

Uncovering the Struggling Inner Voice of Green Beings Through The Novel “The Overstory” By Richard Powers

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Abstract

*Nature and literature are interwoven. Without natural world, the beauty of words cannot be celebrated. So far in literature the exquisiteness of nature is being taken into deliberation. Trees play a crucial role in our planet but they are taken for granted by humans for their sophisticated life. It is easy to plant tree saplings but it is very difficult to protect a tree. Trees play an important role for human survival. Still people are not concerned to protect or conserve forest because they are connected with machines than with nature. Every individuals run behind the technical advancement that they will protest in virtual media to safeguard nature but not in reality. Trees do communicate but human fails to understand. This study unfurls the dark destroying side of nature through the Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Overstory* by Robert Powers.*

The deforestation causes the environmental and climatic changes which create conflict such as poverty, political instability and social tensions. The fluctuation in nature will definitely reflect in the world. This study helps the individual to know their bonding with the nature.

Climate change however has become a global issue and diversified studies have been carried out in several sectors. In literature ecocriticism is much prevalent and discussed widely. Ecocriticism is the study of literature and the environment from an interdisciplinary point of view, where literature scholars analyze texts that illustrate environmental concerns and examine the various ways literature treats the subject of nature. The term “ecocriticism” was coined by William Rueckert in a 1978 article which called for the formulation of “an ecological poetics”

Climatic fiction is abbreviated as Cli-fi it is the piece of literature that deals with the climate change and global warming. It was initially coined by journalist Dan Bloom.

Eco-anxiety

Eco-anxiety is anxiety about ecological disaster and threats to the natural environment such as pollution and climate change. Variations to the definition exist such as the border description explaining it as the worry or agitation caused by concerns about the present and future state of the environment. Eco-anxiety is a pre-traumatic stress disorder a term coined by Lisa Van Susteren a psychiatrist who specializes in the psychological effects of climate change. In response to eco anxiety eco psychology is an emerging field of psychology.

Eco anxiety is very transparent in this novel *The Overstory* through the nine different characters and their effort to protect remaining acre of virgin forest. They come from different background but they fight for the common cause to conserve forest. All the main characters of this novel have the urge to protect the nature especially the trees. Every person of this novel has a relationship with trees by one way or the other. They are much connected with trees and consider like a living human beings with all the emotions and given equal importance. Because of human made disasters trees, animals and other living organisms suffers lot. These green beings and other living creatures are helpless and voiceless but humans are busy in safeguarding themselves for their sophisticated life. There are people who sacrifice their life to safeguard trees considering and valuing them. This novel is kind of that group of people giving voice for the voiceless to protect trees from disaster.

This story has four different segments like roots, trunk, crown and seeds which help to explain the story. This story helps us to travels with the trees and come up some interesting facts about them. A tree is a passage between earth and sky. Trees are our ancestor not only for human beings but also all the living creatures have a unique relationship with trees.

Crisis or Development

Gift in green by Sarah Joseph, it's a story of Aathi, name of a village encircled with trees, wild livings and human beings they all live with a harmony. Suddenly entry of an industry in the name of progression but what is development especially when it disrespects ecological balance. This novel raises several questions like where we are heading in the name of advancement. Development is a positive mask for Destruction. These both D's have a very thin difference. The common population should be honest and accept the reality of nature and should try to nurture it. Anything is considered only when it reaches the edge of extinction with reference to the climate crisis. It affects the physical and mental health, food habit of all living beings. Environmentalist defines this crisis in a less sensitive way so that it is not affecting people. Everyone should accept the reality and act accordingly to conserve nature. More than 11,000 scientists from 153 countries have clearly and unequivocally declared a climate emergency that could bring untold suffering unless there are significant transformations in the way humans live. There will be scarcity for water and fresh air which is all the basic things for the survival of any living beings. Soon everyone is going to witness the boiling earth which is the true reality so everyone should realize their duty to conserve mother earth. It is our own responsibility so blaming one another will not bring any solution. Better late than never so still nature can be treated and take cared. It is all in hands of human beings to make our mother planet a better place.

Selfish Justification (Truth Often Lies)

Every individual have their own justification to address their sophistication by not taking much care of nature. They have a justifying word that climate always changes. Human nature is to blame others to satisfy their self. They deny the need for conservation and they charge government for not taking action. Everyone knows about the cause but still acts that they don't know about the global climate change. Human beings think about their family and not caring about the nature. People are

ready to protest and give voice in virtual media but they never take any measure to conserve nature. There are millions of populations but hardly few percentage people are fighting for their mother earth. Greta Tunberg from Sweden a climate activist and Lincypriya Kangujam , world's youngest climate activist from India. Rarely few people witness the suffering of nature and they turn to be a climate activist.

Changes can be made if steps taken to protect nature without any compromise like conserving water, saving wild animals, reducing the usage of carbon footprints, using eco friendly products. By the massive effort to protect nature can provide a safer and cleaner environment for future generations. Selfless generation should be created to safeguard our mother earth.

Awareness should be given regarding the eco friendly living and its significance to the environment. People should feel the importance of our earth because there is no alternate planet. The most important is we are heading towards a culture of toxicity.

Man is invariably connected with the nature in one way or the other from birth till death. In bible there is saying that man is created from mud it is scientifically and religiously proven. Phrase from Bible , "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life ..." [Genesis 2:7]. Human body has the elements of mud particles, so the phrase from dust to dust that can be seen evidently. So one should never forget where he belongs. Every person should respect the insects, animals and trees because they all are very important to maintain the ecological balance. Hence this paper justifies that human alone cannot cherish the earth and it needs all the living organisms. It is our individual responsibility to protect the place where we live in and to give the opportunity for our future generation to explore the mother earth.

Conclusion

Conclusion is very simple if we love the nature. Reducing sophistication can create an appreciable change in environment. Using bicycle than motor cycle, taking public transport, refusing plastics and accepting cotton or biodegradable. Say yes for eco friendly development. The story of stuff by Annie Leonard, is a true picture depicting the current health of the environment. If anything is not in a cycle, then it is not sustainable. This book starts from extraction and ends at disposal. It is our individual responsibility to reuse and recycle the maximum. The author is using the stuff that already used to reduce the production. This book is a good start which makes us to think twice before getting anything. Recycling is one of the major factors to reduce pollution. Concerning the natural world and respecting its source is a way for creating better world. Before getting any stuff we need to rethink and after getting it we need to reuse it effectively. Trees are the basic raw materials for many products that should be replaced. Trees are much needed for our survival and they must be guarded. We all need to follow the ethnic group's way of living that has cultural heritage and traditions. They have a self sustainable lifestyle with less pollution. More importantly they respect nature more than their life. The world shows its pain in the form of natural disaster. It is our responsibility to uncover the struggle of nature and give voice for them as well as for the future generation.

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