

## CHAPTER IV

# **Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard And The Inheritance of Loss : A Comparison**

This chapter seeks to undertake in brief comparative study of ecocritical evaluation of two novels 'Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard' and 'The Inheritance of Loss' by Kiran Desai. This thematic ecocritical study concentrates on presentation of nature and various landscapes and its ecocritical study in both novels. It focuses on the way she pictures nature and environment.

First novel '*Hullabaloo in Guava Orchard*' is comic satire on so called religious babas. It is a delightful story of Sampath Chawla, bored post-office clerk and dreamer, who takes to the branches of a secluded guava tree in search of the contemplative life. Kiran Desai gently satires on provincial India and craze of Indians for gurus. In '*The Inheritance of Loss*' we find a globalized India where past and future live in an uneasy juxtaposition where lives are being pooled and pushed in a world where migration is iron law of life. In *Hullabaloo* she presents Indian mentality with regional characters and colour. All characters are products of typical Indian society with narrow minded attitude and eccentricity.

*Hullabaloo* is about a shiftless middle class man who escapes from responsibilities of adult life. He takes shelter of orchard for the sake solitude, peace and contentment. In *Inheritance* main character is retired judge Jemubhai Patel who is lonely person. He lives alone in the house with his cook Pannalal and there is a dog Mutt companion of judge. As a young man Jemubhai was sent to England for higher education. He suffered several insults inflicted on him in England. He had to swallow typical isolation one feels abroad.

Setting of *Hullabaloo* is guava orchard in Shahkot in Punjab. Sampath entered in orchard for peace and solitude. Orchard was spangled with the

sunshine of a November afternoon. Orchard was extremely beautiful. There was a flock of parrots, a vivid jewel green chattering and shrieking in the highest spirit. Sampath escaped from world of responsibilities and resided in tree to spent passive life. He becomes famous as tree-baba. It is his very silence that ties Sampath's hand consigning him to sagehood. In *Inheritance* setting is beautiful outskirts of Kalimpong at the foot of Himalaya. After retirement he settles in Kalimpong to lead peaceful life completely deserted by all relations. When his granddaughter comes to him to stay, he becomes uneasy with her arrival. Both of them are stranger to each other. Through this novel Kiran Desai has presented the universal human existence, multi-faced cultures, social inequality. Nature and landscapes provides apt background. It proves that human being is tiny creature in front of huge and enormous nature. This novel explores the most serious of topics: immigration, repressive systems of government, power of nature, beautiful and fascinating aspects of nature, exploitation of nature by greedy human being.

*Hullabaloo* starts with description of natural disaster. Human being has become helpless. This natural disaster is result of his destructive deeds. People are performing some rituals to bring rain. It reflects their superstitious attitude. Temple priest is thinking about marriage of frogs. *'The Inheritance of Loss'* begins with description of huge mountain Kanchenjunga. It is a peak looking as if whittled out of ice. Mist is moving like water creature across great flanks of mountains. Sai sat on veranda riding moods of season. Taking advantage of misty air Gorkha boys intrude in house of judge and they rob his guns. *Hullabaloo* is funny and humorous tale but *Inheritance* is sometimes funny and sometimes sad. The theme of this novel in general is human predicament and meaninglessness. Globalization has created serious impact on the lives of human beings. Foreigners become illegally native residents and natives become illegally immigrants.

In both novels there is setting of beautiful nature. Attitude of human being towards nature is careless, exploiting, destructive. Nature is meant to give pleasure and fulfill needs. In *Inheritance* Kiran Desai picture nature's beautiful as well as destructive aspects. Men who live there have to face occasional landslides, storms, extreme cold, misty atmosphere. There are beautiful valleys, various types of butterflies. The Teesta valley was renowned for butterflies. Harmony of nature is destroyed by human being. Devotees in *Hullabaloo* and tourist in *Inheritance* represents major human attitudes towards nature. Their recreational activities, religious rituals create deep and serious impact on nature which results in ecological degradation. Entry of Sampath in orchard for peace symbolizes man's invasion on nature.

There are parallel stories in both novels. Sampath Chawla and his sagehood forms crux of novel. It is reinforced by strange love story of Pinky and Hungry Hop boy. All characters are has obsession of particular things. Sampath Chawla has strange obsession of orchard and its peaceful life. His mother has obsession of cooking and spices, food ingredients. Pinky is obsessed with make up for her attractive appearance. Brigadier is obsessed with watching various birds. In *Inheritance of Loss* apart from life of Sai, judge another parallel story of Biju and cook has been portrayed. It is world of globalization in which man has to leave his native land for job and education. There is kaleidoscopic description of Indian north-eastern life of human being and life in England, America. Sai is teenage Indian girl, an orphan living with her Cambridge-educated Anglophile grandfather, a retired judge, in the town of Kalimpong on the Indian side of Himalayas. She is romantically involved with her math tutor Gyan, who is the descendant of a Nepali Gorkha mercenary. He regrets for romance with Sai and joins GNLFF. In a parallel narrative book shows the life of Biju, the son of cook, who is illegal immigrant.

In *Hullabaloo* inhabitants of Shahkot are caricatured as a homogeneous group. Kiran Desai has shown stream of consciousness of

Sampath and Kulfi. Sampath is absorbed in day-dreaming. Both characters nurture their fantasies. In *Inheritance* everybody has to face stark reality of human predicament. Meaninglessness and loneliness are serious problems faced by modern man. Kulfi's isolation from society is established at the outset. She remains isolated from family members. Townspeople recognize her eccentricity. They said 'there is something odd about her'. Sampath and judge both want to lead a secluded life. Their intentions are common. Both want peace and solitude. Sapath wants to escape from boring life of responsibilities. But his escape and stay in tree drags crowd in direction of orchard. Until the end he cannot manage to find and retain the silence he craves. Judge's solitude is disturbed by arrival of Sai. He becomes responsible for torture inflicted on old man by police.

Mutt is lifted by trespassers. Judge blames cook for his negligence. He beats cook mercilessly. Lives of innocent animals are disturbed by cruel and selfish human being.

Ecological wealth of orchard is exploited by Kulfi who always wanders in search of different birds to cook for Sampath. Devotees crowds in orchard pollutes it and plans to capture monkeys to maintain holy atmosphere of orchard. In *The Inheritance of Loss* beautiful mountains provided human being tea, timber and tourism three Ts of their business and livelihood. Forests were being cleared away. Stones from river Teesta were being picked away by landlords. Ecological harmony was ruined by interference and encroachment of human being. There are important characters like Father Booty who takes good care of trees and loves it. It is to be noted that he was also residing in India illegally yet he has given great contribution for development in the hills than any of locals. Novel ends at five peaks of Kanchenjunga which turned golden with the kind of luminous light. Biju returns empty hand from America as his all belongings were looted by GNLF men on the way to Kalimpong. He meets his father. Their happiness is suggested through five peaks of Kanchenjunga

which is shining gold. Hullabaloo ends at bubbling cauldron where Kulfi is cooking food. There are fruitless efforts done by police and army to capture monkeys. All their plans are funny and meaningless. Desai very lightly ridicules at Indian mentality of blindly following any hypocrite baba who does not have any sort of sense or wisdom.

Human beings always try to conquer, defy, destroy and dominate in some way. We see ourselves as the victors of nature but nature didn't get the chance to have a fair fight. As we destroy the environment nature just is. In both novel man uses natural surrounding, spectacle as a commodity to gain economic profit. Mr. Chawla in Hullabaloo found good opportunity to become wealthy through Sampath and his guruhood. Glory of Himalayan mountain was exploited by natives and foreigners for earning money. In Kalimpong forests were being cleared away by officials. Stones from Teesta bed were being picked away to build houses. Their attitude towards nature shows their lack of understanding of the interrelatedness with nature. Harold Fromm in his critical essay "*The battle of Human versus Nature*" says that man's separation from nature come from his realization of 'his own physical weakness, his knowledge that nature could not be tamed or bent to his own will' [Fromm 30]

Both novels have origin in personal life and experiences of Kiran Desai. She revealed in an interview that she had gotten the inspiration for her story from a report in an Indian newspaper about a hermit who had climbed a tree and lived there for several years. Second novel '*The Inheritance of Loss*' is not autobiography but there are parallels with her life. She has personal history with Kalimpong and has admitted in recent interviews that the book was 'close' to her own family's story. Judge travelled abroad like Desai's grandfather. The mansion in the book was inspired by Desai aunt's house in Kalimpong. Like Sai, the teenager in the novel Desai attended a Convent school in a Himalayan town. Both novels reflect her ecological concerns and she draws attention for its preservation and creates awareness towards growing environmental crisis.