

Ruskin Bond: The Great Grand Harbinger of Peace

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Abstract

Literature has always been a very effective medium of human expression and language is the voice of it, by which various types of moods can be presented to persuade readers of many different messages. And the writer is the person who has taken accountability for portraying pictures from all walks of life. The postmodern era holds the concept in which facts and falsehood can be interchanged. The frustration of war effects is much reflected through many writers, and the agony of the pandemic is reflected everywhere and expressed through literature. Many writers are trying to eliminate the negativity, boredom, and helplessness of human beings with the purest solutions in a melodious tone to encourage, motivate and educate readers. One of the most excellent Indian writers, Ruskin Bond, has always contributed to shatter down sorrow, loneliness, fear, betrayal and abstractness with harmonious, peaceful and encouraging themes.

Keywords: Language, Frustration, Encourage, Contributing, Peaceful

Introduction

“To be able to laugh and to be merciful is the only thing that makes a man better than the beast”. Ruskin Bond, a name which is taken with great love and respect, the name which brings smiles to thousands of people, especially children, the name for whom people wait for hours to get his glimpse and autograph. India’s Great Grand Author, who has been highly appreciated for children’s literature. Bond is a big admirer of nature, animals and the rustic people of India and has shown great concern for the environment. Bond’s stories are marked with simplicity, directness of language and genuineness of the people and experiences. He knit the stories, which create a spell to attract young readers. Bond experiences the essence of independence and then witnesses gradual development in social, economic and political areas, which is very well

reflected in his short stories. Bond always has great concern for nature, as he is known as a boy from the hills. The cool breeze, Petric, the smell of rain, cloud, snow and sunlight, all aspects of nature soothe him a lot. Bond gets lost in snow-covered high mountains, oak trees, dancing shrubs and innocent colourful flowers. His short stories witness how nature helped him to grow up and it is helpful to everyone with happiness and affirmative feelings. Bond’s stories always promote peace and harmony between humans and nature. He also advocates selfishness and materialism that are harmful to mankind and instructs with a beautiful lesson to find peace and concord in the lap of nature.

He was pushed to be settled in the UK, but the deep attachment to India, the simplicity of rustic people, the pollution-free surroundings and the peaceful lifestyle

dragged him back and he decided to settle in Landore, near Mussoorie. Though Bond's ancestors were British, he has been considered 'Savayo Bhartiya'. He is very much Indian, even more than his other contemporary writers like R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, Khushvant Singh, Sudha Murti, etc. Almost all the books written by him revealed his intense love for India. Though his early life gave him a bitter taste of life, he always comes up with positivity and joyfulness for bringing smiles to the faces of readers of all age groups. He always believes in happy ending, which makes him more alive. *How to Live Your Life, Listen to Your Heart and Roads to New Delhi* are some of his later books which have shown him advocating tranquility.

His recently published book '*A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 Years of Independence*', it highlights India's development as a nation; he has been a keen observer and lover of India since last eighty-four years. In his book, Bond forbids being afraid of life but dwells on hilarity. He presents examples of our laborious prime ministers who wholeheartedly contributed to making India a developed nation. He writes about the first Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru as a westernized Indian. He calls A.B. Bajpayeeji a modest and thoughtful personality. He calls Mr. Narendra Modi a yogic guru, who made the whole world his follower. Another new collection of short stories named 'The Enchanted Cottage' is a short story from one of his memorable dreams, as Bond has maintained a diary in which he notes down all his beautiful dreams. In which supernatural elements, comedy, suspense etc are included. Bond first of all writes stories in his mind before

penning them down bond imagines his characters, incidents and settings etc.

'*Roads to Happiness*', is the book that was written during the lockdown. It is autobiographical in nature. It includes his childhood memories, some pieces of advice on the environment and some 'funny incidents. The essay section is more about his life at Landore, in Mussoorie, history of India and the difference between old and new India. In the third section lockdown entries, he advocates how to derive happiness in the company of friends and family members rather than other things. Moreover, Bond tells the importance of making your own bed. Instead of watching disheartening news you must develop the habit of bedtime reading especially poetry, to energies you with positivity; because it's peace of your soul and peace of your heart. Bond since childhood, has been an ardent reader, as his father inspired and inclined him towards books and by the age of sixteen he had read around seventeen hundred books, which is hard to believe even, Bond says if one wants to become a prolific writer, he has to be a good reader first, because all great writers were good readers when they were young. He promotes a philosophy of 'read well and write well'.

The environment has been the dominant theme in Bond's stories, his colossal faith in nature as a healer attracts readers. Almost every nature story depicts the interdependency of man and nature and discourages careless and cruel human nature towards mother Earth. 'The Hidden Pool' is the first book written for children with a hidden message. The story is about two friends, a local hilly boy and an English boy

who go to that hill station with his parents for a short period. They discover a pool replenished by a waterfall, which soon disappears due to a hydro project. Bond wants to make us realize that the consequences may be dangerous for all living beings. He also raised the problems of deforestation, pollution, forest fires due to carelessness, decay of land and fields etc. Mother Hill alerts the consequences of deforestation; The Cherry Tree represents the protective attitude and value of plantations. Thus the Bond always aims to teach children a lesson that protecting the environment is our duty, so that they should become well-informed youngsters.

Bond's concern for animals is also very deep, which is portrayed brilliantly in his animal stories, in which the protagonist has tender feelings for animals. 'The Tiger in the Tunnel', 'Panther's Moon', 'The Monkeys', 'Eyes of a Cat' etc. all these stories state that humans and animals are part of ecological balance, but sometimes animals struggle for their survival. Bond urges us to save wild animals and let them live on this Earth, as they should also have equal rights to live freely like humans.

Individuality, unity and free will are some of the major characteristics of Bond's stories.

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They are openhearted; they want to go beyond the boundaries made by their elders. They want to live in their own world, want to make their own law to lead life, and have their own way of thinking. They want nothing but space. They wish to see the world, interact with people want to prove that they have grown up. They all are a little mature, responsible and sincere for life. His protagonists can be a role-model for each child, through them Bond is giving some life lessons collected from his personal real-life experience. He teaches those who read books gain a lot but those who don't they miss the most. Books are your besties who never let you down and fill you with happiness.

In 'A Book of Simple Living', is a personal diary that records small moments that constitute a life of harmony with the self, the natural world, and friends, family and passersby, but very meaningful as Bond tells 'for all its hardship and complications, life is simple' his purpose is to expose human folly though he is an explorer of human heart. Having been affluent English he uses simple words to widen peace and humanity among all.

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