

A Study of the Supernatural Elements in the Short Stories of Ruskin Bond

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Abstract

The paper intends to demonstrate the mystical and supernatural elements in the short stories of Ruskin Bond. In today's time the scientific discoveries and technological innovations are making people very much updated and it's difficult to determine whether they will believe the paranormal activities and supernatural elements which results in some scary, horror feelings and sensation.

But, Ruskin Bond with his prolific writings has succeeded to create some kind of mysterious, eerie and haunted atmosphere. Selected stories of Ruskin Bond are replete with elements of terror, presenting the horrifying sensation successfully.

The descriptions of trees like Oak, Pine, Cedar and the mysterious woods with frightening environment picturises an ambience of terror very beautifully. By giving a realistic touch to the description Bond can transport oneself into an imaginary world where the supernatural elements have a great influence on human life.

Keywords : Supernatural elements, horror sensation, mysterious, eerie elements, creepy and horrifying sensation.

The Willing Suspension Of Disbelief

The traditional concept of the suspension of disbelief as proposed by Coleridge is actually the suspension of disbelief in the supernatural. This theory demonstrates that suspension of disbelief is an essential ingredient for any kind of story telling.

Ruskin Bond in his stories secures the readers' willing suspension of disbelief in the shadows of imagination (i.e. the supernatural) by evoking an atmosphere of mystery and terror. He describes the simple objects of nature in such a manner that they are transformed into some supernatural phenomenon.

In "A face in the Dark" Bond makes the supernatural appear entirely natural and therefore it's hard to ignore. The book opens with the unforgettable story "A Face in the Dark" which is set in a dark pine forest outside Shimla. Bond has taken simple natural objects like pine trees but the way he narrates the sad, eerie sounds of its leaves, that really creates mystery and terror into the mind of the readers.

Bond creates an atmosphere which is menacing. Thunder, lightning, whispering sounds and moreover figures seen by candlelight – all of these produce a story with supernatural elements. The way Bond represents his imagination is really terrific –

"One by one the clocks of the town struck midnight, when the sounds died away the deep silence of windless night fell again over everything...."

Use of Simple and Lucid Language

According to William Wordsworth, "a poet is a man speaking to men". Basically, there should not be any difference among the poets and common men. So, the use of simple, lucid

and common language is permanent as well as philosophical. Ruskin Bond is immensely popular for his simple style of writing. His writing reflects his heart and soul. Instead of using decorated and figurative language, he preaches men to love each and every aspect of nature and natural beauty. The way he presents the existence of ghosts by using simple plots and lucid language is admirable.

Mysticism

Mysticism is another outstanding part of Bond's writing. Some of his stories like "The Monkeys", "A Face in the Night", "The Man who was Kiping" brilliantly contain mysticism.

In "A Face in the Night" Mr. Oliver, the central character, was returning late one night while carrying a torch. There he met a boy who had no eyes, ears, nose or mouth. The torch fell from his trembling hand. He turned and scrambled down the path. While running he saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the path. It was the night watchman. Mr. Oliver shared the horrible incident with the watchman and the watchman replied, "Do you mean it is like this Sahib?" And he raised the lamp to his own face. The watchman had no eyes, no ears and no features at all, not even eyebrows. The wind blew the lamp out and Mr. Oliver had a heart attack. Thus, Bond talks about some unbelievable and supernatural phenomenon of people.

Conclusion

Ruskin Bond is well aware of human psychology. He creates the magic of mystical and supernatural elements in his stories. Though in this age of science it's difficult to believe in ghosts but it can't be denied that they exist in the psychology of each society of the East or in the modern West. Supernatural and mystical elements can be found in every literature.

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