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Ecofeminism in Alice Walker's Poem: Going Out to The Garden

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Ecofeminism is a twin concept which links ecology and feminism which is being a forceful approach in environmental that deserves considerable attention to modern environmentalists. The prominent idea running through the thoughts of all activists of eco feminism is the linkage between the denigration of nature and the oppression of women. This is the basic argument of ecofeminism to which all ecofeminists assign. This basic argument rises from the idea that there is a link between the oppression of women and the oppression of nature. It is a worldview in which domination is seen to be a key axis of organization, the enactment of which is explicitly embodied within the organizing principles of Western culture. Ecofeminism teaches us the human-centered presuppositions which are based on dualism or hierarchies which lead most of us to ignore completely the inherent value of the non-human natural world.

Alice Walker writes through various personal experiences. Although most critics have labelled her writings as feminist and sexist, Walker describes herself as a "Womanist". She defines this as "a women who loves other women". Her work appreciates and prefers women culture, women's emotional flexibility and women's strength. She writes about black women's struggles for spiritual, Wholeness and sexual, political, and racial equality. She writes free verse, employing concrete images. She resorts few of the conceits, the extended metaphors, the Latinate language, and other common conventions of poetry. Poetry readers frequently say that her verses hardly seem like poetry at all rather they resemble the conversation of a highly articulate, observant woman. Although her poetry often seems like prose and her fiction is highly poetic. Also Walker uses simple language in her poems. Boundaries between prose and poetry are minimal in the work of Walker. Walker's poetry is personal and generally didactic, generated by events in her life, causes she has advocated, and injustices over which she has agonized. The reader feels that it is the message that counts, before realizing that the medium is part of the message. Several of her poems echo traumatic events in her own life, such as her abortion. She remembers the words her mother uttered over the casket of her father, and she makes a poem of them. Other poems recall ambivalent emotions of childhood: Sunday school lessons which, even then, were filled with discrepancies. Some poems deal with the creative process itself: She calls herself a medium through whom the Old Ones, formerly mute, find their voice at last.

In this paper, Alice Walker has been portrayed as an ecofeminist in her poem "Going Out to The Garden". This poem starts with the morning routine of a woman going to the garden to plant seeds for preserving the greens for winter season. The scene is an authentication of woman always affiliate her activities based on the natural changes in the environmental planting greens for the future uses because winter needs lot of preparations. She plants mustard and tulip: when she is in the garden; she saw a Gecko. 'Gecko' it is a nocturnal and after highly vocal lizard which has adhesive pads on the feet to assist in climbing on smooth surfaces. It is widespread in warm regions and the species which are often found in warm places. The moment it tries to escape from the heat in the garden, the Gecko species and human undergo the same amount of hot temperature in the environment.

Going out to the garden this morning to plant seeds for my winter greens -the strong, fiery mustard & the milder broadleaf turnip- I saw a gecko who like the rest of us has been reeling from the heat. (1-13)

The women standing in the garden knows about the Gecko species like heat but the heat in the past two days made them to feel relax in cool temperature. The spray of water on the skin made it relax from the heat. There are cervices for them to hide in the garden wall because they are made up of stones. The lizard is waiting for the woman in the garden to pour some water on it. The lizard received a few drops of water to quench itself. The woman in the garden starts thinking about the environmental deterioration around the world. The happiness is making them cool and it is not a permanent solution given by the garden women but the lizard will not get the privilege of relaxation in this world. The environmental ecological concern is explicitly concept. The Eco-feminist perspective of this poem is clearly presented by the poet. The woman and the environment stand opposition to each other. The environmental issues like Global Warming, Deforestation, Greenhouse Gas Effects and Pollution are continuously haunting the human beings. The repairing process started after the saturated level of issues polluting the environment for the economic benefits. Anthropocentric approach on nature is not only using the resources for the welfare of humans rather it needs compassion, responsible attitude towards Nature to live healthy life: Geckos like heat- I know this- but the heat- these last few days- has been excessive- for us- & for them. (14-20)

The poem is simple to understand the situation is poetically explains the ecological imbalance due to Global warming. The readers reading the poem would understand the facts that many species in the world are listed in the United Nations as endangered, extinct, Red list, vulnerable list. The animals, birds, mammals, Insects are different kind of species helps in the ecological co-ordination to live a balanced life for instance, Vultures, the birds help greatly in the decompositions are

process affected by neck drop syndrome. Vulture dies due to the consumption of bodies which in connection consumes 'diclofenac' the medicine acts as pain killer. If vulture's death increases it affects the "decomposition" process.

The poem "Going out to the Garden" conveys the picture sense of above facts. The momentary happiness of sprinkling the cooling spray is poetically explained. To the simplest form, the deepest information is conveyed. The garden of the woman is deeply regretting the current status of species. She repents about the species in the earth which could not bear the excessive amount of heat than certain level. Eco-feminism is connecting the spirit of nature and woman in the labyrinth of earth. If there is disturbance in the environment, it would make the woman unhappy. The poem "Going out to garden" has an elevation of woman as goddess in saving nature.

I bathed it- until we were both- washed clean- of the troubles- of this world- at least for this moment:- this moment of pleasure- of gecko- joy- as I with so much happiness- played Goddess- to Gecko. (52-64)

The poetic lines in the poem convey that the woman in the garden is happy to be the goddess in helping out the lizard. The pride and Joy are serving nature is different from being materialistic. Conscious woman on environment is needed large in numbers because the damage control and further repair needs such people. The menial level of change in Gecko touches the warming of earth. The pollution and climatic changes are the offering the species of the world. Posterity will prosper only when environmental changes are noticed and set right.

Ecofeminism is a movement that has a connection between degradation and exploitation of the resources bestowed by Mother Nature, but then the Paper has shown the readers that this idea cannot be the only concern of ecofeminism indeed. The poet Alice Walker presented is a proof that ecofeminism can be a path towards her liberation and identification of woman as well. Most importantly the Paper has tried to view the American poet Alice Walker from a unique point of view. The poet dealt is predominantly associated with sober and grave themes. However when looked at from a deep and thoughtful view point, it is possible to bring out an ecofeminist approach in her poem.

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