

Changes Towards an Upkeep of Water an Ecological Study of Robert Frost's "Going for Water"

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ABSTRACT

This poem "Going for Water" by Robert Frost was written as an apology to his wife to remind her of a moment they shared as children. The poem describes brook named 'Haya' rock that was found near Frost's home and was first published in *A Boy's Well* in 1913. This poem recites an adventurous journey of a few children who travel across field to fetch water from a brook. This paper entitled Changes towards an Upkeep of Water an Ecological Study of Robert Frost's "Going for Water" attempts to evaluate the implication of water and a vigorous environment for the future generation. Besides eco criticism, it also insists the indifferent nature of individuals that lead to water scarcity, poverty, hunger then educational and health disputes and mainly to depraved ecosystem. It also illustrates environmental concerns and the subject of nature towards the extinction of water aridity.

Key Words: Water, Environment, Scarcity, Atmosphere, Biosphere, Drought, Conservation, Aridity, Poverty, Ecology.

Every individual depends on water for livelihood. Despite water being an existential requisite for humans, it is also one of the most prioritized solitary over the abused commodity. Conservation of water is important because it keeps water pure and clean while protecting the environment. Most of the planet is covered with water. Presently fresh and clean water is a limited resource because of the disdain of conserving water, occurrences such as drought and contaminated water increases in the earth. One cannot survive in this world without water. Water scarcity may be caused by climate change or by the increased human consumption of water and mainly because of the pollution caused in the environment.

“Going for Water” recounts an adventurous journey of a few children who travel across field to fetch water from a brook. Since the well beside their house is dry, the children take buckets and go out in search of a brook. They run as if they want to catch the moon that slowly rises behind the trees. They are filled with excitement and joy as they roam through the forest and hear the rippling of the brook.

As this poem roam around the theme of water scarcity, the children are going out with a pail to fetch water out from their house. This poem brings an irony in the line “The well was dry beside the door / And so we went with pail and can” (GFW 1-2) labels the scarcity not only in the poet’s house but also the scarcity all over the world. The lack of moisture over the world causes many sufferings not only to the human existences but also to the animals which prevails much death. “Because the autumn eve was fair” (6) delineates that the poem centres on autumn season refers to the season of nothing reveals as there is no water in the world.

The children are roaming around the shadow of the moon to procure water with an endless hope. The lines “We ran as if to meet the moon / That slowly dawned behind the trees” (9-10) describes the meeting of the moon is impossibility. But the children are moving out with a hope of making possible even the impossible. Everyone in the world is moving

with a hope that they would get water eventually. But the indifferent nature of human makes the world muddled and creates aridity of water. In this poem, the water in the brook is compared to that of a silver blade and the drops of the water to that of the pearls. “A pearl is symbolic of innocence, purity and in some cases tears, and a silver blade with violence” (Natasha).

Eco criticism is a term used for the observation and study of the relationship between the literature and the earth’s environment. It links the preservation of nature mainly the water resources with the poem “Going for Water”. A child’s imagination is seen in the line “Like gnomes that hid us from the moon” (14). This simile adds to the fairy-tale quality to the journey they take at night. Gnomes being imaginary characters suggest that there is an element of something unreal in the journey they undertake in search of the brook” (Natasha). Robert Frost brings the effectiveness of this poem “Going for Water” in these lines:

Each laid on other a staying hand
To listen ere we dared to look,
And in the hush we joined to make
We knew, we knew we heard the brook. (17-20)

It represents togetherness and the children get united in search of water with a hope which insist the point that everyone in the country should united together to create commendable atmosphere for the future generation.

The children are the most anxious part in the scarcity of water. Many children lost their lives because of the lack of water. It will affect the entire atmosphere in the area of health, hunger, education and poverty. In many countries people are drinking contaminated water from the rippling stream which causes many deaths in the biosphere. The stagnation of water affects our health and result in number of diseases. The aridity of water affects farming and it leads to hunger.

In some countries women have to walk for several miles to get water which affect their education process. The poor people are unable to get purified water because of poverty. Water scarcity affects every continent in the world and around 2.8 billion people lost their lives. In order to save water, implementations such as every independent home must have rain water harvesting facility and waste water treatment as well as recycling for non-drinking purposes.

As an American writer best-known for his realistic depictions of rural life, Robert Frost gives the significant nature of water in his poem “Going for Water”. The concern of an individual can change the entire biosphere. Either the rise of a vigorous atmosphere as well as the rise of a cluttered atmosphere is in the hands of an individual. One can make changes in the whole environment towards the purified nation not by wasting water and by preserving the consumption of water.

Work Cited

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