

Coalescing Salvation of Humans and Butterflies in *Flight Behaviour*

J. Amuthavalli

Guest lecturer, English Department, Jawahar Science College, Neyveli.

Abstract

The Earth bestows indispensable unity of existence to the human being and other organisms. Since the origin of the earth, people is envisaging about the threat of global annihilation. The conception of apocalypse is analogous to nuclear warfare's, aliens, zombies, cybernetic disasters but often leaves behind the global crisis called climate change. A hybrid genre of the speculative fiction is cli-fi i.e. climate fiction deals with the abrupt change in the pattern of climate and its consequences. Climate fictions are being formulated with hurricane, rising sea levels, flash flood, snowfall particularly alongside the urban cities. Diverging from these prototypes *Flight Behaviour* by Barbara Kingsolver delineates the potential effect of global warming on the unforeseen extinctive migration of enormous monarch butterfly species to the rural Appalachian Mountains. The village peoples struck between the spiritual beliefs and advent of the sceptical Science. In the novel's end butterflies and the characters survives the environmental metamorphosis with ensuing liberation.

Keywords – environment, climate change, victims, survival, liberation.

Introduction

The Earth is an explicit existential territory to the uncountable creatures, organisms and establishes an incredible rapport among them. It is the human being, whooften interrupt the nature's design. Whether the calendars or a clairvoyant intermittently evince the Doomsday. The last day scenario of the world is in accordance with the images of zombies, aliens, nuclear Armageddon etc. All the above-mentioned forms the subject matter of the speculative fiction genre. But mankind fails to remember the substantial threat called climate change and its dire consequences. Writers used climate fiction as an effective tool to combine the environmental activism, awareness and bespeak about ecological turmoil caused by Anthropocene. The American writer Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behaviour* exhibits the anthropogenic effects on the decaying surroundings, besides the migration and inhabitation of the monarch butterfly species within the North American context.

Life and Survival as Metaphor

The *Flight Behaviour* uses the natural habitat as metaphor to represent the characters inner mind and life's viability. The collies looking after the farm, family, kids, and the art of lambing and rearing process of the ewes imparts the lifestyle of the rural Americans. The disrupted ecosystem causes the monarchs to shift their roosting site from Mexico to Tennessee Mountains. The species survives the dynamic conditions of the climate in order to rescue its genetic vestiges. All the creatures lives are closely interconnected in the way to expose the characters other side of their monotonous life, such as Dellarobia's determination to cross the marriage line, going to college, to divorce her husband and to live as a single mother with her lovable kids. Hester and Cub's confession about extramarital relationship. Each individual's have different perspectives regarding their failing conjugal life despite all this retarding emotions their sole aim is keeping the family intact just like monarchs.

Social Ecological Outlook

A green person has to strive against the hierarchical interdisciplinary forces such as society, culture, economy etc to protect the environment. On one side Bear along with a private company is persistent to log the fir forest ignoring its grave outcomes. Dellarobia described it as follows "It was being taken as an invitation. And fairly enough, she thought, for that was the way of the world. A road was to be driven upon. The candy in the dish was there to be eaten, money in the bank got spent, people claimed whatever they could get their hands on"(Kingsolver 349). On the next side Ovid and his team, Dellarobia, activist team 350 feels guilty and scared that the world's environmental phenomenon is getting out their hands . The basic assumption here is only if man and the forces works with nature together, the world will become a better place and it will help nature to reduce its negative manifestation like flood, fire, drought etc.

Science and Religion

The occurrence news of the monarchs spreads fast as spiritual vision foreseen by Dellarobia. Instantly she becomes popular butterfly lady around the town. The Turnbow family, church, town peoples firmly believes the presence of God's hand in every ecological activities like changes in Weather pattern, migration of the monarch butterflies, and destructions. Hester says "Weather is the Lord's business"(Kingsolver 361). Everything becomes crystal clear with advent of Ovid, the entomologist. He observes, explains the migratory and survival pattern of the monarchs through scientific prism.Ovid and his team can't stop the extinction of a beautiful species because of the limitations of the science. Ovid says "Science doesn't tell us what we should do. It only tells us what is" (Kingsolver 442).

Divergence from Stereotypes

The climate fiction basically sets in the current future, cities, and scientists, masculinity, human victims, natural disasters occupies the major domain of the oeuvre. In *Flight Behaviour* the flow of the novel includes the current of femininity with rural context of the North Americans. For a change monarch butterflies became victims. Instead of the smart male lead the novel is filled with head strong female leads that directs the family chores and knows how to look after themselves, kids, religious, and social life without any complaints. The monarch butterflies survival, the lambing process, unstable ecosystem closely indicates the obstacles faced by the woman in the world and how they are strong enough to move forward with those scars. The novel ends with ultimate liberation of the monarchs and the female characters from their spatiotemporal testing of the god and environment.

Conclusion

The world and its inhabitants due to global warming, ecological effects is constantly on the march towards extinction. If human being continues to manipulate and exploit the natural resources it will not only affects them but also the other entities too. This novel is a proof that fiction functions as a great medium to expose the truth and to create awareness among the readers about our environment. Cub says "If people played their channels right, they could be spared from disagreement for the length of their natural lives"(Kingsolver 357).

References

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