

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSIONS

Ted Hughes is one of the significant poets of the post-war British poetry. He gains reputation as a conscious poet of the century. His reputation as a great poet lies in his poetic achievement as well as in his style and ideas. He is well known for his prolific and versatile writings. His poetic output displays the strength and vitality of his creative genius.

Ted Hughes always tries to bring new themes in modern poetry. When other poets of his generation are writing social verse of the Movement, Hughes deals with the natural subject matter going against the contemporary writings. He is generally agreed to be the greatest living English poet.

The thorough study of Ted Hughes's two volumes **The Hawk in the Rain** and **Crow** reveals a lot of Hughes's immense creative power, and also about his experimentation. **The Hawk in the Rain** is the first volume written in the initial phase of his career. But this first volume of Hughes reflects new themes such as Animals, Nature, War, Death, Love, Hatred and Violence.

The bird Hawk stands for the epitomy of modern age. Hawk struggles hard against adverse and violent atmosphere in the company of nature. It is a beginning of Hughes's poetic career and he wants to

commence his own creative writing. Hughes adopts Hawk as the protagonist of his poem, as Hawk is the strongest bird from the universe which can fight against the natural ferocity. Hawk is not only an ordinary bird but it stands for modern man who struggles against adversities of the modern times.

Animals theme is predominantly reflected in both the volumes. Hughes adopts animals and natural birds to bring out the ruthless nature of human beings. Hughes's animals and birds represent the modern disillusionment and chaos more effectively than the human beings. Hughes finds a sort of solace in the company of nature. Human world appears to him useless where life is full of violence, hatred and frustration. Animals are portrayed happy with their simplicity. So Hughes has the great attachment to natural and animal kingdom. As far as his treatment to nature is concerned Hughes resembles the Romantic poets like Wordsworth and his followers. He tries to depict nature as a great **inspirer**. Hughes is one of the few modern poets who accommodate nature to its full extent in their poetry.

The theme of war frequently appears in both two volumes of Ted Hughes. The fascination of war, the heroic deeds performed by his father and the nationalistic and patriotic feelings revealed by his father inspired Ted Hughes initially. But later on he begins to realize the ugly face of war, and he includes a number of poems based on war in his **The**

**Hawk in the Rain.** 'Two wise generals', 'The Casualty', 'The Six Young Soldiers' and many other poems deal with his experiences of war. The Crow poems also discuss war theme. Crow is at war. Crow has to fight against every adversity. Crow is the protagonist of Hughes's world. Crow is the mouthpiece of modern man who has to fight against obstacles in his world. Hughes has represented Crow effectively by adopting some primitive forms like legend, fables, myths. Hughes represents crow in a mythic method in modern poetry.

War and Death themes are interlinked. The brave acts on the battlefield are praised by Hughes. The absence of love and the growth of hate, anger, frustration and death are the results of war.

Love is another theme elaborately discussed by the Hughes in both of the volumes. Man has lost love because of his sense of alienation and insecurity in life. Hughes wants to throw light on the wickedness of man in these volumes. According to him the basic need in man's life is the warmth of love.

Ted Hughes has reflected some of the personal or autobiographical elements in his poems. Like Dylan Thomas, Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Path, Hughes makes use of death as a prominent theme for his poetry. Hughes's great admiration for Sylvia Path and her poetic career have influenced his mind very much. Sylvia's suicide affects his mind permanently and the impact forces, Hughes to compose poems on

death. He had to see another death of his second wife and daughter in 1969. During 1960 - 1970, the anguish of Hughes's mind gets reflected in number of poems on death and violence. Violence too becomes one of the major themes in Hughes's poems. He voices violence through his animal imagery and natural ferocity. The poems 'Jaguar', 'the thought-fox', 'Macaw and Little Miss' deal with their natural violence. Animals and birds have become a great source for reacting against the inner turbulence of modern man.

Hughes chooses the animals and bird imagery to present modern chaos. Hughes has used also animal and bird imagery to bring out the simplicity of animal life and the complexity and crooked nature of human beings. Through his poetry Hughes tries to bring out the truth that man is the ugliest animal whereas other animals are quite innocent, simple, and full of love.

Impact of some eminent writers and poets like John Donne, Dylan Thomas, Lawrence, Yeats, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Hopkins is quite visible in Hughes's poetry. Hughes admires Donne's satires and epistles. Dylan Thomas's **Death and Entrance** becomes holy book for Hughes. Hughes gets deeply moved by the writings of Lawrence. Hughes's basic philosophy of life is based on **Indian** and **Buddhist** metaphysics. He studies Indian and Chinese philosophy and religious writings. He is impressed by **Tibetan Book of the Dead**. Hughes is deeply influenced by

philosophers like Schopenhauer. Hughes's poetry shows the influence of some western writers like Holub, Pilinszky, Vasko Popa and Zbigniew Herbert.

Hughes seems to be one of the few modern British poets to use primitive poetic forms like legend, fables, folklore and myths effectively in his poetry. For his **Crow** poems Hughes brings the legends which are gathered from North American, Indian folk love and mythology of primitive culture, Sufi fables and Indian and Chinese mysticism. Hughes gets inspiration from their work, and makes all such primitive forms in crow.

**The Hawk in the Rain** is the most anthology of Ted Hughes, praised and also criticized by the reviewers. It is criticized because of the excessive use of violence. **Crow** is a superior volume to the first as Hughes makes an exhibition of his maturity and development as a poetic genius. **Crow** is one of the most popular collections known for its multiplicity of themes, primitive world imagery and refined use of language. This volume surpasses the first in language and poetic forms.

Hughes starts his career as an inexperienced poet of the post world war period. His writing is developed and becomes quite mature in realm of time. His poetic career concludes with exhibiting Ted Hughes as a chief exponent of modern times.