

Eco-Literature

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Abstract

The human environment and non-human environment are united with each other. We can't survive without the nature. Gradually, we are destroying the natural resources in the name of modernization. Selfishly, we are enlisted certain creatures as an endangered species. There have been debates about emphasis and omission of toxic and preservation of non-renewable resources. In order to preserve the natural environment, the governments & the NGO's are implementing the effective plans to create awareness in the society. I have chosen to discuss how the ancient kings, poets and the contemporary poets the government preserve the environment for balancing the ecosystem.

Keywords: Eco-literature, Endangered species, modernization, non-renewable resources, balancing the ecosystem.

Introduction

We can come across so many discourses on formalism, neoformalism, historical, archetypal, structuralism and psychological criticisms. We are in the state of preserving the renewable and non-renewable resources for the fore coming generation. Since the ancient period, kings and an ordinary people have been giving the importance to the nature. In the contemporary period, the poets and the governments take precautionary steps to protect the endangered species.

Literature and the Biosphere

Ecologists try to find ways of keeping the human society from destroying the natural resources. Destroying the nature is equal to commit suicide.

“Any living thing that hopes to live on earth
Must fit into the ecosphere or perish”

➤ Barry commoner, The closing circle

For safeguarding the trees Tamilians allotted certain trees as “Thala Virucham” to the temple.

For Eg. Vilvam tree – Sivan Temple
 Naval tree – Sakradevi Temple
 Arasu tree – Lord Ganesh

According to the Hindu mythology, gods and goddesses are inseparably linked with their respective vahanas.

For Eg. Aditya - Seven Horses
 Durga – the lion
 Brahma - Seven swans

Before Darwin, the Tamil Saint Manikkavasagar derived the evolution and growth of natural species in his work “The Great Purana” (Periya Puranam).

Man can be born in seven stages which are as grass, worms, tree, bird, snake, stone and human being. In Tamil Literature even gods incarnated as animals, bird or fish.

Eg, Lord Vishnu incarnated as
 A maacham (fish)
 Koormam (Tortoise)
 Narashimmam (lion)

We can see also in “Jatakamala Stories” about Buddha’s previous births. Among 540 Jatakala tales, most of the stories are in Pali, Some are in Sanskrit Jatakamala. In 14 of these stories, the Buddha is incarnated as an animal, a bird or a fish.

Most of the saints believe that they can find and attain ‘mukthi’ only with mingling of nature.

Ancient Kings Preserve the Nature

Shivi, “Shibi” is a king in Hindu mythology and the Jataka tales of Buddhism, notably in the Sibi Jataka. Shibi Chakravarti was a famous king of the Lunar dynasty. He is renowned for his selflessness who is said to have saved Agni (transformed into a dove) from Indra (Transformed into a hawk) by offering up his own flesh.

Vaiyavik Kopperum pekan was a Tamil velir king & one of the Seven Great patrons of arts and Literature during the Sangam era. According to tradition, once Pekan was going around his country, he sees a peacock shivering in the rain and muffled it with his gold laced silk blanket.

“With your elephants in rut, with
your proud horses, with your
fame that does not fade,
Pekan, you who gave your choak
to the dark mindless peacock,
because it was shivering in the cold”

- (Purananuru, song 145 of Paranar)

“Among the noblest in the land
That man I honour and revere
who, without favour, without fear,
In the great city dares to stand
The friend of every friendless beast”

- Longfellow

As per the words of Longfellow, we can see a perfect example in Chola dynasty. Manu Needhi Chola who never shows any discrimination between men and animals and dealt impartial justice to them accidentally prince Vithi Vidangan killed a calf by his wheels of the chariot on the way to the temple. The cow, the mother of the dead calf ran about in search of its missing calf and find out that her young one lying dead. The cow went to the palace of the king where there was a bell with a rope attached. (The Bell of Justice).

The King hastened to the palace – gate to learn & wondered when he saw a cow stood there with the end of the rope in her mouth and tears streaming from her eyes! After knowing the incident through his minister, he ordered his minister to kill prince under the wheels of the same chariot which ran over the calf. Unwilling to disobey the king, the minister stabs himself. So Manu Needhi Cholan rode in it himself to the spot where the calf had met with its death, and there put an end to the life of his own son by driving the chariot over him.

Contemporary Issues and Protect Endangered Species

Due to modernizing world, people use refrigerator, bikes, cars, which releases, CFS, CO₂, NO₂., The human community are polluting the air, noise, water and earth. We will going to buy pure oxygen for certain rate. Living in the polluted world, people faces so many health issues such as skin allergy, nostril problems, genetic problems, acid rain.,

Recently The Tamil Nadu government strictly banned the plastics in all kinds of shops in order to protect the soil wealth. In china, people use bicycle rather than two and four wheelers to reduce the air pollution.

People slowly reduce their habits of using animal and birds skinned products to avoid extinction of the natural creature. For making leathered products, so many animals were hunted. Creating awareness the governments implement very useful plans such as celebrating days and organize discourses on how to preserve and inter contact with the nature.

For Eg. World water day – March 22
 World Wildlife day – March 3
 World sparrow day – March 20
 Earth day – April 22

While increasing our facilities, gradually the human community demolish the food chain in the ecosystem.

Eg: Cell phone towers, radiation Kills the sparrows and honey bees.

The food chain, from the tiniest little micro organisms to the largest creatures on earth, keep us humans alive. It will be up to ordinary citizens and environmental groups to save these important links on the food chain. The following are the some ways to accomplish.

- Educate our family about endangered species in our area.
- Recycle and buy sustainable products
- Grow nature plants
- Reduce our water consumption
- Do not buy plastic products
- Herbicides and pesticides are hazardous pollutants that affect wildlife at many levels.

Conclusion

We must protect animals and vulnerable species from extinction, so we must make changes now. Our kids need to see us upgrading our own behavior and taking the issues seriously.

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