

# THE RECIPROCIITY BETWEEN HUMAN AND NATURE IN FRANES HODGSON BURNETT “THE SECRET GARDEN”

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## ABSTRACT

How nature metamorphosed Mary. Literature, most generically, is anybody of written works. More restrictively, literature refers to writing considered to art writing or any single writing deemed to have artistic or intellectual value. Literature due to deploys language in ways that differ from ordinary usage. Children’s literature includes stories, books, magazines, and poems that are enjoyed by children. More children’s literature is classified in two different ways: genre or the intended age of the reader .Frances Eliza Hodgson Burnett (24 November 1849 – 29 October 1924) was a British-born American novelist and playwright. She is best known for the three children’s novels Little lord Fauntleroy (published in 1885-1886), A Little Princess(1905), The secret Garden(1911).

Frances Hodgson Burnett, was born in Victorian Slums in Manchester. The Secret Garden was first published in 1909. When she was 16, her family moved from industrial England to rural America. There she could enjoy the benefits of a green and natural world. That kind of world became a central theme in many of Burnett’s later works, including The Secret Garden. It is a readable novel containing magical and secret elements. Those elements, which are shown as supernatural, have their origin in Christian Science and New thought. Burnett tried to explain those magical elements that appear with the turn of the main protagonists – Mary leno and Colin Craven.

Mary Leno is a little girl born in India to wealthy British parents. She made a tremendous change to the garden and in the life of Colin throughout the story. Looking deeper into psychological level, she begins as a selfish, ill-tempered and spoiled girl, she hates her parents, who constantly alienate her. She is under the care of native Indian most of the time. She is left to be on her own way. And she was "... as tyrannical and selfish a little pig as ever lived". Almost the same sensations were presented with Colin Craven, whose mother died when he was born. As his father could not reconcile to wife's loss he started in attentive to the little boy. People who knew Colin felt pity for him and they thought he would die early. The power of their thought, including his father's, were so strong that Colin never left the house in his whole life, and what is even worse, he never tried to stand on his own legs.

In those straitened circumstances Mary and Colin did not have any chance to grow up as healthy and happy adults. Their senses started to waken when they befriended each other. The garden was their source of positive thinking and energy. The narrator puts value on positive thinking which is also one of the most important Christian elements. Believers reinforce their faith with good thoughts at prayer meetings. Christians scientists' idea affirms that no disease is caused by the body, but in fact is the result of morbid and negative thinking. Neither Mary or Colin were not loud and were surrounded with negativism. As a result they felt angry and rejected everybody and everything. But once they begin thinking of the garden and nature they can no longer fill themselves with fear. They started becoming healthy children, and were full of dreams. Their pale faces become more and more cheerful every day. Their selfishness, which was caused by unfriendly relations in the past, started to disappear.

An important role in their transformation is played by strong and satisfied boy, Dickon Sowerby. His mother, Susan Sowerby is introduced as virgin mother in Catholic symbology. she lends Mary and Colin warm support as if they were her own children. Susan connect with another human being in a similar predicament like her. The Context is the Scene in which Mary opens the window so that Colin may breathe in the air. Colin's

suggestion: “ open the window ... perhaps we may golden trumpets !” recall the golden trumpets that are believed by Christians to announce the entrance in paradise. Furthermore, when Mary opens the window for Colin, she repeats Dickon’s words “ it makes him strong and he feels as if he could live forever”. This clearly indicates the Christian belief that paradise contains the promise of eternal life.

Unlike Dickon, who is already complete from the beginning, Mary and Colin start to feel life in their veins very late. The garden which the great secret among children, is represented as a holy place that helps transform them in the best possible way. We can see Mary’s growing up from different views. She moves from India to England. In England she is given living plants and a real garden representing life and wakefulness in contrast with Indian idea of happiness and of sleepiness. She becomes more and more happy. England, stands for good things that happened to her: “she had felt as if she had understood a robin and that he had understood her; she had run in the wind until her blood had grown warm; she had been healthily hungry for the first time in her life; and she had found out what it was to be sorry for someone”. Divine nature, warm spring environment and her first friendship with the little robin, which was an orphan like she was, started to arouse feelings in her. She was afraid of company because she was not used to it. Although with her shame face and fear she had an evident desire to be someone’s friend. She befriended the gardener Ben: “She surprised him several times by seeming to start up beside him ... the truth was that she was afraid that he would pick up his tools and go away if he saw her coming, so she always walked toward him as possible”. Furthermore, she makes friendship with Dickon. She felt as if they were in love. She constantly touches him, without knowing what she is doing.

Colin plunged his negative feelings in his hysterical tantrums. He was not ill at all; his disease was entirely a product of his mind. The psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, who published studies on Hysteria in co-operation with neurologist Joseph Breuer. In his book he explains the reason that leads someone to hysterical outbursts. Freud sees the workings of the conscious and unconscious part of mind. Human beings cannot realise the ideas and acts which are conflicting in their head. He represses some of them in faith to forget or later

mitigate them. When a person has a desire or a fantasy that has been repressed (unconsciously) by the mind, it will find its alternative expression in the body. Colin's negative thinking is let out through the body. For Freud, the majority of hysterics were women. Colin is therefore feminized- he is weak, frightened and shy. In contrast, Dickon is strong, masculine and vigorous.

The novel would be even more interesting if it was told in Mary's words. It would be more personal and more touching than it is now, when it is told by an omniscient narrator, who offers extensive philosophical commentary on the novel's action and has access to all of the characters' thoughts. The major conflict in *The Secret Garden* is among the characters and his own negative thoughts. Magic is provided as a parable of positive thinking and believing that can solve everything. *The Secret Garden* was the place for Mary and Colin to recover and to feel love that they never felt. This novel shows us life principles and importance of positive thinking. The young people (children), help each other and tasted the mercy and glory of life at the end.

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