

## **EMILY DICKINSON AS A NATURE POET**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The twentieth century English poetry is celebrated for uniqueness of thought and expression. The brilliant themes of modern platform attribute Emily Dickinson to be the greatest poet of twentieth century. The present paper presents Emily Dickinson's reverence for nature. Nature seemed to her a more obvious and more beautiful evidence of divine will, than creeds and churches. Her nature poems are often of extraordinary delicacy; they give us with deft brevity, the exact in terms of the quaint.

**Keywords :** Emily Dickinson, Nature, Tendencies, Seclusion, Tranquility

### HER SENTIMENTAL ATTITUDE TO NATURE:

Emily Dickinson, the popularly known poet of seclusion and solitariness, is talking about love and death and time and eternity in her poems. Irritated with the human society, Dickinson found refuge in nature. The lap of nature also supplied to Dickinson the thought of love.

Emily Dickinson is a poet of nature not in the traditional sense of the term. She lived in a life of secrecy and self chosen confinement. Human society was never a matter of interest to her.

Rather she found solace and comfort in the lap of nature. Thus Dickinson is a poet with difference and the study of Dickinson as a poet of nature is matter of scholarly interest for years after years.

By the year 1860, when Emily Dickinson began he poetic career, Nature as a subject for poetry had almost been exhausted. Almost every conceivable approach to nature had already been made. Nature as a divine analogy, as an escape from the evils of civilization, as a healer, as a moral teacher, as a garment veiling the spirit behind \_\_\_ all these aspects of nature had been dealt with by writers. During the decade 1850- 1860 the cult of sentimentalism with regard to nature had swell away.

Some of the romantics, notably Wordsworth had already tuned to the homely aspects of the natural scene, but it was either to find God in natural objects or to preach the democracy of all created things. Dickinson found both these philosophies alien. She sought new approaches.

Miss Dickinson turned her attention from the conventionally treated creatures in nature to the odd and neglected ones. She made some of her best guesses at nature's secrets by analyzing Nature's eccentrics.

Miss Dickinson did not pretend to read ultimate meanings in nature. For her, nature was an endless carnival of entertainment. It was also a source of metaphor to illustrate the truths of

her interior world, the one she created and the only one she could understand. So, from the supposed tangibles of the external world she turned to the intangibles of the spirit.

### DICKINSON'S APPROACH TO NATURE :

Roughly two types of tendencies can be traced among the nature poets. Either the poets being tired of the city life found solace in nature or they started feeling oneness with nature. The former depicts escapism while the latter mysticism. Dickinson's absorption in the world of feeling found some relief in associations with nature. The spectacle of nature has in her eyes a more fugitive glory, a lesser consolation that it had for Wordsworth.

Emily Dickinson is often called the American Romantic. True to this popular movement's basic concept, Dickinson's poems are real recollections of tranquility. Nature, the world of harmony did not give birth to any philosophy in the poet's mind. There was no systematic philosophy that Emily had developed about nature like Wordsworth's pantheism. Emily contrasts the world of nature with that of man.

To quote a major Dickinson's critic Polly Longworth , ".....Nature provided her key to the secrets of life, and in its annual revolution she recognized the age old pattern of birth, death and rebirth".

Nature was the medium of releasing her tension and anxiety also. Her closed door life got expressed through the violent over reaction towards natural phenomenon.

Dickinson's keen observation and close associations with nature provided her the chance to present the neglected and grotesque aspects of nature. The rat, the mushroom, the fly, the bat, the snake, the frog, the stones, all are enlivened before us through Emily's Poems. The Romantics avoided these aspects, the moralists ignored; but Emily Dickinson found in them the true representation of nature.

Emily Dickinson refused to employ nature as a guide for moral behavior. John B. Pickard observes : “ Emily Dickinson's refusal to employ nature as a guide for moral behavior.....highlights the difference between her and other writers of her nature poetry in nineteenth century America”.

In her earlier poems Dickinson found nature 'a mother' and then she found nature 'mocking at man' but finally discovers a mysterious link between man and nature. In Dickinson's nature poetry we are transported to a separated world that is not only of 'flora and fauna'. It is a world of her own. Nature became the link between herself and the external world. Her life's journey is from the world of innocence to that of experience and so does her understanding of nature.

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