



MY NATURE MY WORLD: A BOOK REVIEW

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Nature, the elixir of life is fading away, *My Nature My World* published in 2021 is an anthology of poems written by Dr. Rajesh Chauhan to convey to the readers the magnificent and significant power that man has been bestowed upon to alter his enduring green world.

Nature resets the upcoming cause

Manipulate it, it manipulate all (Chauhan 64)

The above emboldening line says it all. Dr. Rajesh Cahuan is an anesthetist by profession but seems to be a warrior fighting endlessly to save our environment. He is an active contributor of 200 trees to the mega project called “Cauvery calling Initiative” an independent movement headed by the basin area. He shares in his preface that already 55 million trees have been planted in the last few years and the process is continuing, this gigantic initiative has been a welcoming step to resolving crises leading to ecological imbalance, across the globe. ‘Blank Black’ movements in life kindled him to write poems that transformed his thoughts into productive scripts. The book *My Nature: My World* is a collection of 22 poems drawing our minds and hearts towards subjects like man-made excess that have disturbed nature, threatening our ecological planet, and the question of survival of our Green Planet. The poet has touched upon different facets of life in the form of poems. The review portrays bombastic ideas as every poem is unique.

Chauhan’s collection of poems is a wide corner, which was consciously designed by him to highlight the unavoidable interconnectedness with everything known and understood, and even everything we do not know or see, too. The poem “Blocked Life” speaks about the evolution of buildings on earth has blocked the flow

in our hearts and in life. He says the arteries and veins of the human body are blocked because of the rising world of population, rising buildings, and the launch of techno innovations, such issues keep the debate in society open

“For One is man-made error,

The other and error is man (29)

are the impressive lines. He transparently conveys that the flow of nature is important in life and obstruction leads to death. In the poem “The Time is Changing”, he describes the slipping away of time from hands. He draws us to the past stages where one grew up going to school and chases by the time when young are growing to catch up with the ages to come. The “Tolerance Eclipsed” is compared to the eclipse of the sun and moon to the life of man. He says that the world revolves, even when eyes fail to see the omniscient sight, sooner or later the duo comes out bright and clear. To sustain life tolerance is the way of life to endure shining, transient, and surreal.

In the poem, “Naturally Yours Play Me”. Dr. Rajesh portrays the grandeur of nature in the poem. Nature is the only one that is so beautiful, there is a dire need for it to be nurtured by the human world. Nature survives to date to keep human life going and to sacrifice for the prosperity of man. The poem calls on the human world to lessen greed and to check the imbalances of nature. The poem “Population Over a Billion” probes the towering of the growing population in the world. Our population has crossed over a billion, which poses a question to society.

“Is it(population) our strength or weakness” (15). The same question is repeated 3 times in the poem. He goes on to say that the population is still multiplying over time making the poor become poorer leading to the rise of terrorism, fanaticism, and robberies. The poet calls us to imagine a world with ‘population stabilization’. It is time to restore imbalances and stabilize the population. In the poem “The Cry of the Day”, he justifies that devastation over nature is ‘the cry of the day. The lines,

“Man! You’re responsible for this crime cause of your ambition.” (17) shows the furious mood of the poet.

Throughout the poems portray the ambition of man. Man has to decrease his ambition of inventing and innovating engines and cars considered lords over nature. The last two are triggering lines,

Remember, the cry of the day,

Live and care, for all! (18)

The poem “Once in a life time” is about the journey of life, the good and the golden days and the bad and the older ways of life. The poet says to live and cherish memories and to laugh and love and to spread glee on the faces around. The poem “Of power and Mind” is a muscle of efficiency in mastering the interesting fact of science. He sets a definition for the mind, the mind being strong or weak is small in size contemplating about being a winner or loser in life. In “The Himalayan Tsunami”, the poet justifies that ‘Tsunami’ was man-made leading to, ‘Himalayan disaster’. It was the outcome of nature’s fury which was unexpected when unprepared. It is the greatest tragedy of all times. In the poem “Namaste”, he beautifully defines the word ‘Namaste’. It is a sign of welcome and parting away. It is extended to strangers from morning till evening. He emphasizes the times during COVID when, ‘namaste’ is a sign of greeting spread all over the world at various events, by statesmen, and in all forums too.

A silent sign,
Expression of face,
Action so gracious
Hands folded for “Namaste” (27).

The poem “Nature Gave Us Did WE” says that nature was born with a bang, it takes many years, months, and dates to develop nature but a man with a bang takes it away. Nature provides from time to time but, ‘Did man nature its reverence’. The poet says that man learned to live and thrive. When nature mastered man, nature saved humans when there is a shortage of effort for survival. The human world masters nature today and so it is a question of survival for man.

In the poem “The Man The Keeper”, the poet gives a picture of man’s mastermind. A man is a team man engrossed in focusing the work of the team with a plan. He brings out the greatness of humans, that they accept challenges, are never a ‘no’ man and never a ‘yes’ man but “... he is a fact man...” (13). He presents the sublime character of man where he plays his role on the stage of a revolving world, he gives out his best without caring for his good needs.

He conveys the fact that a team leader accepts the team as his own. He greets verbally and visually through the pitch (work) is bad to bat. At the end of the day, he returns to the pitch to end his play because he is a team man who always keeps the pitch ready to bat.

Through the poem “The World Times”, the poet conveys that man has to learn to be independent to be on one’s own, to take time to introspect and explore oneself. It is a need to compete and explore space and place.

The poem “Death, A Happening” and “Every Dark Cloud has a Silver- Lining” portray death, that it is a transition in the process of life. The process is stopped when one is shut off from the world. but there is a silver lining that waits to welcome one to a new beginning in life. The poems “Nothing Stays the Same” and “Floods All Over” pose a complicated life during the pandemic. The word ‘Nothing’ is the picture of pandemic days ‘Pandemic never remains the same. The poem insists to consider it as the optimistic, enjoying solace, blowing hot or blowing cold unpredictable things will continue to happen but it is the man’s ability to sail and reach offshore. In the poem “Floods All Over,” the word ‘Flood’ is compared to the fatal befall COVID. COVID has rolled over and has swept away hundreds of species in the world. The poet highlights the ecological imbalances of global warming, pollution, rise, and fall of temperature, melting glaciers, and the rising level of the sea and oceans. The poem touches upon the concept of religion too. He brings the image of “Noah’s Ark” from the Bible and the concept “Matsya Avatar” where Matsya portrays the image of the fish. ‘Matsya Avatar’ is the avatar of the Hindu God Vishnu who is portrayed to save the people. Above all, it is a quest for survival and he says ‘only hope’ is survival.

“Manipulating Nature” is the last poem in the anthology which is groundbreaking, ‘Himalayas’ is the core subject of the poem. Nature had its own way where, the Himalayas rose high up from the lava, mud, and stones. There is a continental shift where the river flows deep in the valley, it flows across the narrow bed with water swelling and reaching high. Nature had its own way of sustenance. He poses a question and answers it as well. The change of balance in nature is so sensitive and the tilt created by the human world has changed it all. Despite the warning, man has created dams and misplaced nature. The poet proves that there is a reservoir spread over miles in the middle of the Himalayas.

What was that changed the balance?

A balance so sensitive it’s been,

A tilt that changed it all (62)

The mass of the man is almost like an ocean, he says. Man inundates and destroys existing habitats, the trees are felt and as a result, the fluctuating temperatures have worsened the globe. He stresses the revolving around climate changes. The weather is heavy, the cloud formation is fluctuating in its behavior. The cloud bursts frequently with lashing rainfall which increases landslides and increases the flow of rivers and the flash of the flood is higher and more deadly. Such coalition leads to the toll of calamities which leads to starvation. Towards the end, the poems strike the mind as he says that it is wake-up time to reverse the

trend, for the Himalayas are crumbling and will fall in where they rose from “Such is the power of nature” (64).

The poem targets the spell of the day, the force of devastation is so intense, the explosion is tilting the balance and impositions are happening all around. Nature is normal for some and disasters for others. The happenings prove today that nature remains impassionate, undeterred, and detergent with no remorse because humanity continues to remain the same. The last two lines are the tag lines of the anthology.

Nature resets the upsetting cause,

Manipulate it, It manipulates all!

The 22 poems about nature are inspiring and captivating, as today’s world is battling the war of towering disasters emerging today. A reader of this anthology would feel a magical experience about oneself and the natural world. The book gives ground that it is necessary for the human world to explore nature and its space. It brings to the spotlight the distinction between the human and the non-human realms- what fits inside the boundary and what exists outside it. It helps to understand the fact of the existence of real and reality. The anthology prominently voices to create eco-sustainability- to sustain for a better place. It justifies that the act of self-realisation leads to ecological awareness. The poems exhibit an omnipresent force that excites, provokes, and stimulates the human’s relationship with the non-human world.

