



An Eco critical Concerns in *The Living Mountain* by Amitav Ghosh

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Abstract

Amitav Ghosh's *The Living Mountain* explores the intricate relationship between humans and the environment, particularly in the Himalayas. This eco-critical analysis unravels ecological concerns in Ghosh's narrative, emphasizing the interplay between nature and human existence. Examining Ghosh's literary techniques, the research highlights how the novel serves as a tool for ecological consciousness, using character interactions, natural landscapes, and indigenous knowledge. The analysis explores implications of Ghosh's choices, including the portrayal of local communities, climate change impact, and the symbiotic relationship between humanity and nature. Through this lens, the paper sheds light on eco-critical concerns, contributing to contemporary environmental discourse and emphasizing the need for collective commitment to sustainability and harmonious coexistence.

Amitav Ghosh is renowned Indian writer who focused to introduce new prospect in his works. He writes some works which helps to reform contradictory standard of people for nature. He is well known writer in the literary world who was born on 11 July 1956 in Kolkata. He got his Graduate and Post Graduate degree from University of Delhi further went to oxford to received Ph.D degree. His marvelous skill of approaching the contents makes him win many prestigious awards like 54th Jnanpith award in 2018, The Grand Prix of The Blue Metropolis festival in Montreal, Padma Shri in 2007, Sahitya Akademi for *The Shadow Line*, Ananda Puraskar, Dan David prize. He awarded with long list of literary awards which makes a firm place for him in literary world. He mostly concentrated the subjugation of living being. His works elaborate the suppression by human on human as well as on nature. Nature has become big challenge for mankind in twenty first century and irony of the situation is that the human beings are themselves responsible for it.

Nature is the store house of precious treasure but greedy human tendency exploited nature at high level. It has

become globalize problem which people avoiding to accept. The author explores the depth of problem through his writing. His works are based on environmental concerns like *Gun Island*, *The Nutmug Island* and *The Living Mountain*. His continuous efforts highlight the issues of Anthropocene which signifies the influence of environment and the damages caused by human beings. Human being proceeded to damage environment in matter of beautification of nature. The cemented city decorated with some pot's greenery. Thus, People shredded off their responsibilities to take care of environment. The continuous exploitation of nature leads earth to face the problems of climate change. Many scientists and researchers warned against the environmental damage, but human being continued to development on infrastructure. The quality of natural resources has decreased day by day. Farmer needed more chemical fertilizers to grow crops which reduced its nutrients and taste and adversely affected human immune system. Anthropocene became the serious issues of living kind.

Amitav Ghosh brilliantly explicates the serious issue of environmental degradation in his work *The Living*

Mountain. The world is facing the problem of ecological disturbance and need to aware about it to the world. He was born on 11 July 1956 in Kolkata. He completed his Graduation and Post-Graduation degree from University of Delhi further went to Oxford to receive his Ph.D. degree. He continues his efforts to bring awareness for environment. Environment needs protection from human exploitation. This research depicts the love and care for nature by valley people who follow their ancient rituals to preserve natural treasure. The text explores other side of urban people those project as cruel and destroyer of nature. The urban people project themselves as modern intellectual person and others should follow their instruction. The writer brings twist in the climax and highlights the important of ancient philosophy. The rituals and traditions are considered as foolish whereas in reality it has great sense to maintain the cordial balance between human and nature. The healthy ecosystem proved the worth of ritual and traditions. Exactly same happens at the end of book where urban people accept the supremacy of valley people's knowledge. The writer has tried to impose the importance of nature in modern living atmosphere where air becomes poisonous day by day. The world face pandemic due to our ignorance.

Amitav Ghosh targets climate change in his latest work *The Living Mountain* which is great example of anthropocene's impact on earth. This work has wonderfully example to explicit the power of nature. Human being loves their intelligence power and some of them desire to hold each and everything in their hand. This work depicts the struggle between human and nature power. Both, sources works differently, nature wants to serve living beings whereas some human intends to use nature for their own benefits. The writer uses "Anthropocene" concept in his work "*The Living Mountain*". He introduces contemporary reality of relationship in the book. He has online friends for discussing new things to explore. This is a new trend of acquiring knowledge which provides various prospects to focus on serious issues. Anthropocene considered as new concept to study. The writer's friend had dreamt regarding Anthropocene and harness of the human mind which she kept to discuss with him. Author's friend Maansi dreamt about the beauty of mountain valley. Mountain valley enriched with the treasure of nature which makes this place heaven the earth. Valley people lived in valley and gave immense respect to environment. They acquired some knowledge about the mountain which respecting, loving and worshipping it. They had not kept their knowledge themselves therefore they spread the knowledge to coming generation. They called the "Mahapharbat" to their beloved

mountain for which they sing and dance. Their life moved around their "Mahapharbat" because this mountain has given them precious tree, honey, herbs, mushroom, flowers, nuts etc. Valley people barter their Mahapharbat's treasures to other and take require items from urban merchants. The mountain's treasure became pleasure for valley people till outsider had not sunk into greed for that treasure. Urban merchant showed his keen interest to valley treasure and try to acquire all knowledge about the mountain valley. Urban merchant's interest created uneasiness among the valley people. Urban merchants make realize to Valley people as dumb who praised the nature as God. Valley people gave respect to nature as God. They worshipped the mountain to whom they meant as Mahapharbat. The communication level developed between tribal and Mahapharbat during the process of worshipped. They danced and their feet's rhythm received some special signal from Mahapharbat. They decode the signal from Mahapharbat and believe on the message which they understand. These signals mainly alert them from coming all positive and negative circumstances. The predictions help them to prepare mentally to handle for coming state of affairs. Exactly same happen once, Mahapharbat alert them for coming disaster. "a cycle of time has ended," they said, "and another one has begun: the cycle of tribulation. Strangers are coming from afar, a hord of them, armed with terrible weapons." (Ghosh 13) The love and harmony merged so much in their life that helped them to live happily. The author projected his ecological concern through his work. He displayed the nature also showered its love back to them. People live on mountain and enjoy nature's treasure.

The entry of so called modern men ruined the beauty of natural valley. Firstly, anthropoid threatened to surrender or they would enslave them, therefore, it would be better for them to co-operate with anthropoid. Their modern weapons created scariness and made them surrender due to lack of confidence. They were forced to do the things against their will, ethics and rituals. Valley people stayed away from mountain but anthropoid forced them to climb on Mahapharbat to collect the treasure from it. The Mahapharbat's treasure could make anthropoid wealthy. Valley people hesitated to climb but anthropoids pressurized them to climb on the Mahapharbat. As result of this climbing, a disaster faced by the valley people which they were apprehending. Be hazaredous mountaineers have stuck into life and death situation. This horrified scene make anthropoid realize the truth behind valley people's belief. Anthropoid people soon realize their mistake and fail to find any way out from this difficult situation. This Mahapharbat

was unknown place for them and the valley people only save the savior. Anthropoids left no choice except joining hands with valley people. They declared, “we joined hands and embraced: no longer were we anthropoid and varvaroi-we were one. (Ghosh,33) The situation became worst for all but somehow some of them managed to escape themselves from disaster. They lost some mountaineers during this journey on Mahaparbhat and saw death in front of them. This horrified incident changed their perception towards life. Their feeling of superiority vanished away and increased their acceptance level for world. They returned as changed human beings from Mahaparbhat as changed human being. They said, “you were right! The mountain is alive! We can feel its heartbeat under our feet. This means we must look after the poor, dear mountain; we must tend to it, we must care for it”. (Ghosh, 35)

The elder woman cried on this catastrophe. She reminded their rudeness toward them and their Mahaparbhat. “how dare you speak of the mountain as though you were its masters, and it were your plaything, your child? Have you understood nothing of what it has been trying to teach you? Nothing at all? (Ghosh, 35) The writer has presented as valley people presented as talented people who proved their superior intellect. The author reflects the power of nature as supreme power which nourishes the world.

It can be concluded that Amitav Ghosh has demolished the modern belief of the colonizers and established the faith in ancient idea of the valley people. In “*The Living Mountain : A Fable for Our Times*”, the writer has displayed two contrast things. The first picture reflects human and nature’s immense love for each other and the second picture displayed the selfish interest in other human beings who wanted to control the power of nature for their own sake and profits. The book displayed the war between love and hatred for nature and eventually victory comes in favour of nature’s loving people. The author presents this victory as victory of abundance of knowledge, love, patience, respect, etc towards the nature.

This work introduces the issue of anthropocene which projects the conflict of thoughts. This modern era has swung between the ancient philosophy and modern ideology. People require to understand the worth of nature. Modern society remains ignorant towards the issues of nature. Their actions leads to ruin the nature and causes great harm for our planet. Nature’s damage is not just limited to self but it has far reaching consequences on our life in general. In contemporary society people struggle hard to maintain a healthy lifestyle but unfortunately, it negative impact reflected on their health. Nature gifted us its treasure but

human failed to use it in proper manner. Thus environment’s harsh side has to be face by every living being. The environmental disasters occur due to anthropocene which Amitav Ghosh highlights in his work *The Living Mountain*. This work focuses on human mentality which denies acceptance of the supremacy of environment. Modern People exploit nature as result they have to face deadly virus and viral diseases. The whole world faced the pandemic to understand the importance of environment protection. Men as reached an alarming situation where it has become essentials for all human being to save living planet. It needs to follow ancient ritual regarding nature to protect earth. This work highlights the importance of ancient knowledge which is completely ignored in the name of modernity. The writer tries to convince the readers to develop close bond with nature and to follow age old tradition of considering God in nature.

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