

VIEWS ABOUT NATURE IN ANITA DESAI'S THE VILLAGE BY THE SEA

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Abstract:

There is a vast and eternal relationship between human beings and nature. Nature plays an important role in human life; it is the basis of how our society is functioning. Personally and collectively there is a relationship with life and the world. It can support and inspire people struggling to find a foundational base for the development of productive societies and a healthy human–earth relationship. We have to find new ways to live and to run our economies for healthy human and ecological communities. Nature provides natural resources and energy resources to human beings. Nature has had a great influence on creative writers from the earliest developmental stages of human beings. They depicted its flora and fauna, beauty and charm, cyclical seasons of the year such as spring, summer, autumn and winter and the natural phenomena around them

Keywords: Flora and fauna, ecology, pandanus, Thul, urbanization, etc.

Introduction:

Anita Desai, the most distinguished Indian writer in English was born on 24 June 1937 in Jaipur, India. Her mother, Toni Nime was German and father was Bengali businessman, D. N. Mazumdar and she married Ashvin Desai. Her children were taken to Thul for weekends, where Desai set her novel *The Village by the Sea*. For that work she won the 1983 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. She received a Sahitya Akademi Award in 1978 for her novel *Fire on the Mountain*. Tondon writes about her imagination and creative power as,

“She is endowed with soundless imaginative resourcefulness and creative vitality ... but within this limited world she reveals amazing variety and profundity.”¹

Presentation of Nature in *The Village by the Sea*:

The title of the novel, *The Village by the Sea* sounds close to nature and the ‘village’ and the ‘sea’ are important part of the ecosystem. Desai’s elegant pictures of sky in the monsoon and evening and the giant sea increase the beauty of the novel. Anita Desai seems to be related with the cultural life of India and influenced by the beauty of nature in many chapters of the novel. The beauty of nature is one of the themes of this novel. She seems to be entrapped by the serenity of nature at the very beginning of the novel where she captures the scenery of the sandy shore, blue water and waves of the sea, fragrant flowers and the colorful birds. Thul is a very calm place where man and nature develop their relationship with the lush paddy fields, calm waters, dense forests, and the vast sea. While living in such an enchanting locality, we get pleasure from natural objects and listening to the melodious songs of the wild birds. The natural tranquility of Thul contrasts with the artificialities of urban life. Thus, Desai appears to be an ardent lover of ecology and nature. While studying Anita Desai’s *The Village by the Sea*, the researcher has taken into consideration a verdict of M. K. Naik, he comments,

“This is true of Anita Desai also...but the snatches of sunshine, the sudden revealing and guiding lights, do not want either.”²

At the beginning of the novel, the opening scene is described to be an unstable environment. This is reflected by the setting of the waves and how they are portrayed to be 'unstable' as the author uses phrases such as 'high tide' and 'low tide' to show the instabilities of human life. At the exposition,