



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Literature**

**REFLECTION OF ECOCRITICISM IN GULZAR'S POETRY**

**KEY WORDS:**

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Gulzar, who is unfortunately not admired as a great poet and his poetry, is not appreciated. Gulzar, who is known as a writer of songs by common masses as well as by literary circles, has also written outstanding poetry covering almost all areas including ecopoetry. Gulzar is a nature loving poet and has written many poems on it. In writing about nature, Gulzar gives to it a personality of its own. In Gulzar's poetry nature plays the role of a companion. In his creation nature encompasses the entire cosmos. He uses day and night, sun and moon, sunshine and moonlight, monsoon and rain, trees and leaves, trees and fruits, mountains and clouds in the manner in which we use our eyes and ears and other sensory organs. In Gulzar's poetry natural phenomena are alive, breathing and living beings having human personalities. He does not write so much about it as he writes through it, allowing it to speak. He is much worried and concerned about what we as human beings are doing to nature. As a poet, Gulzar would stand tall among the most effective and genuine voices of environmental conservation and of the need to give respect to the natural world. Nature in Gulzar's poetic world is depicted in both lights: a beautiful mesmerizing world as well as a force that can cause havoc and devastation. Gulzar's world of nature encompasses worlds beyond the galaxies. Although the moon seems to be his favourite, there are poems on earthquakes, volcanoes, mountains, waterfalls, oceans, rivers and streams to everyday things as a ray of sunshine, a tiny star, a passing cloud, an amaltas or a gulmohar. Through his poems, he laments on what human ambition and greed are doing to nature. Gulzar being a nature poet does not want to see any demographical change of the nature. He discussed environment and the problems that arise due to deforestation.

His latest collection of poems namely *Green Poems* published in 2014 was translated by Pavan K.Verma. It describes rivers, mountains, forests, snow, rain, clouds, sky, earth and space etc. Gulzar expresses in introduction to *Green Poems*:

Some dry leaves dropped from the tree. The season was changing. But the rustle of the leaves had something more to say. I heard them. What they said was profound, to save the globe from rotting.

Save the environment and keep the globe green,' they said.

I have heard many a leaf—and trees, rivers, mountains and waterfalls. I am relating their stories to people in poems. Hence I decided to call this collection *Green Poems*. (*Green Poems* xv)

The objects found in the universe and beyond it, are not merely for observation, but are living, animate beings with a soul and a purpose. The poems are short and the image is captured in a few words. And sometimes the image gives rise to a striking thought. Gulzar says, "When I pass through the forest I feel my ancestors are around me."

Gulzar being a nature poet does not want to see any demographical change of the nature. He discussed environment and the problems that arise due to deforestation. Man being a greedy creature has cut down trees ruthlessly to fulfil his desires. Gulzar has written many poems on it.

In a Poem "Darakhte Soochte Hain jub to Phool ate Hain" "When Trees Pause to Think, Flowers Bloom" Gulzar wails over the passion of man and writes:

*Hamara shooq dekhiye  
Ki gurden he khaat latee hain  
Jaha kahein mehakta ha koye!*

Look at our passion  
The moment anything emerges with fragrance  
We chop off its neck soon! (Green Poems 18)  
We have a few lines from the poem "Samnay Wali us Pahadi par" "On the Opposite Hill", which depicts it as:

*Kaat ke paad le gaye kuch loog  
Aur saya pada sesukta raha  
Jaha jaha chalaya tha arah  
Jaha jaha lagi thi kulhadi  
Aus ke jakhmeion se khoon behta raha*

Some people fell the tree and carried it away  
While the shadow kept sobbing  
Blood oozes from the wounds  
Wherever it was sawed or axed (*Pandrah Paanch Pachhattar 133*)

The aspect of beauty of mountains is witnessed in the poem "Raat Pahadon par Kuchh aur hee Hoti hai" "Nights on the Mountains Appear Different". We have a few lines from it:

*Raat Pahadon par Kuchh aur hee Hoti hai  
Asman bujeta he nahe  
Aur darya roshan rehta hai  
Itna zarri ka kaam nazar ata hain falaq pa tareion ka  
Jase raaat main plane se rooshan shaheer dekhaye dete hauin  
Nights on the mountains appear different  
Sky never darkens  
And river is always shining  
The stars in the sky look like embroidery  
As cities appear from a plane illuminated during night! (Pandrah Paanch Pachhattar 81)*

We have a few lines from the poem "Kabhi Ana Pahadon par" "Do Come on the Mountains", which depict the beauty of valleys:

*Kabhi Ana Pahadon par  
Dooli barfoon ke namde daal kar assan bechaein hain  
Pahadon ki dalaneion par bohat se jangloen ke kheeme khandeein hain  
Tanayein bandehe rakhi hain kahein deodar ke muzboot padoeein se  
Palash aur gulmohar ke hathein se kade haye takye lagaye hain  
Do come on the mountains...  
Carpets of washed snow have been spread  
Tents of forests have been erected on the mountain slopes  
The ropes have been tied to several deodar trees  
Hand knitted pillows of palash and gulmohar have been arranged (Pandrah Paanch Pachhattar 15)*

And again, another poem "Achchhey Lagtay hain yeh Pahaad Mujhay" "I like these Mountains very Much", presents the beauty of mountains:

*Achchhey Lagtay hain yeh Pahaad Mujhay  
Choutein baadloun mein udte hain  
Payein baraf-i-aab behete pane mein  
Kotte rehte hain nadyein  
Kitne sanjeedge se jeete hain*

*Kis qadar mustaqbal mijaz hain yeh  
Achhhey lagtay hain yeh pahaad mujhay*  
I like these mountains very much  
Peaks appear flying amidst clouds  
Feet immersed in running ice cold clouds  
Emitting rivers  
What a serenity they live in  
How calm is their temperament

I like these mountains very much (*Pandrah Paanch Pachhattar 79*)

We have yet another poem, "Kohsar" "Mountain" on the chopping of trees. We can quote a few lines from it:

*Mager kuch loog kandeoun par autha kar aus ko  
Pukdandi ke rastey lay gaye thay karkhaney mein  
Fulaq ko dekhta he reh gaya patharaye aunkhein se  
Bohat nochi ha mere khal insan ne  
Ohat chelay hain mere sar se jangal aus ke tashein ne  
Mere daryaein mere absharein ko bohat nanga kiya ha  
Is hous alood insan ne  
Mera sena to phat jata ha lawayse  
Magar insan ka sena nahe phata  
Woh pathar ha*

But a few shoulders had already grabbed it and had taken to factory  
With stunned eyes he kept gazing the sky  
Man have debarked me ruthlessly  
And deforested me with their axes  
They have harnessed my rivers and fountains  
In their greed  
In my breast boils a volcano

But human breast does not sigh, it has fossilized! (*Raat Pashminey Ki 98*)

Similarly there is a poem "Sabz Lamhay" "Green Moments", which highlights man's greed:

*Saffad cheel jub thuk kar kahbi nache autartey ha  
Pahadein ko sonatey ha purani daastanein pechelay padoein ki  
Jenhain is pust qud insan ne kata ha giraya ha  
Kahe tokde kaye hain aur jalaya ha  
The white kite when descends exhausted  
Narrates the past tales of trees to the mountains  
Which the dwarf man has cut down  
Burnt into ovens after chopping (*Raat Pashminey Ki 124*)*

Gulzar through his poetry reminds us of jungles in the past. We have a poem which depicts it as:

*Jungal se guzarte thay to kabhi basti bhee kahein mil jate thein  
Aub basti mein koye paad nazar aajaye to jee bar ata ha  
Dewar pa subzah dekh ke aub yad ata ha pehlay jungal tha*  
Sometimes while passing through the jungle we find a settlement  
Now passing through a settlement when we see a tree, it touches the heart

A touch of green on the wall reminds us of the jungle in the past (*Trivaini 71*)

There is one more poem which depicts impact of deforestation on the other species of nature:

*Padein ke katne se naraz hoye hain pehanchi  
Dana chugnay bhee nahe aate makanein pa parende*

*Koye bulbul bhee nahe behatee aub shaar pa aakar*  
Birds are angry at the cutting of trees  
They do not even come to pick grains from roofs

Even nightingale does not sit on a poet's couplet! (*Trivaini 78*)

When Gulzar writes on space, he touches upon not only the sun and the stars but also other elements of cosmos as, *Anginat zinda wa murda tare / Anginat zinda wa murda chaand* Countless dead or alive stars / Countless alive or dead moons (*Pukhraj 52*)

Gulzar's world of nature encompasses worlds beyond the galaxies. Although the moon seems to be his favourite, there are poems on every part of nature. In Gulzar's poetic lexicon, it is human beings who are very often the objects of observation for nature. The way with which he crafts this process, simultaneously brings our both the majesty of nature and, by sheer contrast, the limitations of human vanity and endeavour.

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