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**RELATIONSHIP OF HUMAN AND NATURE AS PORTRAYED IN
KIRAN DESAI'S "INHERITANCE OF LOSS"**

ABSTRACT: Kiran Desai is one of the most important women Indian writers. She is the daughter of Anita Desai, another noted Indian writer. She was born on 3rd September, 1971 in Chandigarh. Kiran Desai is one of those women writers who had created a great impact in the literary world at a very young age. Her novel, "The Inheritance of Loss" talks about the life struggle of the people in the hilly regions. At a very young age she won the Man Booker Prize in 2006. The novel is filled with full of stylistic playfulness, emotions, love and beautiful description of nature and its elements. The novel is filled with full of natural elements. The author also describes the difference between the living pattern in India and abroad. Further, in the novel people of various communities livings together peacefully without any discrimination are clearly depicted in the novel. Further, the dependence of nature by the people especially those living in the hilly regions are also shown in the novel. The novel also depicts, the tension created by humans over the possession of the nature (especially the land and demarcation of the boundary). Moreover, the beauty of natural landscape on the hilly region at the various times of the year is also beautifully represented by the author. The novel shows that without nature, human cannot survive alone and it has always helped human in various ways. Preserving culture, tradition and living together is also depicted in the novel. Nature also plays an important role in identifying the culture of a particular community. Lastly the author describes the scenic beauty of Kanchenjunga (the second highest mountain in the world).

Keywords: Darjeeling, Forest, God, Afghan Princess, human calamities.

About the Book: The story illuminates the pain of exile and the effects of post colonialism with a variety of colourful characters. In a crumbling, isolated house at the foot of Mount

Kanchenjunga lives an old judge who wants retire in peace. When Nepalese insurgency in the mountains threatens Sai's blooming romance with her tutor, their lives descend into chaos. The cook witnesses India's hierarchy being discarded and overturned. The judge revisits his past and his role in Sai and Biju's intertwining lives. A story of depth and emotion, hilarity and imagination, the novel tells the story of love, longing, futility and loss. The novel is full of stylistic playfulness, touches of comedy, subtlety of logic and natural description. The panoramic view of the novel is vast and never ending. Kiran's use of the omniscient point of view has facilitated the narrative, yet the movements between the narratives, yet the movements between New York and India sometimes disturbs the readers. There is an exchange of place and time. She employs the method of "Stream of Consciousness" and "Flashback" technique efficiently. The uses of local words are often found in the novel.

Main Paper: Nature represents the giving of the basic needs of humans to lead a peaceful and happy life. All the people living in this planet obviously want to have a good garden in which lots of flowers, fruits and birds are present. It gives peace and pleasure in the mind. It also relaxes the people's mind. To be with nature is what one can truly desires, if a person wants to have a good communication with nature then one should start from home, only then one will be able to understand the beauties of nature.

*"Sai shut the magazine and walked out into the garden.
The forest was old and thick at the edge of the lawn;
the bamboo thickets rose thirty feet into the gloom;
the trees were moss-slung giants, bunion and misshapen,
tentacle with the roof of the orchids." (2)*

These lines beautifully describe the surrounding area where Sai was living. The place was too beautifully created that there was forest with trees, flowers and orchids. Anyone who had lived in such a place would be feeling glad with fresh air, water, oxygen to breathe and surrounding green everywhere which is good for eyes. She looked at the beauty of the forest, which was at the edge of the lawn, the bamboo was very high than its normal height, the trees and the orchids on the rooftops etc. She would be feeling the gift of nature, what is to be with her and the fun and pleasure that one gets when one is with nature and its surroundings.

*"But for a long while there had been severe food shortages,
as there always was when political trouble arrived on the hillside." (45)*

These lines portrays beautifully about the happenings of the hillside. Due to political trouble on the hillside, the people were unable to bear the pain and suffering. Due to this trouble in the area, there were lots of shortages especially the food and communication. It also shows the pain, tremble and fear that political trouble has affected in the area comparing it with the whole of India. The political troubles have a great effect in the areas especially in the hilly regions.

*“His mother was phantom in the dark courtyard,
pouring cold well water over his invisible self,
scrubbing viciously with the thick wrists of a farm woman,
rubbing oil through his hair,
and though he knew it would encourage his brains,
it felt as if she were rubbing, rubbing them out.” (58)*

Beautiful purifying scene of the typical Indian women and a caring mother is shown in the above lines. The judge’s mother is very caring for his son. But the son knew what she was doing was good for him but he did not feel good. The judge had a courtyard, which was dark when the sun went down. The judge’s mother was pouring cold well water over him which no one could see but can hear only the sound of water. She was doing her regular job of scrubbing, applying oil in his hair but he feels that she was pulling her brains though applying oil is good for the brains.

*“It has been over hot summer afternoon and
they sat on the Mon Ami veranda.
All over the mountain side,
the heat had reduced the townspeople to a stupor.
Tin roofed sizzled, dozens of snakes lay
roasting on the stones and flowers bloomed as plushly
and perfectly as on a summer outfit.” (65)*

The effect of the change of season and its effect on the surrounding especially to the people and animals living around are described beautifully by the author. By the heat of the scorching sun, the people who were residing on the mountain side were made to be rest on

their veranda to overcome the heat. Moreover, the animals like snakes, which love average temperature, due to heat they were forced to come out of their holes and began to lay on the roof tops and stones to bear the heat. The flowers of various kinds on the other hand were blooming in their full beautiful form.

“Lola was in the garden picking caterpillars off the English Broccoli. The caterpillars were of various colours.

Magnificent creatures, she thought, studying one closely.” (66)

Lola is another interesting person who loves nature and animals. She used to take care of her garden every day, once she found caterpillars in one of her plants and she was picking each of them carefully. She too was fond of different kinds of birds, animals and insects. She thought that caterpillars were very magnificent creature and that God created such a beautiful insect. She examines each one of them carefully and wonders of their colours, shapes and sizes. She often wondered how they were created by God and often falls in her imaginary world.

“He looked back at the board, and then he got up and walked into the garden.” (89)

The above lines add another interesting effect to the novel about the judge and his behaviour. The judge was a nature loving person and built his house in such a way that he could interact with nature. He used to look at the garden whenever he used to get tired of the chess game. He could feel the difference between the city life and the hilly regions. He used to remember his past life when he looked at the garden and used to roam around it. Moving around gives him pleasure, feels natural inside and peace.

*“At Cho Oyu, the judge and Sai sat out on the lawn.
Mutt, catching sight of the shadow of her own tail,
leapt and caught it, began to whizz around and around,
confused as to whose tail it was.” (105)*

Here, the above lines beautifully describe the settings of evening on the lawn at Cho Oyu. The judge and his granddaughter were enjoying the beautiful scenery of the nature. Even their dog was enjoying too. Mutt was in full amusement that it began to catch its own

tail in the sight of the shadow. It was trying to catch its own tail, going round and round and at last, it was not able to catch it and was left confused.

“Gyan was twenty and Sai was sixteen, and at the beginning they had not paid very much attention to the events of the hillside, the new posters in the market referring to old discontents, the slogans scratched and painted on the side of the government offices and shops.” (126)

Here, the above lines describe the beautiful and ignorant bond of the youths who are in love have no idea or attention to the situation around them. Likewise in the novel, Gyan and Sai had paid no attention to what was happening around them. Soon, when they came to realize what was happening, they were shocked and frightened. The insurgency about the place came to such an extent that even the market place was in filled with confusion. Moreover, the new posters demanding the separate land were pasted and distributed in different parts of the area especially to the market place, government offices and shops. People residing in the area were getting tensed to what is happening around them, no one knows what will happen to them.

“In the morning, they found in the runnels, frost on the crest, and frost in the crotch in the hills.” (151)

Here, the above lines describe the early morning scene of the hills. The starting of the winter season in the area is beautifully shown and due to it, in every place where there is water, it was turned into ice and snow. Though winter in the area came late, it was amusing to see that people of the place were happy and welcome the season with greetings. This shows the bond of the hilly people with nature (represented by the winter season).

Garden represents as a source of enjoyment and relaxation.

“They waved again as they passed the Afghan princesses sitting on cane chairs among white azaleas flowers in their garden. From their house came the unmistakable smell of chicken.” (195)

These lines beautifully describe the scenic beauty of the garden of the Afghan Princesses. They were having a nice time in their garden. When Sai and her companions were on a trip, as they passed across the princesses and as usual greetings, they waved to them. To their surprise, they smell chicken from their house which shows they have good sense organ and are quite hungry. It is in the time of hunger that people used to smell for food. The princesses were taking their usual rest in their garden among the beautiful white azaleas flower sitting on cane chairs.

“Well how much land do they want? Asked Lola.

*Noni: The subdivisions of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong,
and extended to the foothills,
part of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts,
from Bengal to Assam.” (236)*

These lines subsequently divide the areas of hills and given the names like Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong. Due to insurgency in the hilly regions, people were talking about the demands of the rival people or organizations. Eventually, the two sisters Lola and Noni were discussing about the situation. One was asking about the demands and another was answering the questions that the revolutionary people wanted all the hill areas covering the foothills of Bengal till Assam. They were amazed about the demand but they were sure that the government would not reply to such foolish demands and never accept their plea.

“No gas either, or kerosene.

They were all back into cooking on wood.

There was no water.

“Left the buckets out in the garden,” said Lola to Noni,

“to fill with rain. We better not flush toilet anymore.”

Just add Sunny Fresh to keep the smell down.” (237)

The above lines describe beautifully the human calamities. Due to strikes, there was no cooking gas. Stock has depleted and people have to go on the early style of cooking food with wood where it takes lot of time and produces lot of smoke which is bad for health. Rain

was pouring down heavily. Both the Bengali sisters were happy to see the rain as it has been long time that the water got dried up. They did not even clean their toilets for long time due to scarcity of water; instead they use Sunny Fresh to keep the awful smell low. Out in the garden lots of buckets were there to preserve the rain water for future uses as no one knows when the rain will stop or the water will come.

*“How nicely the property stretch into a lawn,
then dropped into tiers below.*

There was quite enough land to accommodate a thin line of huts.” (240)

These lines beautifully portray the property of the two Bengali sisters. Further, the lines also show all the things that could be done in their property. The property was beautifully, nicely and perfectly laid that when a person sees the property; it first stretches into a beautiful lawn and then dropped into steps down. Moreover, the property was so vast that it could accommodate a few huts in which a few poor people who has no home to live could reside there.

*“They drove away and visited houses all over the hill side
to remind everyone of the edict that each home
must have a representative demonstrating the next day,
although there were many who claimed digestive problem
and heart conditions, sprained ankles and back pain...” (272)*

The power of the revolutionary people of the hilly regions is shown in the above lines. It shows that people living in the hilly regions are frightened due to the demands of the revolutionist. It is only the hill people who suffer than those living in the town. The people were forced to come out of their houses to represent. So, the people were making certain excuses to avoid it like digestive problems, heart conditions and sprain ankles. This shows how much the people hate and fear the revolutionist people.

*“A gardener squatted on the lawn of Morgan House still planted
with the plants Mrs. Morgan had brought from England.
He seemed unaware of what was going on;
stared out without curiosity or ambition,
without worry, developing a quality devoid of qualities*

to get him through his life.” (277)

The above lines beautifully portray how a foreigner wanted to live in a naturally beautiful place. Mrs. Morgan was not worried about all the dangers that were going to get through nor was he afraid. She had a very few qualities of a foreigner then others of her kind. She decided to settle there for the rest of her life that she even brought flower form England and planted in their lawn. She kept a gardener and told him to plant those flowers on the lawn. From this one can easily depict that Mrs. Morgan is going to settle there for the rest of her life.

*“Detonators set off landslides as negotiated went nowhere.
Kalimpong went transformed into a ghost town,
the wind tumbling round the melancholy trees,
garbage flying by unhindered.” (281)*

The above line clearly shows that there were lots of unwanted situations happening in the hilly regions. All this was happening due to the lack of understanding between the government and revolutionist; they were no longer in good terms. Their talks were useless as no decisions could be made. Due to it, manmade landslides were occurring in the area with the help of detonators. Kalimpong, a peaceful and undisturbed place was turned into ghost town where no one could be seen except the animals and trees. The blowing of the wind through the trees could be heard nevertheless the waste materials too were scattered all around as no one was there to clean them up.

*“When Mutt was missing,
Sai, who had hidden her loss of Gyan first in a cold
and then in the madness of the hillside,
found a disguise so perfect,
even she was confused as to the origin of her misery.” (309)*

The above lines beautifully portray the nature of loss of love. Sai was in full confusion and did not know what to do when her pet was missing and above that she lost her lover, Gyan. Above this, there were still lots of confusion happening in the hill side. She was still in the world of confusion that even she herself was confused to find out about the origin

of her mystery. She was left with two things either she was to find her pet or her lover as both of them were equally important. But her major priority was to find her pet dog. Still her mind is confused to choose which one would be better from the two options.

Conclusion: Thus, the creative works of contemporary women novelist are quite beautiful not only in the form but also in the content. The novel represents the change in the life and reality of a person artistically. As a work, it represents the social, cultural and spiritual behaviour of the people of the contemporary Indian society. Nature, takes the main role in the novel. The likes of the natural elements Viz. trees, birds, animals, rivers and seas are seen throughout the novel. One can easily know after reading the novel that the author loves nature and wants to be with it. She also believes that, nature is a source of powerful element which helps a person to wonder in natural beauties. Further, she firmly believes that nature is the only thing that binds humans to live in this world. The language used by the author is quite easy and simple to understand. She beautifully portrays, the bond of beautiful relationship of nature with humans and shows that both are inter related to each other. Lastly, the author shows the beauty of Kanchenjunga and believes that preserving culture should be dealt and living together with nature without any disturbances should also be preserved. Nature also plays a unique role in portraying the culture of a particular community. We should also know that without nature the comfort that we are having is not possible and preserving them should be a priority. Human beings from the ancient days have always been dependent to nature for their living. Nature has always helped human through various forms. Without nature human beings cannot survive alone. Lastly, the author portrays the beauty of Kanchenjunga, one of the highest peaks in the world. Preserving culture and tradition, and living together is also depicted in the novel. Nature also plays an important role in identifying the culture of a particular community

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