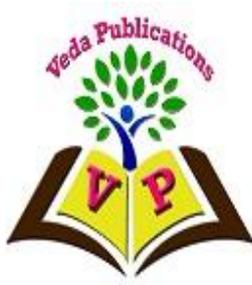


**ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN THE POETRY OF DC CHAMBIAL**

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*(Asst. Professor, Dept. of English, Satavahana University, Karimnagar.)*Email: laxmiprasad.puram@gmail.com[DOI:10.33329/joell.7.3.20.71](https://doi.org/10.33329/joell.7.3.20.71)**ABSTRACT**

Environment has become the interdisciplinary study in contemporary times. It has acquired multiple dimensions all over the world. It has become a subject of serious debate and discussions on media and literature. All creative writers have depicted environment in their way. Indeed, they have campaigned through different agencies and forums. Against this backdrop, the poetry of DC Chambial is relevant to the core of this area. He has fourteen collections of poetry to his credit. Many scholars have worked for M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees on his poetry. He has become a poetic voice in environmental protection.

Keywords: *Environment, Landscape, Himalayas, Lakes, Valleys and Ozone layer*



As you sow, so you will reap

A celebrated poet and an eminent critic, D.C.Chambial hails from Himachal Pradesh. He is a contemporary poet in English who has to his credit nine published collections; He edits *Poetcrit* a bi-annual journal of literary criticism and contemporary poetry. Scholars have worked on his poetry for M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees. The Indian English poets have dealt with Nature in their poetry such as Toru Dutt, Rabindranath Tagore, Manmohan Ghosh, Sri Aurobindo, Sarojini Naidu, Nissim Ezekiel, A.K. Ramanujan and others. Environmental literature is writing that comments intelligently on environmental themes, particularly as applied to the relationship between man, society and the environment. Most nature writing and some science writing falls within the scope of environmental literature. Often, environmental literature is understood to espouse care and concern for the environment, thus advocating a more thoughtful and ecologically sensitive relationship of man to nature. Planet earth faces an ecological disaster of higher proportions as man has been using it irresponsibly for his selfish ends. We have an ethical responsibility to look after creation and save planet earth from all extinction. Eco centric approaches claim that humans are of equal value to all other life forms. It condemns all forms of exploitation of the environment.

Among the Indian English Poets, Chambial is a name to reckon with for his significant contribution to Poetry. His Poetry explores the environmental concerns apart from the supreme power of Nature. According to Shiva K Kumar, Chambial is essentially a poet of the hills, of valleys, clouds and birds. But he does not limit his vision to mere descriptions of Nature but also changes his verse with a refreshing moral fervor. (CP, Foreword) Environmental concerns are aplenty in his poetry. Nature holds the key to survival in the universe. Chambial's poetry becomes highly relevant when one looks at the growing ecological concerns. The poet in Chambial makes us conscious of the environmental degradation, pollution and finally man's fall down. As he hails from Himachal Pradesh, the Himalayan

landscape added to the eco –beauties of his close scrutiny.

'This Promising Age' is a long poem of many reflections on Nature. Man is held captive by the machines and the robot culture. He writes that Mother Nature is wounded by the artificial wrong doings of man. The climatic changes have been felt and seen through the destruction caused to the physical being.

Nature has been cruel
to the honest and individual.
Can clouds save any more
the blistering skin,
breeze balm
the parched mind (CP 6)

The poet talks about the ethical issue of human cloning which is the burning topic in the world against the will of Nature. He yearns to preserve the natural beauty and the greenery of the nature by questioning his own responsibility towards it.

A business-minded mother
decides to be pregnant
for those who do not want
to lose their shape (CP 8)

Chambial finds fault with modern world which is destroying environmental balance in the poem "I Know". Though man has scaled new heights, the Green Earth remains his dwelling place.

I Know:
the green Earth is beautiful,
in my blood too.

I Know:
the green sea seen from the top of a tree
shows stars in its womb.

I Know:
The pink and green leaves



That fanned life, are yellow

I Know:

The sky is endless

for space ships to explore. (CP 9)

The poet looks at the doomsday of the whole planet in the future as the world indulges in the ruthless destruction of Nature. Global warming results in the production of high temperatures because of industrialization and other factors. "He has kept to the canon that environmental problems require analysis in cultural as well as scientific terms because they are the outcome of an interaction between ecological knowledge of nature and its cultural inflection" (Garrad 14).

Sky-Kissing mountains
begin to thaw and melt
Into matter on sea.

Where is the rock
under which we sheltered
in the blizzard? (CP 9)

The poet in Chambial is close to Walt Whitman when he embraces the leaves of the grass that really holds
Cosmos in him.

They in me. I in them
The Cosmos contacted in me
I dissolved and diffused
To the bourns of Cosmos
Good or bad
In love and truth (CP,85)

From the valleys of Himachal Pradesh to the Bay of Bengal in South India, Chambial presents the

experiences of his visit to Mariana Beach, Madras" in the poem. The mystic in the poet takes rest in the union of the mountain and the seas.

Coming to the Marina beach
with the lofty message of love
and peace
From the higher Himalayan peaks
Heart full of immense of pride and joy.
Come to you and stand a little far
Amazed at your joyous rollicking waves
Floating in the boat of fancy;
Ere recollect and come ashore
you race frolicking to meet the message
rise to knees to reach the heart (CP 17)

"Frantic Rhythm" is a poem reflective of poet's thoughts on degradation of Nature. The poet propounds the thesis that Nature vilified leads to moral degradation of mankind. The poet comments on the global ecological destruction of the hills and the seas and compared it to the spiritual decay of mankind through unethical living.

I see trees dancing
to a frantic rhythm
nurtured on mountain and in deep sea
yellow leaves irresistibly fling themselves
before the fury of the wind(CP37)

Thunder, Lighting
Codes of conduct
Insignificant
When men
Resolve to play beast
And revert to prehistoric ogres
Devouring one another

Chambial is highly eco- conscious when he sees around the natural world. According to Pande, "Eco-consciousness is an innate sign of growing spirituality



in Chambial. Being a dweller of hills and dales, he is nearer to nature's diverse construct". (Pande) In fact, it constitutes an important element in all his collections. "Bleeding clouds" is yet another poem of environmental concerns. The poet reflects that all unique things in the universe are subject to destruction. Further, the poem reminds us of ozone depletion by which the layer protects the earth from the ultra-violet rays of the Sun.

The sun pours down fire
On the gasping earth,
A falcon perches
beside a sinking river

The land laughs
blood congeals,
flood receded
my feet on quicksand
blaying sun takes a dip
the fakan squeaks on rock (CP 45)

"In Harmony with Nature" is a poem of pristine relationship with Nature. He wants to recapture the lost charm of his native land. He longs to reestablish his oneness with nature's beauty. It is for the nature lovers a sort of divine experience.

I feel the body disintegrating
And flying in the air above the Himalayas
Flows down to the coolest oceans (CP 52)

Chambial symbolizes that Time is more powerful in the universe. He hopes to return to nature. The poet celebrates the power of Nature.

With the thundering clouds
over the mountains
flowers bloom, seeds sprout
young rivers thunder past
mountains, ravines
dales and plains.
The sun rises and sets

Eternal wheel moves on. (CP 53)

"Rainbow" is a poem of beautiful images. The poet presents his thoughts on it.

Like a dream borne on breeze
walks on toes from dark corridors
spreads before eyes a gala of colours to
feast dun nerves
The Seven colours
one beside the other. (CP 107)

In the next poem "Let Us Learn", the poet portrays nature as the best teacher. Various objects from nature like the rainbow, the dewdrop, river, and mountains are referred to by the poet to show the hidden meaning behind the objects. The eco-ontology takes a predominant note through this poem. The poet reminds the reader of a rainbow which is decked with colours and stretches itself in making the world colourful. In learning from the rainbow, the poet urges man to realize its worth and similarly work hard to bring the colorful results and prosperity into life.

Let us learn from the rainbow
to spread colours
In the world to make it colourful (Let Us
Learn)

That Nature is destroyed of originality is best seen in Chambial's poem "Longing in Void"

In this jungle
Full of wolves and cacti
How can we long for
Sweet music and soothing balm
To truss up
the severed bleeding heart? (CP 114)

To conclude, I hold that the poet objectively presented his experiences in the form of environmental concerns which are very crucial for



survival of all species. All his poems bear the marks of age, time and contemporary world. Chambial's eco-thoughts are wonderful lessons in practical eco-criticism as his thoughts; feelings and commitment are totally for environmental protection. The poet ardently feels the need to be humble in giving his best as nature itself tries to give us its best.

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