

Nature is Never Silent: With Reference to Thrity Umrigar's Selected Novels

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Abstract:

Nature is where life begins. Nature is a creator, teacher, healer, therapist, and best friend of every human. Nature is never silent. Every second nature keeps communicating with every one of us in some way or the other. The problem is none of us listen and have no time for it. Mostly nature is used as a romantic by writers and poets. It is only in recent times the nature is dealt as a communicator and healer who silently heals and bring changes in depressed and dejected people, sometimes even without their knowledge. Natures rage and anger are exposed when it destroys, but the motherly nature is always exposed in silence. Thrity is one such author who has treated nature as her silent character, who brings biggest changes in the life of her characters. The aim of this article is to prove the nature speaks all a languages and its ones duty to listen and gain.

Article:

Nature is one of the most powerful and mysterious forces of the universe that influences all greatly. It is believed philosophically that the universe is composed of nature and soul, which controls all the living, non-living, human, non-human, organic, inorganic and visible, invisible things. Nature rules over the universe like a monarch and no one can escape from the influence of nature. Everyone is influenced by both nature and culture. Nature is the pure and original source of happiness. Everyone forget all their inevitable and depressing and sorrowful conditions in the delightful company of nature.

Nature develops sense of beauty and calmness. It fills every ones' hearts with heavenly pleasure. In the presence of nature a wild delight runs through the hearts, in spite of real sorrows. Every bit of alternation in the atmosphere in nature gives happiness. At the same time, nature as a teacher teaches man to accept all the changes in life. Nature motivates man through its every action, and the only thing necessary is every one must give ears to the speech behind the silence.

Trees touch the flowers with wind; flowers blush and invite bees; rivers glitters as the moon smiles, stars wink when sun sleeps, wind swings and world relaxes. Every small thing of the nature accompanies to make every ones journey filled with love, peace, harmony and happiness. Nature accepts everyone equally in every color of sadness and happiness.

Literature exposes the role of nature in everyday life in the effective ways. Most of the literature in the early period treated nature as romantic element and descriptive source. Later nature became a living a living character through which human identity is constructed. In the world of literature, nature becomes mood setter of the text. Creative artist uses nature to reveal both comic and tragic aspects of human life. Literature treats nature as the source that brings harmony for the mind, strength for the soul and calmness for the body.

Thrity has exposed these characteristics of the nature in her novels. She has also exposed how nature is one with everyone's life and how it is trying to connect and communicate with everyone with its own silence. Thrity has explored how nature has the power to change and make change in everyone's life. She has also highlighted how nature becomes the source of living, nature becomes the healer, nature becomes the mother and nature becomes the creator of the self.

Thrity, in *The Story Hour*, has used the nature as a therapist who relaxes the stressed mind. Lakshmi who attempts suicide becomes a challenge to doctor Maggie her therapist. As Lakshmi becomes adamant and becomes incommunicative, she

decides to take her out to a nearby grove, which makes her release the stress and open up. Thirty has beautifully the silent nature makes an atomic blast in the stressful mind.

Maggie, the therapist decided to walk into the dense grove of trees, as she believed, the artificial lights in the hospital are too bright where her patient, Lakshmi might feel naked and exposed, where as the lights in the wood would be weak and “Maggie had learned in her years as a therapist, it was that shame required darkness” and Nature helps.

Lakshmi relaxed visibly as soon as they entered the woods. Maggie saw that it was more than the anonymity provided by the shade. For the first time, Lakshmi looked at home, in her element: she plucked a leaf off a tree, crushed it in her hand, inhaled its smell, and then said its name in her language; she got down on her haunches to examine a mushroom growing at the base of a trunk; she turned her radiant face up to gaze at the silver of sky that showed through the leaves. . . . Maggie was transfixed. She felt as if these woods were magical and that they had transformed the sullen, crushed woman into a pixie. (60)

The pathless woods, serene sights, and melodious songs of birds are natural treasures, which are always yearned for at any cost. Nature is the purest pathway to inner peace, and it recharges one’s energy and renovates the personality. One feels blessed when they get a chance to breathe in a pollution-free environment, and inhale clean air and smell the fragrance of flowers.

Researchers have dug deep to prove the benefits of walking in the woods. The time spent among trees is a respite for the exhausted minds, refreshing for new goals. Nature helps us deal with the over-activity of the mind and relaxes us with its soothing environment. It brings harmony for the mind, as it helps release stress and inhales the breaths that calm down our chaotic thoughts.

Death is unavoidable and knowing that one is going to die soon is more pathetic. The thoughts of person who is affected with a chronic disease and who is expecting just death have more chaotic thoughts than any other person in the world. Through Armaiti, in *The World We Found*, Thrity has exposed the stressful moments of a patient who is affected with brain tumor. Thrity has beautifully explains how the touch of nature can create magic in the life of a shattered person.

Armaiti was affected with tumor and was counting her days. Dejected and depressed both physically and mentally, she quits the treatment and chemotherapy. Though as a mother she was not ready to leave her daughter alone in the world, she was also afraid of the therapies and the pain and sufferings. She has seen her mother suffer due to medication. Her stagnated mind gets clear and her spirit gets revived by her visit to the beach.

Armaiti an activist in her college days is a person who never give up easily, she fights till her last. But the spirit of fighting gets deteriorated in the fear of death. Armaiti visits the beach with her daughter to make her happy in the stressful times. Armaiti relaxes in the beach where the waves prove her never to give up without trying. Armaiti changes her decision to fight her illness and win over the fear. She becomes oneness with the nature.

Death was the ultimate clarifying principle. Sitting at the water’s edge, watching the white curls of the waves, Armaiti saw the curvature of the earth saw everything around her with a new attentiveness. She felt as if she had accidentally wandered backstage and was witnessing the stage craft that went into making the planet---gravity, magnetic field, the earth’s burning core. . . . Armaiti felt her eyes widen, as if better see it all, to take in, to absorb, to reach the point where she felt her bones melt into the warm sand, where the hot blood in her body became the salt water of the sea, where her breathing and the breathing of the ocean become one. (204)

Exposed to nature one gets healed emotionally and feels pleasant and optimistic. Nature is a tonic for physical and emotional well-being. It reduces blood pressure, stables heart rate, and decreases the production of stress hormones. Many studies prove that the nature view helps any patients to tolerate pain overcome adverse effects. Nature calms the body and relaxes the agitated mind.

Being in nature helps one to connect with their soul in a powerful manner. All five senses are activated and ones soul develops a strong bond with the natural world. The lovely scent of trees and flower, cold waves hitting the land, drizzling rain, howling wind, earthy smell after rain and every small things of nature introduces one to ethereal beauty gaining spiritual

power by responding to the rhythm of nature. Everyone acquire the pleasure of mindfulness and starts enjoying the little moments in their lives. Nothing seems impossible and pessimistic with nature. Letting go or holding on to seems nothing when one holds hands with nature.

Thrity's Bhima in *The Space Between Us*, is an apt illustration for the survivor. Thrity has exposed the strength of a woman through this character. Betrayed, stabbed, and trashed by many losses Bhima stands more courageous and strong. Her bond with ocean shows her fighting spirit and her emotional strength is her let go spirit which carries away the hot air filled balloons to the heights and chills and lightens the soul. Bhima is projected as a person, who goes to the nature as a child moves to the mother when in pain and trouble. Thrity has brilliantly defined the strength of nature through the thoughts of Bhima.

The sea was unspoiled and eternal and seemingly beyond human claim. Its waters rose and swallowed up the scarlet shame of spilled blood.

The balloons are still in Bhima's hand, and suddenly she imagined that their strings are all that is keeping her tied to this sad, ruined earth; that if she let go her grip on the strings, she would rise and float away beyond these rocks, to that narrow place where the sea meets the sky. And even as the thought enters her mind, her grip on the balloon strings slackens and the footloose wind cradles the balloons and carries them away.

Though Bhima feels sad and pensive, she also feels dignified and courageous. She feels relieved in the second the wind carried her balloons. Bhima stands quietly on the rocks slipping occasionally, staring at the stars and waiting for the answer. She feels herself as a child who deliberately wants to hand over all the burdens or pains to a mother when suffering.

Mother Nature always has a magical impact on emotional, physical and mental health of all creatures. Nature reduces any inflammation and prevents many diseases by boosting immunity not only for body but also for mind and the soul. One has to invest their time to extract eternal peace of mind, body, and soul from the Mother Nature who is always expecting everyone of to stand still and listen to her eternal music of love which, rejuvenate positive energy and empower every one of us to live a happy, healthy and optimistic life with peaceful mindset. To conclude with quotes by Albert Einstein: "Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better".

Reference:

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