this collection is a good representation of his whole work. work.

With the help of the scent of roses in your imagination His short narrative Rain in the Valley was inspired by the newly soaked land. Mountain is one of those books that reads like a novel. a dozen tranquilizer pills A compilation of poetry and prose Mr. Bond's life is chronicled in poetry; it spans 30 years of his life. Spending time in the hills, with his closest pals, Nature and his adoptive family have become his second home. His writing follows the path he has taken. the road that leads back to India Once again, the writing is straightforward. a beautiful design that encourages us to take some time off to get away from our hectic life and get to know the ordinary folks because of the hills Leopards are mentioned in this diary by him. After nightfall, the couple is seen strolling around the streets of Mussoorie. Meerut gets its first precipitation of the monsoon season, which delivers It brings with it a commotion of fresh life, the song of insects at the beginning of summer. Ancient banyan trees may be seen outside his window at twilight. as well as the short-lived cosmos flower, a wayward bat, and so forth entered his room, making the night a little less lonely. This book demonstrates, once again, that for the sake of quiet and tranquilly His romanticism in his language, as well as his cutting but compassionate tone Ruskin Bond is unique in that he has few peers in terms of vision. This has happened before.

writer from Mussoorie captivates with his collection of nature pieces Sunday Middyay. Ruskin Bond, the old man of the mountains² , came to live in Mussoorie in 1963 after many frustrating years in the plains. As he is fond of natural beauty, he depicts the charm of nature and its loveliness. His stories

are generally set in a small, lonely Himalayan town or village which still retains its “inherited values of basic honesty, faith and love for the family and neighbors”. Parents do not worry about the safety of their children who roam freely without fear of brutality or crime because people from the hills are quick to smile, hospitable, and trusting. Against such a kind atmosphere, Bond envisions his own and his protagonists’ childhood as a long summer afternoon of gaiety, play, and carefree abandon. His characters swim in forest pools, take naps under shady trees with butterflies and beetles humming lazily overhead, climb mango and lichi trees, ride bicycles down steep hills and explore river and mountain paths. The timeless, magical atmosphere of the hill station in summer or during vacation quickly envelops his stories. In the autobiographical *Once Upon a Monsoon Time*³, he narrates an episode about the trees he planted with his father in a dry riverbed in Dehra Dun just before his father’s death. When he returned to the same scene after returning from England, the trees had multiplied and seemed to whisper a greeting to him. The protagonist and his father plant trees on a rocky island in a dry riverbed, hoping that the saplings will be left alone and those floods will not wash them away. In *My Father’s Trees in Dehra*⁴, the protagonist is now an adult revisits this spot and amazed that the trees are thriving and that his father’s dream has been realized. Such images of trees and creeping vines moving toward his father and grandfather in an attempt to communicate appear repeatedly in his poem, essays, and short stories. Bond believes that trees could once walk about like people till someone cast a spell on them and rooted them in one place. He looks forward to the time when trees will be able to walk again freely. This is quite obviously a metaphor for the senseless devastation of trees in the Himalayan region. Bond pleads that trees are important to the birds and animals who live in the forests, as well as to humans for fruit and timber, for attracting rain, and for preventing soil erosion and keeping the desert away. Bond inclination to the world of nature has much to do with his long rooting to Mussoorie, a place of beauty and reading of Henry David Thoreau, Richard Jefferies, H. E. Bates “who lived close to nature and made it part of their creative work”⁵. Bond’s childlike curiosity extends itself to a complex animistic understanding of the mastermind loci of the Himalayan foothills. He speaks to Nilima Pathak on communing with nature: For me nature is very personal. That’s because I have lived very close to it up in the mountains for the last 35 years. But even before that I was quite in kinship with forests and the general flora of the country.

In India, and particularly in the Hindu religion, there’s a very strong element of nature. In my case, I feel since I’ve lived so close to it, the influence shows in my work. Many of my books and stories have for the last many years had the strong element of the natural world.⁶ In his *Ruskin Bond’s Book of Nature* he gives detailed description of trees, its usage, effect on people, association with daily chores of life and the myths associated with it. He pays compliment to the trees for shaping his whole being. His lonely and stressful life brightens up by the benign presence of trees. He says as long as he is “aware of their presence” he can “try to avoid the trivial and the banal”. He evokes them by calling “the guardians of my conscience”. He also accepts the fact that trees are his best critics and he lives and works under “the generous but highly principled supervision of the trees”. He spans the horizon of our knowledge by enumerating the account of the structure of trees, its roots, branches, flowers, leaves.⁷ In *The Cherry Tree* Bond narrates the feeling of Rakesh as Rakesh plants a cherry tree and cares for the loving sapling through its difficult first year when a goat eats it and then a grass cutter cuts it in two; yet, the sturdy tree grows to full maturity over the year and bears fruit. Birds, cicadas, and bees visit it as often as Rakesh and grandfather do. While Rakesh is proud and amazed at his special

Rakesh's grandpa is parenting Rakesh with a lot of affection, and this makes him conscious of it. Rakesh, like the tree, has grown higher and stronger, and he is now able to assist others. a working father in the fields, yet a kind and nurturing parent He is tied to his grandpa through a special bond. Bond's characters are seen watering the plants. despite the fact that it is raining is a common aspect of his stories. This highlights the significance of having a personal identity. Communication with the natural world. The author of the tale is an advocate. Bond's conviction in the existence of God, as well as his Trees were able to feel the presence of electricity on Earth. The The magnificent form of the tree begins with a single little seed. "Just wait till it grows into a sapling, then a plant, and then a tree." 'It's only a little seed,' Rakesh said, touching the plant. The tree's smooth bark has developed over

time. He went about his business. He ran his fingers down the length of the tree and placed his finger on the very end of a leaf 'I wonder,' he said in hushed tones. 'Does this sound right?'

'How does it feel to be God?'⁸ The splendour of nature's creations Bond is reminded of the fact that God is present on the planet. The He is reminded of this by the flawless bodily structure of microscopic organisms. God's magnificent work of art. Bond depicts the Landour Days in his novel. The structure of a tiny fly, which has been expertly crafted: "The The fairy fly, which is the world's tiniest bug, is the smallest creature on the planet. The length of its body is just a fifth of a millimetre. One may be able to With the naked eye, you can just barely make out what it is. Almost as though it were a Despite being a particle of dust, it has exquisite tiny wings and small legs. It uses the combs on its legs to groom itself. That is the case. perfection".⁹ Bond bemoans the horrors of World War II in *Kitmaker*. "Development" has transformed what was once a bustling metropolis. become a disputed metropolis where there is no room for everyone behaviours that are completely benign When he sees it, he is traumatised. brutal slaughter of animals and cutting down of trees, both of which has introduced several types of plants to the area and is on the brink of doing so of total devastation He pokes fun at himself in a few of his businesses. as a result of the authorities' rash decision to chop down trees and In certain locations, roads and buildings should be constructed. Bond's The likeness is often highlighted in literature. between the tree and the human He draws attention to the resemblance. Human beings go through stages of growth and deterioration. trees. Both trees and people grow at about the same rate. If you are not injured, starving, or cut down, keep up the pace. both in and out Youth are magnificent creatures, and in their waning years, they are much more so. a little stooping of the shoulders At the conclusion of the voyage, a man stands tall like a tree. With a groan, he sloughs off his leaves. The *Kitmaker* is a person who makes kites. The resemblance between trees is the only thing that is shown. as well as human beings Mehmood, the elderly grandpa, is When likened to a banyan tree and its young leaves Ali, Ali's grandson, holding a budding mimosa plant. Bond am constantly mesmerised by the magnificence and vastness of the space a banyan tree He thinks Banyan is not only the largest, but also the most intelligent. tree, but it is also the friendliest of them, which he appreciates. hospitality. The several huge and numerous branches of "Apart from that, banyan provides refuge to a number of animals: " It draws in a great number of people, both boys and girls. Visitors include birds, squirrels, insects, and flying foxes, among other things. Many of these fascinating species are found in their natural habitat. the tree, which is full of dark, quiet spaces that are appropriatefor a diverse range of tenants"¹⁰. The tree is to bond like a marriage" a large family or a boarding home "in which a lot of people live" Two or three separate families share a house next door to one another without intruding excessively in each other's lives business"

11. The other trees, which Bond mentions in his speech Oak and deodar are two trees that are particularly beloved. The trees are in bloom. Indians believe them to be holy and worship them as such. a variety of rituals and festivals that are held annually In India, it is usual to perform. Bond is the one who brings them forward. Aspects of his writing that are also noteworthy Bond's Indian predisposition may be seen in his writing. His tender rendition of Peepal, the most precious and revered of all flowers The most revered tree in India. Bond is in love with and invokes The peepal, not because of its relationship with holiness, but because of its Because of its beautiful form and oxygen-giving properties. Trees hold a central position in his writings on natural history. He likes to write about the great banyan, the holy tree of knowledge The aromatic pine, the majestic deodar, and the peepal are all examples of plants that are native to India. Sal is quite precious. He extols the magnificence and grandeur of the past. It also raises awareness about the importance of trees. There are several applications. He goes into detail about something that happened to him. the divine union of a number of different trees It was the writer who approached us for emotional help. and safety in the cradle of the hilly terrain, for those who are could sense the gentleness of the Himalayan mountains, and trees of Dehra and Mussoorie, who understood the importance of Mountain sap and energy were coursing through his veins, and These hills are no surprise to his sight since he has gotten strength. Nature, as a whole, is more than just a source of aesthetic pleasure. to see, but rather spiritual beauty through which to do so which one may clever the ancient values, such as honesty, integrity, and so on faithfulness and affection for the purpose of preserving an eternal relationship relationship. He discovers; pay attention to Meena Khorana:

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