
Nature in Minor Novels of Thomas Hardy

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Abstract: *Hardy combines the most observant eye for minute and humble details in ordinary landscape. There is no book of Hardy that does not abound in nature pictures, some delicately sketched, some composed of broad masses of colour, but all carefully observed by a consummate artist. But their Chief quality lies in their relation to human destinies. Nature and man are constantly engaged in expressing the same thought. Hardy shows in places a wonderful, even uncanny knowledge of the signs and symptoms of Nature. Hardy's vision of Nature dominates his scene. Nature was to him a symbol of those impersonal forces of Fate with whom he shows mankind as being in conflict.*

Keywords: *Nature, Observant, Consummate, Dominates.*

Introduction: Love for nature and the use of natural objects for different literary purposes have been common features of the English literary geniuses. The English people have generally enjoyed the natural background and the same has flowed in their writings. Hardy was the child of the wessex region and the natural surroundings of this region captivated the poetic eyes of Hardy time to time. He has projected a view of the life, gloomy and serious and discovered a definite scheme of life in the suffering of mankind. In order to project his view of life he takes help of natural surroundings of the wessex region. Sometimes nature is presented

with smiling face another time it is show
with a gloomy face, but every time it
contributes the tragedy to mankind.

Nature in Minor Novels:

“The Triumph Major” is a historical novel and a love story, set in Hardy’s favorite period of history, that of the Napalenic wars, and in the Dorest Coastal area in which daily life is interrupted by the call to arms, and love and courtship proceed under the daily threat of invasion and conquest. The central characters move on the stage and also accommodate the historical figures such as King George and Captain Hardy. The arrival of army is illustrated by Hardy as

**“On the fine summer morning,
when leaves were warm under the sun
and the more industrious bees abroad,
diving into every blue and red cup that
would possibly be considered a flower.**

The large, smooth mill pond with water,

**with its flowing leaves and spots of forth
was stealing away like Time, under the
dark arch, to tumble over the great slimy
wheel within.”**

**Anne Garland’s personality is
described as a “Simple charming young
women in whom lurked a real firmness,
unperceived at first, as the speck of
colour lurks unperceived in the heart of
the palest parsley flower.”**

The arrival of the army had its impact on Anne Garland as well as on the rustic of Dorset like the miller who was in his garden and welcomed the troops by offering them cherries which hang in clusters under their dark leaves. The entire community is affected.

**“Men in distant gardens, women
in orchards and at cottage doors,
shepherds on remote hills, turnip-hoers
in blue-green enclosures mites away.
Captains, with spy glasses out at sea,
were regarding the picture keenly.”**

Two on a Tower is a fanciful and unreal story with a strong dash of poetry. It portrays human drama and the vastness of the stellar universe. Hardy's main intension in this novel is to bring forward the insignificance of human beings in comparison to the adventures of the space. Hardy has made clear this aspect of the book in the preface of **Two on a Tower**. **"This slightly built romance was the outcome of a wish to set to emotional history of two infinitesimal lives against the stupendous background of the stellar universe and to import the readers the sentiments that of these contrasting magnitudes, the small might be the greater to them as man."**

Hardy considered man's place in the spatial universe in **Two on a Tower** **"Hardy chose the title Two on a Tower off hand and subsequently disliked it. Yet it does emphasize both the import of the tower itself, that claustrophobic**

vestibule of space, and the persistent concentration the two central characters"

Swithin pursues his astronomical activities in an old tower on her land. The topography of **Two on a Tower** is extremely, almost allegorically simply, but its few land marks have suggestive overtones. Nearly all the events of the story occur at the tower or at the Great House, from which it is visible.

The Hand of Ethelberta was written with an effort to write a social satire on the upper class. Ethelperta, a poetess of rare charms and accomplishment is the central character in this novel. She is different from Hardy's other women character-neither capricious, nor submissive, neither erotic non neurotic. Instead she is a woman of story purpose, masculine command and powerful ambition. All these traits of her character are visible when she runs to see

the conclusion of the struggle between the duck and the hawk. The struggle is remarkable for the Darwinian quality of survival symbolizing Ethelberta's struggle and appetite for life. Hardy tries to draw the contrast between urban and rural life by comparing and contrasting Nature. Here is a city sunset.

Just as the hour of the sun's lowest decline, when it was fading away, yellow and mild as candle light, and when upper window, facing northwest reflected to persons in the street dissolving views of tawny cloud with brazen edges, the original picture of the same being hidden from sight by soiled walls and stony slopes.

Compared with it is the sunrise in London" **Tall and Swarthy columns of smoke were now soaring up from the kitchen chimneys around, spreading horizontally when at a great height, and forming a roof of haze which was turning**

the sun to a copper colour, and by degree spoiling the sweetness of the new atmosphere that had rolled in from the country during the night, giving it the usual city smell."

These examples suggest that Hardy writes well when his object is to enable the reader to visualize a scene. The same case is with the episode when Ethelberta with her sister goes to Franfield park. The scene reveals the rottenness of Franfield park. The scene reveals the rottenness on which metropolitan leisure and elegance are based.

Conclusion: Nature in the minor novels of Hardy forms the social background. The plot of these novels has touches. Hardy's powerful sketching of village life, rustic groups and nature. We find fresh glimpses of nature to explore the deep feelings of characters, realistically and impressionistically. Nature in the minor

novels is integral to the action and so it is not aesthetically commendable.

The influence of Nature in the early novels is social as it is related to the behavior pattern and mannerisms of the characters. People living in a particular society are affected through a particular way of nature that governs the society. Here nature is scattered forming a social background in which the characters live. If one tries to violate the social background formed by Nature, one will be punished by Nature.

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