



## Image of Australia: A.D. Hope's Poetry

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A.D. Hope, both a poet and a critic. He was son of the Protestant clergyman, was born on 1907 at Comma, New South Wales, Australia. He was educated at the University of Sydney and Oxford University England. He became a lecturer at Sydney Teachers College in 1937 and later became a Professor of English at the Australian National University, Sydney. He began writing poetry in 1930, his first book. The *Wandering Islands* was not published until 1955. His poems are rarely concerned with anything obviously Australian, he frequently used Myth in his poetry. Webby say "Hope aligned himself with European creative tradition" (Webby 92) Hope has ranged from satire to tender lyricism, from philosophical meditation to cheerful eroticism, his poems are metaphysical, sensual, serious, frivolous, sympathetic, mocking, rational and mystical.

A.D. Hope's poems reveals image of Australia, modern life and life of birds, his poem 'Australia' presents Australia's true image, it is a gloomy image of Australia he says "A Nation of tress, drab green and desolate grey." (Hope 74) The field is equivalent to the modern wars, the mountains are thick and dark and those are endless. He speaks of the Australian history that Sphinx is demolished and stone Lion is worn. Every one called Australia is a young country but he would not agree he rejects he says that is lie. Australia is like a woman who still has tender feelings but the womb is dry. He portraits true image that it is a barren and empty land, it is able to sustain life but unable to produce it, Australia has no culture, history, songs, and architecture people believes in superstitions and emotions. The island sand dries all the water which he calls "The river of her immense stupidity" (Hope 74). Hope speaks that before the colonized Australia Monotonous tribes lived, they arrive large number from Cairns to Perth city. The poet is more scathing towards the Austrian people describing them as "Monotonous tribes" whose boats about themselves, they do not lives but survive for their land. Hopes describe five major cities, he calls those as the cancerous ulcers and the blood and puss has come out of those five cities by using up of her all resources and strength. Australia is changed or reduced to a vast parasite robber-state, where second hand Europeans breed a timid race. He says that Australia now has become the weakened body indirectly colonization is indicated. He speaks that secondhand were sent to Australia now they become heroes. He used derogatory and called them "Second hand European" (Hope 74). Hope seems yet somewhat paradoxically to redeem Australia he says yet there are some people like me who turn gladly home from the corrupted jungle of modern thought. Hope hopes for a 'Savage and Scarlet' spirit which will spring from the bush country tradition. He gives a vivid image of Australia that in the name of civilization they buried their own culture. The intellectual development is making them to forget their own true culture. He calls the Australian society as "The Chatter of Cultured apes" and Australia as stupid and devoid culture. A.D. Hope gives us a negative one sided approach and explores the spiritual poverty of their land.

A. D. Hope's poem 'Standardization' is portraits modern Australian image. It satirizes the evils of modern society material-

ism, artificiality, pollution, corruption, selfishness and cruelty etc. Hope opinion that human beings are abusing the Mother Earth by recklessly looting all its resources which is causing ecological imbalance. Man is unable to appreciate the soothing beauty of nature and forgetting all that is given by nature. Men are growing to be alike, loosing their individuality. The poet warns about the impending danger of a complete standardization which will take out all the essence of life.

A. D. Hope condemns modern society and presents different viewpoints on modern society, to show how standardization affects the society. In the Modern age a journalist is interested only in marketing news. He news paper fills with silly, idiotic news, tries to sell it and he comments Sunday paper. In modern age, houses are not built with hands; everyone is addicted to modern tools and electronic gadgets and they accustomed to readymade food and fast culture.

The "pure theosophist" who is so tired of pollutes pressures and suffocating artificiality of modern society. The poet wishes to take rebirth

Rebirth in other, less industrial stars  
Where huge towns thrust up in synthetic stone  
And films and sleek miraculous motor cars  
And celluloid and rubber are unknown" (A.D. Hope 95)

The poet paints a picture of one of those modern 'horror cities:' it is a place where factories are located. It is a place of concrete buildings, smog, industries, huge towns thrust up in synthetic stone and film, sleek miraculous motor cars, and rubber are products and features of modernity. These gadgets and machines are, no doubt, helping us to lead a comfortable life; but at the same time, man is loosing his cordial relationship with nature, he is completely forgets his presence and growing more and more materialistic, self-centered, ungrateful and wicked.

When a child, from its blissful innocent childhood passes to adulthood and moulds itself to the demands of the modern world, a nature poet cries out about the "Standardization of the Race" (Hope 95). Every child loosing its innocence, curiosity, love, affection, grows up to fit into the sophisticated society. The whole human race is heading towards standardization, human beings are loosing their individuality, their identity and all are growing alike. They are putting themselves into the same moulds of materialism, and loosing the proper vision of life.

The poet cautions us that the result of such recklessness is going to be highly disastrous "The old, sound Earth" (Hope 95). Who has been continuously ill-treated by selfish man is gathering all her boons back. The poet metaphorically says that he can see her "grave, malicious grin" Mother Earth is sarcastically smiling, she is highly disappointed and unfortunately man is unable to understand her pain.

Hope reminds us that Nature is the greatest manufacturer with whom no one can compete. The huge variety of shapes,

the range of colors, sizes etc. created by nature can not be surpassed by any human manufacturer the poet says

"Over and over she gathers and repeats  
The cast of a face, a million butterfly wings"(Hope 95).

Millions and millions of creatures are being created by Nature. Even so called intelligent man of Modern Age, who takes so much pride in calling himself as the "inventor" can not compete with nature.

The poet beautifully puts how Mother Earth (nature) works and the timeless beauty of nature catches our sensibility. Nature, which has been creating her every creation artistically with great care

"She does not tire of the pattern of rose,  
Her oldest trick still catches us with surprise"

The pattern of the rose is something which nature has been creating from a long time but still its every petal, its charming beauty, its refreshing fragrance catch us with surprise. The poet tells how every creation of nature is unique-the streamlined hulls of fish, the snail's long eye, -the creation of such things is unimaginable to human beings.

The poet visualized the eternal process of creation Love, which is the basis of all creations, results in reproduction. Generations after generations come to the world and this unending process continues. Man is swollen with pride that he has invented many things with the help of science and technology. But the poet reveals the greatest reality that we, the human beings, owe our knowledge to our ancestors. We are indebted to our past and human civilization, culture and knowledge is flowed to us from our past generations.

Hope tells about state of humanness, by giving the instance of "Original Sin" by the first man and woman of the universe, Adam and Eve. This biblical myth states that Adam and Eve transgressed the command of God by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree and were expelled from the Garden of Eden. The sin committed by Adam and Eve resulted in the eternal pain of humanity, Man has been merely repeating this sin by neglecting the signals of nature.

Finally poet warns that what could happen. The whole human race is standardized by loosing all its shape, strength and vigor, individuality, identity, creativity are lost and man has become a mere anonymous creature. Beauty (nature, mother earth) in disappointment and contempt is standing still observing the never-ending human generations who are stuck in the moulds of standardization.

A.D. Hope's poem 'Moschus Moschiferus' or A Song of St'Cecilia's' Day' is portraits of modern man's selfishness, cruelty, merciless and commerciality. The hunters hunt musk-deer and killed ruthlessly. There is thick forest in Assam and Tibet, hunters find Kastura (musk-deer) those are attracted to become Prey and hunters killed mercilessly. Now the small creatures are not found as a big numbers because every year they are being killed

Hope speaks wickedness and selfishness of hunters; they have planed in a particular way to attract musk-deer he says,

The hunters now set out by two or there  
Each carries a bow and one a slender flute  
Deep in the forest the archers choose a tree  
And climb; the piper squats against the roof (Hope 79)

The piper begins to play music with the flute. The music fills in the air, the sound of the music spreads it becomes very attractive and melodious, some times sad sound flows through the forest. The atmosphere becomes hence musk deer being attracted by the sound of music taken away for fear of animal gradually the animal goes in to the net. The waiting hunters kill the animal with poisonous arrows, the animal trembles

and falls it becomes victim. In this way many musk deer are killed every year. As a result the number of musk deer decreased thus the poet offers a Song to St. Cecilia.

A Little Kasture are the animals which likes music more, the human beings are interested in the scent glands of the animals, they are not worried about the dead bodies of those animals the hunters here use the sound of flute to attract Kasture and kill. Hope says the music is very powerful it has great power. Hunters take misuse of music, it is used for destruction it is used to kill animals in this way the poet shows that number of musk deer it going down every year because of human wants.

Hope's poem 'The Death of A Bird' portraits bird's life, in every bird's life migration is quite unavoidable, during very cold season birds migrates to warm places and they love of adventure encourage them to undertake the hazardous journey across the continents. Migratory birds are Arctictern, Flamingo, Teli-can, Gray horn bill, they moves to its another house, love towards its kids and tiny birds makes its heart full of pain. The poet describes the travel of the bird year after year a far place divided by a whole hemisphere attracts her to migrate season after season. They go to for away place and stay there for some time and returns its own home safely and surely guided by its own instinct. They leave one home and reach another. The birds return journey and its union with the members of its family. Poet describes,

And being home, memory becomes a passion  
With which she feeds her brood and straws her nest;  
Aware of ghosts that haunt the heart's possession  
And exiled love mourning within the breast. (Hope 76)

The Poet speaks memory power of the bird views the surroundings. The sands down the earth look as an illusion of valleys, and the palm tree spreads out its shadow on the beams and columns of the temple or the palace of the king, during her long journey, she flies with the green earth with its beautiful structures below as the cool air blows from moorland scraps of stone. The bird's whisper of love within her heart grows stronger. The mother bird with all affection and love expresses its closeness, feeling towards the smaller once. The death is playing hide and seek with it, its voice has become faint and weak. She flies away as no formality and custom restricts its flight, during their journey bird feels herself single and quite solitaries it is growing weak moment by movement. It does not mean that it is flying alone, no doubt there are countless companions flying along with it. But even then it has lost its former intimacy and close contact both with the space and blue sky.

Hope says how bird closed the volume of its life. The bird started realizing the down of death on it and began to understand that, its bond with life was broken and the bird suddenly without any symptom and indication without any genuine reason with so ever even without being assisted by its instinct fell down and died. A bird struggles hard in the trackless world but finds no way in the wildness of night, the vast and complex nature with hills and river seems to mock at her flight.

The whole nature thought that it was beyond the ability of bird to make a flight with nature and survive. As compared to the nature's vast size and shape the bird was a smallest creature. The Poet describes the nature's reaction. As the darkness rises from the eastern valleys the dead body of the bird is thrown away from the wind. The wind makes a merciless attack on the dead body of the bird. It looks as if it is terrible and hungry. The earth also remains merciless, neither it expresser its grief nor envy, it remains natural. It receiver them as it had become a routine for it.

The bird's death is not described as tragic for migratory birds such a death is natural, reality one should see light from the eastern valley but the poet makes the bird see darkness rising from eastern valley. His description is highly poetic, in beautiful language. The poet says that the birds on migration are

guided by their instinct, but a scientific description would say that they are guided by certain land marks on the way; he is giving us certain details about bird migration in general but later half of the poem refers purely to the migration of one particular bird. There is no clear cut separation between the two details.

A.D. Hope portrays true image of Australia, modern life, modern human's nature and attitude and speaks bird's life.

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