

THE NATURE IN TULSIDAS AND WORDSWORTH A CRITICAL STUDY

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Nature has always been a source of inspiration for the poets all over the world. Some appreciate its physical aspects, others are enchanted by its philosophical and spiritual effects and a few are enthralled by all the three influences. Tulsidas and Wordsworth belong to the third category. Beauty in nature has long been a common theme in life and in art and books, emphasizing beauty in nature, fill large sections of libraries and bookstores. Nature, in the broadest sense, is equivalent to the natural world, physical universe, material world or material universe. 'Nature' refers to the phenomena of the physical world and also to life in general. Nature is generally distinguished from the supernatural. It ranges in scale from the subatomic to the galactic. The word 'nature' is derived from the Latin word *natura*, or "the course of things, natural character."¹ *Natura* was a Latin translation of the Greek word *physis* which originally related to the intrinsic characteristics that plants, animals and other features of the world develop of their own accord.² Like other nature poets, Tulsidas and William Wordsworth both have beautifully described a wide variety of description of the objects of nature- mountains, rivers, trees, flowers, moon, sun, stars, sky, rain, rainbow, birds, fountains, winter, summer, spring, autumn and many more. The world famous lyrical epic poem, "Ramacaritmanasa" and the internationally acclaimed poems of Wordsworth are remarkable poetic contribution in the world literature.

Wordsworth is the highest priest of nature and nature finds its most sublime and sustaining expression in his poetry. He had an ardent faith in nature and its healing power. He was a great poet of countryside and of the life of nature in its physical as well as spiritual aspects. Poets before him have expressed nature and appreciated the beauty of nature but they did so only for its outer aspects of beauty and loveliness but only a handful of them could see a soul in nature and almost none of them took any lesson of morality and wisdom. But Wordsworth has revealed the inner soul of nature to

make it a teacher and a philosopher. For him, nature has a force, so mystical which could enable and enlighten human mind and soul. Wordsworth's chief originality, of course, is to be sought in his poetry of nature. But it is not the mere fact of his being a poet of nature that makes him unique. There had been many poets of nature, certainly, he was one of the most truthful describers when his task was to describe.

**"Knowing that Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her."**³

Goswami Tulsidas was an Awadhi poet and philosopher and the author of "Ramacaritmanasa" (The Lake of the Deeds of Lord Rama) an epic devoted to lord Rama. During his lifetime Tulsidas wrote 22 different works and although a Sanskrit scholar, he is considered to be the greatest and the most famous of Hindi poets. He is regarded as an incarnation of Valmiki, the author of Ramayana written in Sanskrit. Ramacaritmanasa was the Awadhi version of Ramayana of Valmiki, like many translations of the original Sanskrit Ramayana, is popularly called Tulsikrita Ramayana and is as well known among Hindi speaking Hindus of India. Many of its verses are popular proverbs in this region. The Ramacaritmanasa so imprinted on the minds of Indians that even the illiterate and the uneducated can orally produce hundreds of its couplets. But only meagre attention has been paid to the beautiful and sublime description of nature by Tulsidas.

Wordsworth believes that Nature can fill the human mind with moral thoughts, more than all the years of toiling reason. Nature is a moral preacher and if man comes to her in the right spirit, leaving aside his carping reason and intellect that murders to dissect, he can gather enough wisdom and knowledge.

**"One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man
Of moral evil and of good
Then all the sages can."**⁴

On the other hand, Tulsidas compares the excitement of a story with garden and forest and the

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happiness to the beautiful birds.

पुलक बाटिका बाग बन सुख सुबिहंग बिहारु ।

माली सुमन सनेह जल सींचत लोचन चारु ।। 15

If we talk about the flower, both has used this beautiful natural object in beautiful manner. Wordsworth saw an active moral and intellectual life in nature. Even the meanest of natural objects seemed to him imbued with an actual principle, a bubbling life in all things, in all natures. And this faith of moral life is echoed in his oft-quoted couplet:

“And it is my faith

That every flower enjoys the air it breathes.”⁶

In similar way, Tulsidas has written :

नव पल्लव फल सुमन सुहाये । निज संपत्ति सुर रुख लजाए ।।
चातक कोकिल कीर चकोरा । कूजत बिहग नटत कल मोरा ।। 17

Wordsworth laid greater stress on simplicity because he believes that there is a great beauty in simplicity. Tulsidas also emphasizes on simple living. Instead of the inflated and artificial mode of expression, we find a natural diction and spontaneous way of expressing thoughts in them. There is an interesting, charming and beautiful description of rain in Kiskindha Kand, in Ramacaritmanasa :

बरषहिं जलद भूमि निअराएँ । जथा नवहिं बुध बिद्या पाएँ ।।
बूंद अघात सहहिं गिरि कैसँ । खल के बचन संत सह जैसेँ ।। 8

S There is a detailed description of rainy season. We can find cloud, light, thunder, flowing of water and very enchanting and unique description of the

croaking of frogs during rainy season:

दादुर धुनि चहु दिसा सुहाई । बेद पढ़हिं जनु बटु समुदाई ।।
नव पल्लव भए बिटप अनेका । साधक मन जस मिलें विबेका ।। 19

And Wordsworth, the great adorer of nature says about rainbow :

**“My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky.”¹⁰**

As a matter of fact, there is no denying to the fact that the soul of these two renowned poets have been deeply stirred by nature.. According to Wordsworth, what we see in nature is completely ours. The whole nature is our possession so we should care for it and feel for it :

**“The world is too much with us; late and soon
Getting and spending, we lay waste our
powers:**

Little we see in Nature, That is ours.”¹¹

Therefore, Tulsidas and Wordsworth are the great poets of nature. We find a lot of similarities in both of them, when it comes to nature. Both are equally captivated by the sublime influences of nature on the mind of a man. They see nature as a teacher and of course as a preacher. Both are remarkably similar in the use of poetic language which is necessarily simple and common. The comparative study of nature in Tulsidas and Wordsworth could be an extremely apt topic for the doctoral research.

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