

# The Reconciliation of Man and Nature

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## Abstract:

This paper researches the job of the environment in prompting observer feelings in *The Revenant*. So as to examine how the earth is depicted to inspire passionate reactions, this article uses a psychological methodology toward the novel. One imperative manner by which this procedure works is through the hero's involvement of his environment. By following Hugh Glass on his adventure through the wild, the watcher shares his experience of it and reacts sincerely in a harmonious manner: with dread, and sympathy just as with interest and authentic enthusiasm for nature. In any case, *The Revenant* furthermore energizes an alternate arrangement of feelings toward the wild that are not associated with Glass' destiny or wants. Onlookers are welcome to feel feelings toward the earth in essence, both in *The Revenant* and, all things considered. Cutaways to captivating shots of untainted wild welcome examination about the human effect on characteristic life and the absence of eagerness to change hurtful conduct as far back as the beginnings of ecological misuse as portrayed in *The Revenant*. The last feelings can in any case not be viewed as free from the story but instead as a feature of the realistic experience, since they are evoked inside the setting of the novel.

Keywords: *Nature, Fur Company, Hurtful, Survive, Struggle, Arikara tribe.*

Nature acts as both provider and destroyer. Sometimes it helps us, but on the other hand it becomes the main reason for our sorrows. We all know that nature can live without man, but man cannot live without nature. When the nature is good with man, he enjoys. But when the nature turns into a destroyer, he cannot defend him from it. This chapter attempts to analyses how a man reacts to the changing character of nature and how he survives in the realm of nature.

Michael Punke has set the novel throughout in the forest of North America. Huge Glass, the protagonist travels through the forest to take revenge on Fitzgerald, who left him dying and stole his rifle. During the travel, there was a dysfunctional relationship between the forest or nature and him. Sometimes he was surprised by the grandeur of the forest, but sometimes he struggled to survive in the forest. Most of the time in the novel, nature was against Huge Glass. Through the struggles, Glass learned that the only way to survive in nature is to make himself as a part of the nature. When a man loses the image of nature, he loses his life.

The setting of the novel is the west part of North America during 1820s. At that time the fur companies fully were fully depended upon the environment. Because as only per the environment and weather, the explorers of nature could go through the forest and collect fur for the trade. So here, the nature decides the success of the fur trade. But the nature in this novel was mostly against the group of eleven men who were sent by the Rocky Mountain Fur Company.

Nature controls everything. Even the discovery of America is too caused by the nature itself. It is unpredictable and unavoidable. Thus nature plays a vital role not only in the novel but also in real life. The readers of the can easily realize about the nature and how to escape from the bad effects of nature along with the character “Huge Glass”.

After great struggles continued one by one, Glass learned how to interact with the environment. He had more knowledge about the forest and wild-life survival than his other companions. The passing of days was the only hope to him. It gave the energy to survive through the struggles. Although there were cold always, the nature also expressed the presence of the Sun. The Sun gave him warmth to continue his journey of revenge. When Glass fell from a horse while escaping from the attack of Arikara tribe, he safely landed with the help of a tree. Michael Punke has given a special importance to the trees also. The melting of ice on river under the bright rays of the Sun inspired Glass.

#### Nature as Provider:

Nature has a major influence on human life. Because the basic necessities like the air we breathe, water, food, etc. are the products of nature only. Not only the people in forest, also the people living in cities also depended upon the nature fully for their life especially for food. In our biodiversity, everyone has to kill others for their survival. In this way the bear attacked Glass. When the bear died, the bear and one of its cub became the feast for the group. Later, Glass also got meals. He had so many feasts like buffalos that were killed by some wolves, some small animals that were gotten from the traps that Glass set before throughout the novel.

According to a research on 2010, the total forest area covers 4033 million hectares in world, which is 31% of whole land surface. Among them most are medical plants which cures deadly diseases. 8.5% of total population on Earth have diabetics. Basil, a plant which is rich in Asia, especially in India can cure this. In ancient India, a medical technique is followed namely “Ayurveda”, that is fully depended on natural medical plants which also lasts even today. Pine gum was used with gunpowder and buffalo urine to cure the wounds of Huge Glass in the novel. Bridger and a medical man of Sioux warriors made the medicine for Glass.

In the novel the most important reason for exploring the nature was for fur trade only. The first half of the ninetieth century in American history is called the Fur Era. Rocky Mountain Fur Company was one the famous fur companies at that time. The group of eleven men were also the men of that company. The tribes in

the forest of North America also traded with the companies in urban areas. The Arikara tribe was once a trade companion of the company. But later it turned a big threat to the company, and started opposing the company. Some outside men had a strong relationship with Mandan tribe which was the enemy of Arikara. As Arikara tribe ordered them to trade only with only pale pals company, they became rivals and Arikara also attacked Mandan tribe whenever they had chance.

This is a poem written by Tao Qian, a nature poet of China who lived between 365 to 427. Disappointment in his political career leads him to hide himself in the country, considering that nature can pacify him. Tao also admires the power of nature by saying that,

**“The ways of men are conditioned by those of earth.  
The ways of earth are conditioned by those of  
Heaven. The ways of heaven by those of Tao, and the  
Ways of Tao by the self-so”**

According to Tao, nature gives us infinity pleasure. The romantic poets like Wordsworth, Lord Byron, and Shelley got pacification from the nature. Robert Burns worried for a mouse. Shelly bonded him with the West Wind to comfort himself from the death of his son. John Keats is attracted by the songs of nightingale and the drawings that were carved in the Grecian Urn. Here, Glass was pleased by the majesty of the nature like the high Rocky Mountains, thousands of buffalos at one site likewise how Wordsworth saw thousands of Daffodils at a glance, and other nature beauties.

Nature’s Cruelty:

Animals plays a great role in nature. Even we can say that they are also a major part of nature. Most of the animals kill other animals to survive. This is one of the major problems faced by who ventures forests. For Glass, really it was a deadly threat. At that time, the nature was fully against him. He was attracted by two cute bear cubs, but soon he was likely to be died. The mama bear attacked him crucially. Though he managed to kill the bear, the attack was very brutal. He couldn’t move even one step. For some days he was crawling to move to other place.

Like this so many deadliest animals are the inhabitants of the forest. After Glass was abandoned by Fitzgerald, he saw a snake approaching him. But suddenly it stopped and started relaxing. Glass realized that the snake had a large meal of rabbit just now. As he couldn’t move he crawled towards the snake and made it as his meal. Another major threat of nature is weather and seasons. The English have divided a year into four seasons. They are spring, summer, autumn and winter. The Spring gives a new energy and a feeling of enthusiasm. As it is the new season, people feel as they are renewed by the nature. At the starting of the season, everything becomes fresh. The trees are full of leaves, fruits and vegetables. For northern countries,

summer is the favourite season. Because as they are near the norther pole of Earth, normally there is cold. But for us, summer is the undesirable season.

**“See! WINTER comes, to rule the varied Year,  
Sullen, and Sad; with all his rising Train,  
Vapours, and Clouds, and Storms: Be these my Theme...  
Fair AUTUMN, yellow rob’d! I’ll sing of thee,  
Of thy last, temper’d, Days, and sunny Calms;  
When all the golden Hours are on the Wing,  
Attending thy Retreat, and round thy Wain,  
Slow-rolling, onward to the Southern Sky. ”**

With the poetic lines of James Thomson, we can clearly know about the hating nature of northern country people about Winter. *“The Revenant”* is also set on a winter season. The major drawback of nature explorers in this season is coldness. Glass also experienced this. When he has unable to move after the bear attack, he was highly suffering from coldness, after Fitzgerald abandoned him. He was crawling to the place, where was placed his blanket.

The number of deadliest disasters caused by bad weather are huge in the world. The recent deadliest disaster is Indonesia earthquakes and tsunami in December 26, 2018. In the disaster, 2100 people were died and 4400 were injured. We also clearly know about the Vardah cyclone, Kaja cyclone and Chennai flood in 2015. This is the cruelty of nature. No one escape from the wrath of nature. Glass was also unable to defend himself from the wild nature. When he tried to cross the Great River, the by boat, it was fully frozen by the cold. With the fight against Arikara in one hand, and the climate suffering in other hand, Glass suffered a lot. He forced to dive into the chill river to escape from the attacks of Arikaras.

Threat of Tribes as a part of Nature:

When a man gets into forest, his first threat is the tribes of the forest. Michael Punke has given a main role for the tribal societies living in North America. Some of the tribal societies were Arikara, Blackfoot, Pawnee and Mandan. These tribes are also one of the parts of nature. Like nature, these tribes are both good and bad with others. For example, Mandan tribe has a good relationship with the members of Rocky Mountain Fur Company. But adversely, Arikara tribe attacks all of them throughout the novel though it was friendly with them before. Pawnee tribe planned to put Huge Glass into fire. But when Glass prayed as

**“Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy  
Name... For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and  
the Glory, forever. Amen”**

the tribe abandoned the plan and treated him respectfully. He spent nearly the whole year with the tribe with good relation between him and the tribe. Chief Kicking Bull, one of the Pawnee tribe saw him as his son.

Everyone thinks that all the tribes are cannibals. But it is not like that. They are a part of nature, and like nature they act as both a provider and a destroyer.

But in our novel, the native tribe of North America, Arikara was always a big threat to the visitors of the forest. In the very first chapter of the novel William H. Ashley wrote a letter consisting a news that the Arikara tribe had brutally attacked his men.

**“ As you probably know by now, the men of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company were attacked by the Arikara after trading in good faith for sixty horses. The Arikara attacked without provocation, killing 16 of our men, wounding a dozen, & stealing back the horses they had feigned to sell to us the day before.”**

When the news reached U.S. Army, it sent 400 Sioux warriors to abolish the tribe. As it was a big problem, the group of eleven men of Rocky Mountain Fur Company appoints two men from them for watching through the nights. Henry, the captain of the group also experienced an attack of Blackfoot tribe.

The main goal of the Arikara tribe is to abolish Mandan tribe. They also stole horses from the group and other tribes. We can say that Arikara is one of the deadliest tribes in the world. When Fitzgerald was appointed to take care of Glass, he heard the whinny of horses and realized that they were Arikaras. Feared of them, and making it as a reason, Fitzgerald left Huge Glass abandoned in the dark forest with huge wounds. He also stole his rifle “**Anstadt**”, which was very favourite to him. Because of this, Glass decided to take revenge upon Fitzgerald.

There were some minor wars in the forest between Arikara and Mandan tribes. The restriction of Mandan's trade that was done by Arikara made them as enemy of Mandan tribe. So with the help of Glass as a hunter, Mandans started fighting against Arikaras. The Sioux warriors were also against the Arikaras. All of them trying to abolish the Arikaras. But they also had fear about them, as they were deadliest tribes. When they were ready to fight, many were killed not only in Arikara's side but also in the opposite side.

Professor of Sioux army was the first scapegoat of this war. He felt like his chest was burning. When he saw down, he realized that he was stuck by an arrow. Charbonnear announced about the arrival of Arikaras and everyone tried to escape. Unfortunately, Glass is the only person in the group to escape from Arikaras. Langevin, Dominique, his brother La Vierge were died in the attack. Anderson, one of the eleven group members also died in Fort Union. At last Glass escaped from the by swimming through the river and reached a safe place.

Nature was always the same. Man only changes. Most of the time nature acts as a provider. But one time the man admires the majesty of nature; another time he tries to exploit the nature. The nature reflects only the actions of man. Glass realized this when he saw his own reflection in the river. Then he found a way to escape from nature that was to make himself as the part of nature.

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