

**DEPICTION OF GRANDEUR OF NATURE IN ROBERT FROST'S STOPPING BY WOOD
ON SNOWY EVENING, BIRCHES AND AFTER APPLE - PICKING**

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Abstract:

Robert Forst has created indelible niche as a nature poet in the realm of American Literature. He is a prolific American poet of twentieth century who combines humanity and nature. He emphasizes on inter-relationship between nature and man. He focuses on the manner in which human emotions and nature are inseparable. In his poems-- "Birches", "Stopping by Wood on Snowy Evening" and "After Apple-Picking" he convincingly relates the human emotions, feelings and nature. He narrates a story of a man who deeply connected with snowy evening while passing through the woods spontaneously. He also depicts his attachment with the nature and observes the beauty of the forest but at the same time, he agrees the woods are lovely but he has to control his temptation as he has certain responsibilities to be performed in his life. Frost reflects his nostalgia after observing a common birch tree and traces how in company of nature human people can accomplish highest bliss. After Apple Picking is also an embodiment of significant facet of nature becoming source of happiness. In short, poet witnesses the presence of nature in human life. There is inspiring and powerful philosophical vein prevalent in the nature poems of Robert Frost. This research paper primarily aims at exploration of beauty of nature and its grandeur in the poems of Robert Frost.

Key Words: *Humanity, Man and Nature Relationship, Happiness, Beauty and Ecocriticism*

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Robert Frost is a prominent American poet who depicts the beauty of the nature which attracts man so immensely that he falls in love with nature. He doesn't want to leave the company of nature but at the same time, he realizes that he has certain responsibilities to carry and so with heavy heart he takes leave from the wood. There is depiction of nature as a source of purest happiness to all the people. Robert Frost's world famous poem entitled "Stopping by Wood on a Snowy Evening" published in 1923 in his volume 'New Hampshire' presents nature in eye-catching manner. It is one of the best celebrated poems by Robert Frost which beautifully portrays the astonishing facets of nature. He poignantly describes the beauty of one fine snowy evening in woods attracts the traveller towards it and he forgets his loads of material life and appreciates the nature. He observes many things from the nature like wood, lake and horse. He feels happy and spontaneously expresses his feelings. The mesmerising nature makes him to remember the owner of the woods who lives in a village which highlights the harsh reality that how the development and materialism bring the gap between the relationship of human and nature. The poet as lover of nature considers himself to be lucky and experiences the beauty of snowfall in the forest. He doesn't think much about owner, because he is too busy in admiring the beauty of woods. Robert Frost gives human qualities to horse as it shakes its bells to asks the rider is it a correct place to stop. He traces the human's attachment with nature and its other elements. The

poet depicts about the power of the nature which freezes the whole lake. He feels depressed with the thought of further journey due to which he is unable to spend more time in company of woods. In this context, Frost demonstrates people have deep desire to be in contact with the nature but he has to fulfil certain responsibilities in limited span of time. Robert Frost has deepest understanding of the nature and he knows the importance of it in human life. His monument and inspiring nature lyric "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" beautifully represents human's conscious for his development, responsibilities and duties. He also clarifies that when man comes across with the nature which leads to forget him materialistic life and makes him more eco-centric rather than ego-centric.

Robert Frost very beautifully uses multiple natural symbols in the poem. He delineates that the speaker wants to sleep because he is too tired from his journey. Frost symbolizes the daily duties of life made him tired and he is suppressed between his responsibility and pleasure. The poet is appreciating the enchanting beauty of nature in the form of snowfall in the forest at a lonely place. The entire forest is covered by snow and there is an atmosphere of terrible chill and there is innate will in the mind of the poet to spend more time and be in solitude.

The poet describes lovely woods. He uses woods as a symbol of mystery and danger but still calls it amazing as this deepness and darkness makes the wood very attractive. He laments his duties restricting him to see the mystery of the nature. He shares his spontaneous feelings to his horse and says as: "My little horse must think it queer." (Stopping by Woods 5) In the reality animal do not think but the poet personifies the horse by giving it human qualities. He knows the reality of horse but still he communicating with him because knowingly or unknowingly the bond between nature and human is strengthened and it is impossible to separate the two. Therefore, Robert Frost has communicated supremacy of nature and its grandeur through his remarkable and memorable nature lyric.

Robert Frost's "After Apple Picking" published in 1914 provides light upon the relationship between nature and man. In this poem, the poet voices a person who is tired from his job as apple picking and he cannot overcome his tiredness, but still admires the beauty of nature and apples. He vividly describes the speaker finds his job tedious and he feels too sleep. But he knows that in his deepest sleep as well he will think about his job of apple picking. In the beginning of the poem, the poet combines natural and spiritual world. He conveys the manner in which ladder and tree help with heaven through nature. The poet points out that the speaker is too exhausted with his job of apple picking and he tries to escape the mundane life through death. He highlights his concerns regarding the remaining apples to be picked.

The poet symbolises the Garden of Eden and Eve with the apples. He pinpoints the presence of God in human life through the nature. He represents that God has created Eden Garden or nature which makes us realise the presence of God in our life. He also articulates the apple picker in past enjoys success and now he desires to end his life. He skilfully relates apple with speaker's success in life. He indicates that the speaker desires to end his life when he miserable remarks as: 'But I am done with apple picking now' (Apple Picking 5). He equates the apple picking and the speaker's life. He mentions that the speaker's whole existence, success and even death is related with apple. In other words, he highlights bond between human existences with nature.

Robert Frost prominent nature poet intertwines sleep, death and nature when asks woodchuck's help to know about his death. The speaker says, "The woodchuck could say whether it's like his long sleep, as I describe its coming on, or just some human sleep." (Apple Picking 16). The poet depends on woodchuck's verdict about his death. Here, the poet presents the power of the nature where human is depended on nature to know about his life and death. He explains the thin line between the sleep and death with the reference of woodchuck which represents hibernation. The poet glorifies nature through apples and apple picking. He tells amazing thing is to pick the apples but at the same time it is difficult too as it has its own threats and challenges.

In the poem, "Birches" Robert Frost focuses on balancing the materialistic and natural world. He observes the birches

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Tree and remembers his childhood which he has spent in the company of nature. He tells how as a lad he used to climb and swing down on the birches. He feels nostalgic in the present time and recalls his past when he innocently enjoys the company of nature. His nostalgia symbolises how he has gone away from the nature due to his duties and materialistic needs. He accepts the loss of connectivity with the nature. Hence, his life turns metallic as he fails to enjoy the plain life in company of nature. The poet gives the fact which is relevant in today's postmodern era where still we ignore the importance of nature in order to focus on the worldly pleasures. Frost published this poem in 1916 during the First World War with the title, "Swinging on Birches". He attempts to sooth the sufferers and victims as he believes that through the company of nature only the burden of the sufferings can be replaced with peace. The poet engrosses in appreciating the nature so much that he does not breaks the poem in stanzas or he does not care about the rhyming words or schemes. He minutely observes the birch tree. He notices the movement and sound coming through the birches. Frost admires birch tree so much that he confesses in Fifty Poets: An American Auto Anthology that he will select birch tree when the Great Flood will occur. In the beginning of the poem, the poet observes the birch tree is not straight. He tells the bend branches make him remember his childhood when he used to swing on them but soon he conforms that the bending of branches is an impact of ice storm. The poet narrates the crystal ice shines on the branches of the birch trees. He calls overall effect of the ice in the scored birch-bark as enamel in cracked glaze pottery. He mentions how the sun melts the ice while he compares with "inner dome of heaven had fallen". He also compares it as: "Heaps of broken glass to sweep away" (Birches 12). He relates the bending of the birches' branches with problems of life which bend and crush the humans.

The poet confesses the manner in which our imagination we also find the solace to be in contact with the nature as the boy gets solace and peace in the company of birch tree when all his companions go away from him. The lad swings the birches and finds the time for inspiration and enjoyment related with nature. In this situation, the poet communicates about the realities of life but at the same time, he highlights the place where one can get the peace in busy, mundane and materialistic life.

Conclusion:

Robert Frost has magnificently reflected the relationship between man and nature and strongly emphasized that nature is ultimate source of bliss in life. He presents the nature as a place where a human can get the peace and pure happiness. He appeals the people to remain in contact with the nature to save themselves from the stressful and materialistic life. Robert Frost is cherished for his famous lines in the entire universe and it has become infinite source of strength. The often quoted lines are as: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep." (Woods on a Snowy Evening 13). In this way, an attempt has been made to explore various facets and grandeur of nature depicted in the poems of Robert Frost.

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