

Reconstruction the Female Image From the Perspective of Eco-Feminism in *A Passage Into India*

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Female have a natural connection with nature. Ecological feminism emphasizes the natural intimate connection between female and nature, and believes that the oppression of female and the plunder of nature are dominated by masculine and anthropocentrism that have dominated for thousands of years. Ecological feminism points out that the oppression of female is directly related to the oppression of nature. This paper analyzes the changes in the attitudes of two women, Adela and Mrs. Moore, during the trip to India from the perspective of ecological feminism, and analyzes their relationship with nature. The connections between nature and female are inextricably linked. Female and nature are like a community of destiny. Mrs. Moore and Adela reconstructed a new female image through the connections with nature.

Keywords: ecological feminism, *A Passage Into India*, female image, reconstruction

Eco-Feminism

A Passage Into India, Forster's last novel, is widely regarded as the author's finest literary achievement; not only does it profoundly reveal and criticize racism and colonialism, but it also breaks away from political and national clichés and attempts to point out the plight of mankind in a universe hitherto incomprehensible to our minds, and commits itself to exploring the ultimate path of self-reliance, coexistence, and redemption for the entire human race. The novel is rich in symbolism and philosophical depth, both fascinating and poetic, and is widely regarded as one of the greatest literary masterpieces of the 20th century. Mrs. Moore and Miss Adela travel to Chandrapur, a small town in India, to visit their son and fiancé, who are colonial officials. Aziz becomes friends and is invited to visit the famous Malabar caves in the countryside. While in a trance, Adela felt attacked by Aziz and a great uproar ensued, with unprecedented tensions between the British rulers and the Indian people, who became tit-for-tat between the two opposing camps. The local public school Principal Fielding openly came to Aziz's defense, and Adela, who gradually came to realize the truth in the course of the trial, bravely admitted her mistake and finally cleared Aziz's innocence.

This essay focuses on eco-feminism to analyze the change in attitudes towards India after their arrival in the country, which proves the natural connection between women and nature. Eco-feminism begins with a critique of the hierarchical dualism and logic of domination in the modern Western worldview, and shows how this

male-centric, analytical, and mechanistic “scientific” worldview has resulted in the simultaneous oppression of nature and women (and different ethnicities, etc.) by Western men, and how these different oppressions are entangled in a male-dominated mentality. Together, they see women or nature as other, so much so that they believe that movements to liberate women or nature from discrimination must be recognized and pursued simultaneously. Eco-feminism advocates the integration of the natural world with feminist spirituality. It argues for a culture of non-separation from nature. While ecological movements are not necessarily all feminist, the gendered nature of any profound ecological movement is shocking. It is shocking because profound ecological consciousness is a feminine consciousness, or one could say that ecological consciousness is a traditional feminine consciousness. Eco-feminists are concerned about the severe ecological destruction of the planet, with disappearing forests, polluted air, and polluted water sources, and are heartbroken about it. The encounters of the two women on the trip to India exemplify both women’s focus and reflection on class equality. Their superiority as colonizers and their marginalized status as women made Mrs. Moore and Adela re-examine their own identities and positions during their trip to India, and at the same time, they were able to connect more with the colonized as marginalized people. Mrs. Moore and Adela’s shifting attitudes towards India and the Indian people also reflect the point of transformation in their image as women. Initially, both Mrs. Moore and Adela saw India as a colonized people, but as they began to interact with the Indian people, to understand Indian culture and even the environment, a connection was made, and eventually they realized that all people are equal, and that Adela, as a member of the earth, wanted to “see” India from the beginning. The bridge-building sessions and cave trips were all part of her exploration of India. Both Mrs. Moore’s and Adela’s explorations of India reinvented the image of two great cosmopolitan women.

Dislike and Discovery

Different attitudes are between Mr. Moore and Adela towards the nature. When they first arrived in India, Mrs. Moore and Adela, as two native British people, were very uncomfortable with the heat of India. Heat and messy is their first impression of India. The authors contrast the heat of India with the rain of Britain. At this time, the relationship between the two and nature is incompatible. But during the day, Mrs. Moore saw a little yellow bee and praised “cute little things”. Mrs. Moore was in awe of life, she tried to find the beautiful things in this country, and at this time her relationship with nature was close. Mrs. Moore was looking at the bright moon, and the pale yellow moonlight bloomed in the purple night sky. In Britain, the moon seems so rigid and strange, while in India, she is followed by the earth and all the other stars, and is surrounded by the night. It is a harmonious unity that is intimate and integrated with the celestial bodies. Feeling suddenly burst into her heart, and then suddenly left, like fresh water flowing through the clear pond. Mrs. Moore set foot on the land of India, and she felt the power from nature. It was different from the alienated relationships in Britain, but a kind of care from strangers. In her life, except as the wife of others, the mother of raising children, she has never been herself. At this moment, Mrs. Moore is just as a person, feeling the care and strength given by nature. At this time, her spiritual world is combined with nature.

Reception and Understanding

As Mr. Moore and Adela learned more about India, their attitudes gradually changed. When Ronnie took Mrs. Moore and Adela to watch the Ganges, his tone was so disdainful, the sandbar was chaotic, and there were still floating bodies in the river. From Ronnie's introduction, Mrs. Moore had a little fear of the Ganges, but still thought that the Ganges was a magic river. This indifferent attitude is a manifestation of Mrs. Moore's awe of nature. Ronnie's discrimination stems from his sense of superiority as a colonizer. His oppression of India's natural civilization is exactly the same as the oppression of women in the patriarchal society he represents. This oppression and domination of female's social mentality is directly related to the social mentality of natural discrimination. At this time, Adela was no longer as keen to learn about India as before. She came to India from the beginning to get to know her fiancé at work. At this moment she was immersed in the anxiety of marriage. Her marriage, like her exploration of India, can only see circles of ornaments, and has never seen its soul. At the bridge party, Adela admired Malabar Hill to resolve the embarrassment of the party and anxiety about whether the marriage is suitable. It can be found that, whether it is Mrs. Moore or Adela, the source of their spiritual power is often from nature, and their connection with nature can calm the heart, and thus more objectively examine their inner thoughts.

Fight and Awakening

The turning point of the novel is on a trip to Malabar Caves. Through Fielding's introduction, Aziz as a local guide took the two ladies to the cave. When visiting the cave, due to the weather, the echoes that Mrs. Moore heard in the cave bothered her. At last she was physically and mentally rested. She wanted to write a letter to her children and wanted to use the religious spirit to save herself from discomfort, but she found that her religion and her love for children did not work. At this moment Mrs. Moore realized that the shock from the cave had broken everything she believed and insisted on in the past years. At this time, Adela and Aziz continued to climb to higher caves. During the climbing process, Adela and Aziz discussed the topic of marriage and love. Finally Adela found that she did not love Ronnie. At this time, she fell into the anxiety of marriage, and was annoying about cave sightseeing. When Adela showed an aversion to nature, she was avenged by nature. She lost her mind, rolled down the cave, and finally slandered Aziz's attempt to invade her, and her relationship with Ronnie returned to the bad situation. Mrs. Moore, who returned from the cave trip, has also changed. She no longer cares about others, and even cares about Aziz's arrest. She did not want to be responsible for others' affairs. She complained about endless responsibilities. She just wanted to find a "cave" of her own. The shock from the cave made her reexamine her past life. Before leaving India, Mrs. Moore and Ronnie said Aziz was innocent. She has not lost her kindness. In the end, Mrs. Moore died on the boat that returning home. Perhaps for Mrs. Moore, instead of returning to Britain to take on the responsibilities that followed, she died on board and returned to nature, and found her own true "cave". Adela was also tortured in echoes and told the truth. When she told the truth, the echo disappeared, and the hot weather disappeared, replaced by the coolness of a heavy rain. At this time, Adela was no longer afraid of the oppression of marriage and the discrimination of the colonists; her honesty was fought and overcome for the oppression by the patriarchal society.

Conclusion

From this relationship between two characters and nature, we can find that the inner changes of the two females from their attitudes to nature, during their passage to India, only reflected the awakening of female consciousness, but also reconstructed new images in the process of continuous confrontation and reconciliation with nature. Adela completed the construction of her new female image from an antipathy, understanding, and confrontation to acceptance. Instead of relying on marriage and love, she chooses to face life bravely. And from discovery, acceptance, and finally harmony, Mrs. Moore completed her rebellion against tradition. She no longer dedicated her entire life to her family and children, and she found her own "cave". Her soul rests in nature. The relationship between the two and nature and the changes that they have produced also reveal that female is a part of nature, female and nature are in a mutually agreed relationship, and there is a natural connection between female's destiny and nature. A new type of relationship needs to be established between man and nature, and between male and female. Only through this way, can female achieve the equal.

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