

Sixth Sense :- A Warning for Future In The Hungry Tide

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Abstract :- This paper is based upon the sixth sense sought by the author Amitav Ghosh in his novel The Hungry Tide. Sixth Sense is the feeling which is felt by brain without any use of five main sense. In simple words we can say it as stimuli given by brain for alerting the body towards upcoming danger by making nervous feeling in the person body is called as the sixth sense. Ghosh's story in the Hungry tide is also warning us for the danger of the existence of the earth as the human are disturbing the natural phenomina.

The Hungry Tide (2004) is the sixth novel by Indian born author Amitav Ghosh. It won the 2004 Hutch crossword Book Award For fiction.

Amitav Ghosh is no doubt a wonderful story teller and in this book he really proved that his literary skill is wonderful. The story is set in the 'Sundarbans' in Eastern India-a vast forest in the Coastal region of the Bay of Bengal and considered one of the natural wonders of the world.

The story starts with the travel of Kanai Dutt, a wealthy businessman who comes to visit his aunt in Sundarbans where he meets Piya Roy who came to the Sunderbans to research the rare Irrawady dolphins while searching Piya meets a local fisherman named Fokir when he rescued her after falling out of the boat. Piya continues her research with Fokir., Fokir's and Kanai's families are known to each other. When Fokir and Piya struck in a storm Fokir tries to protect Piya but is killed by debris flying in the wind.

The author presents a picture of the past India when all the continents of the worlds were attached to each other-

"India was far away then. It was attached to Australia and Antarctica. There were no Himalayas and no holy rivers. And since there were no rivers, there was no delta... The coast line of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh was then a frozen waste with ice. Then India began its journey from Antarctica to the North; its weight forced the rise of Himalayas, Ganga emerged, as a brook on a rising hill".

Hovering over all of the characters - Piyala, Kanai, his aunt, the fisherman and his family and other islanders – is an impending sense of life change and transformation and the threat of a disastrous, once-in-a-lifetime cyclone. Like the river that gave birth to the region, their stories run deep and will, like the powerful tides of the Sunderbans, possibly even pull you under.

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake occurred on 26 December 2004 which caused a great disaster to the coastal areas of India. Ghosh has depicted this disaster in his book which seemed true in the destruction caused by the Tsunami waves. In an almost eerie precursor to the real-life tragedy, Amitav Ghosh's novel *The Hungry Tide* speaks of the death and destruction wreaked.

“The river was like a pavement, lying at its feet, while its crest reared high above, dwarfing the tallest trees. It was a tidal wave, sweeping in from the sea; everything in its path disappeared as it came thundering towards them... But now it was as if death had announced its arrival and there was nothing to do but to wait for its arrival...”

Whether it was author's premonition or plain coincidence? In an interview given to the Delhi Times Ghosh says –

“Call it Sixth sense. The fact is, I'm fascinated by geology. In my heart, I've always known that we were on the brink of an ecological disaster. That's what I wanted to talk about. The 1737 earthquake and gigantic waves that caused great devastation was a turning point, it was something similar to a tsunami. I wanted to make a point while writing about the changing geology and environment. I know the fury of the tides. I'm familiar with the powerful landscapes in the Bay of Bengal, the Sundarbans and the Islands. *The Hungry Tide* took me four years of extensive research; I travelled to the Mekong river in Cambodia to do research for the book, which has historical, geographic, ecological and geological explanations for hungry tides. When I began writing, I knew this was something I wanted to explore, but this book also recognizes the human spirit”.

The Hungry Tide depicts the true picture of the destruction caused by tides. In this story, Ghosh warns us for the danger of the existence of the future generation on the earth. The continents are moving far away from each other day by day.

“Each slow turn of the world carries such disinherited ones to whom neither the past nor the future belongs”.

The Ultimate waves of Warning: In an Interview given to the Delhi Times Ghosh proclaims –

“Let’s be warned. There is going to increased seismic activity in the Indian region. I see us becoming more vulnerable. It’s not something that’s happened suddenly, there’s a pattern of spurts, long periods of lull, and spurts again. We’re in a period of spurts of tremors the Gujarat earthquake, the Tehri-Garhwal tremors... we’re becoming fragile. There will be tremors, rising tides and earthquakes. But are we prepared? The Indian seismic plates are moving at great velocity, slipping under the Asian plates Mind you, India was near Antarctica many deep, deep years ago. Even now, the Indian plate is moving into the Himalayas – that’s trouble already.

Sources :-

1. The Delhi Times
2. Wikipedia
3. The Hungry Tide

