



Precedence of nature over human evolution in Amitav Ghosh's Ibis Trilogy

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Abstract

The will and enthusiasm for many new discoveries dig the way for humans to invent new inventions to progress and replace nature. From the beginning human evolution occurred because of Primary necessities and later, a new era was born from the outcome of war, imperialism, and colonialism. The sad reality is, that humans are unaware that nature has passively played a significant role in every striking historical incident. From monarchy to republic politics every ignorant class had gained numerous sources of wealth from natural resources leading to great devastation. Tea leaves and Poppy flowers are a simple small minority of nature's assets that can fill a country's treasury as well as provoke a war which could cost more than that. Amitav Ghosh's Ibis Trilogy stands as a provenance of how fragile Homo sapiens are among massive Plantae species. Only the reason on nature that decides us to wear what culture we ought to follow, even what dress and costume we need to wear for certain climate locality. Being an Anthropologist and Naturalist, Ghosh constantly made his study over Climate changes along with its correlation to human society. The Eco culture sounds loud in Amitav Ghosh's Ibis Trilogy along with class imperialistic approach. This paper intentionally brings out the superior evolution of nature over the innovating human race. It also shows that the nature has its own mind to bring what it is to be brought to the world at the required moment.

Keywords: Eco culture, colonial politics, ostentatious, expatriation and eco psychology

Introduction

Human's pride over nature brings best or worst

The Opium war deliberately begun with Tea and ended with Opium. It was too late when ignorant British found that, huge percentage of their national treasure is gradually depleting due to their people's delight over tea and often silk. Along with milk and sugar as basic ingredient of tea the overall taxation of England cost one tenth of British crown's revenue. Meanwhile for expanding British Empire in southern Asia, the East India Company's auditor-general declared in 1830: 'India does entirely depend upon the profits of the China trade. So, British officials slowly smuggled opium into china. Dutch was the first European country to import tea from China. Americans and few Europeans made opium to seep through the street of Guangzhou (Canton). Western nations (especially Britain) had very few supplies to export for the needs of China, so they were paying the price for their need i.e. TEA. On the other hand, China and its people are gradually getting addicted to opium in the form of narcotics and drugs. Along with the disastrous outcome of the practise of Opium intake, Chinese officials also worried about the black money and decreasing economy.

The Floral kingdom cannot be avoided or diminished because of its abundance. Currently it is all being reduced in numbers, quantity and its natural qualities. Yet our lives are depended on it even in this scientific world of evolution. Natural resources have always been a base material or model in making of every material in this world. But when the finished product is of artificial material the significance of nature's contribution is not recognised. Around 19th century countable crises have been recorded for natural resources. During this period, whomever (Person or Nation) possess sufficient quantity plays Superiority and who have

more than sufficient rules. So, thus many imperialising countries withhold of such rare or most needed natural resources to rule. World is a vessel and everything it contain should be in a balanced amount. Everything will be fine when they satisfy the need, availability and their value ratio. This price is determined by the need and availability of such resource. At the end the outcome of any action from the consequence of nature is based on these criteria as given in the below table.

More availability	More value	Price depreciates
More availability	Less value	Destroy by mankind
Less availability	More value	More demand led to conflict and war
Less availability	Less value	Must be of less use

Ostentatious Belligerence of Human

In the beginning of primitive era, one who can make fire was the God, then one who comes up with new innovations and ideas was a prodigy, over the ages, during the period of Mississippi slave trade, the man who owns n number of slaves is considered wealthy and powerful. After when equality prevailed for all, people started to earn for their own welfare. Suffered people work to change their fate of their heirs, whereas the people with their heirloom would thrive for pride and power over the other.

Money, Fame and Wealth are the three undeniable elements for the superiority of men. It all started when men can no more use humans as their only primary resources. So, he begun to feed on natural resource. We are in a planet with innumerable natural resources, and all have its own value i.e. Medicinal, domestic, monetary and industrial etc. Among them 'Cash crops' are the compelling nature's asset that assures man's acquisitiveness. Crops that are exported over countries, for all nation, for the countries or individual economic growth are cash crops. But, even abundantly

exported crops like rice, wheat and other millets or not cash crops. Cash crops are primarily which attracts demand from many developed nations, along with that it will have a bit upper most export value. Mostly this enhances country's economy through foreign exchange. The country or any individual who owns and supplies cash crop is partially assured with economic sustenance. On the other hand, one who lack to produce for their own needs become the depending on nation. Even though the independent nation is ready to supply demanded goods in demanded quantity. The depending on nation if they were industrialized country with advanced economy, they feel their inability to sustain with their own goods as their impairment. This is when disparity rises. Each nation and its landscapes are made in such a way that they can produce certain goods so that other nations can share / exchange their goods for friendly rapport. But people with authoritarian and domineering behaviour needs such goods but without any loss of wealth and respect. One can profit in a healthy way with his existing asset also embezzle. He can find his own ways and means to produce it or find it or barter it. But not in a way of leveraging like how British officials exploited India's Natural resource by replacing, substituting finally led to starvation along with droughts. In India jute, food grains, oil seeds and tea were replaced by indigo and opium. Ignorant Indians with the screen of money and wealth which blinded their eyes of futuristic vision of themselves. One can sell HIS/HER product or the product which they can produce or available. Here the case is, one imperial body exploiting colonial nations to work for their benefits. It is a proper professional ethics, but unless or until it questions the survival of the native. This made most British were to be pointed out and wholesomely accept that it was done by them as commercialisation of agriculture.

From the plot of *Sea of Poppies*, one among the eminent character is Raja Neel Rattan Halder, who is the heir Zamindari of Raskhalli. When he was in a financial crisis due to his investment in opium trade, he extended his friendship over a British Opium merchant Mr. Benjamin Burnham. As opium trade is flourishing in China from India. But when Mr. Burnham accepted only under the barter for Neel Ratan's Royalty, he resisted as it was his family's prestigious heirloom. This is here Raja Neel Rattan Halder realised about the British's estrangement of Indian rulers. When Raja Neel Rattan refused to submit his royalty, he was subjected to financial fraud by the British law. As the result of it he had to lose his caste, his position as zamindary and his family to settle his penalty in the prison of Mauritius. There are business and it always brings along profit and loss with it. But few cash crops like Cardamom, Safron, rare spices and illegal spices like Opium always carry a huge price over them, those willing to use it for their benefit must be too cautious as if they are clutching a tiger's tail.

Transcendent Nature A Magnanimous Philanthropist and Altruistic Crusader

Nature is so resilience and subjugate. Money can be easily laundered through nature. All naturally grown resources are free of cost, a capital less business gives a headstart for any commodity. When you trace through the history involving nature it ameliorates and revamps particular thing that will make the world to chase it. Salt a cooking essential item which is not bothered a lot nowadays. But in ancient Rome salt was handed over to their soldiers as their salary in 5th

century BCE to 3rd Century CE. Early China during 2700 BCE salt was used as a currency by their people as approved by their monarchy. In Sahara and West Africa from 6th century to 15th century CE salt was used to trade with ivory, gold and slaves. French revolution was sparked in Austria for levying tax on salt, also in India Gandhi held Dandi March to the Dandi to prepare their own salt as protest against British as an anti-colonial resistance, who laid tax on Indian salt over Indian itself. Here salt is easily available and commonly used cheap product but naturally on some period it makes people to work for it, it made entrepreneur to withhold it for their financial stability, it gave time for salt manufacturers and collectors to sustain. In India during the era of Covid the price of the Onion was unimaginable high and there were no more stocks to supply the needs, so the government had to import it from various countries like Egypt. For every kind of crop, metal or any natural ore gets it value occasionally throughout the history, the nature is built in that way to reward every class of resources. If the highly roaring trade of rich resources are going unprofitable it would be a heavy blast over the trader than the one deals with cheaper good, who can manage even a heavy loss with a neutral compensation. Nature is the one that demands and give you with abundance of its resources for free and won't even complaint for taking everything or even for destroying it. Also, it the same that destroys the ships in the sea leading to the bankruptcy of many merchants and businessman. The character Bahram from the book *River of Smoke* will struggle hard and risk his every fortune for his last and heavy business trade with a gamble, with which he suffered a lot and faced several losses throughout his journey. He was ambitious but also considerable as his In-laws trying to dust the business that was built by him. Whether it happened because of his trade with opium or any moral consciousness of nature.

Eco-Psychology binding human minds

The environment which we are surrounded always had an influence on the thinking, feeling, conscience and knowledge of the human. The earth is an only habitable place for human from so far discoveries. One part of earth suffers from drought, food scarcity while other part feed one on a gold plate and leave the half plate to leftovers. One part is fighting for war and another part in this same earth where huge community of people live in utmost peace. One Arctic & Antarctic region coal was equal to gold as a living resource whereas in equatorial region coal is just a dust. Some cities fight for rations but on the other side some exploit their food crops due to depreciate. Places where farmers look at the sky for expecting rain, people run to save their lives from excessive downpour. Polar regions must survive the snow and ice while the tropical and other people won't have experienced snowfall throughout their life. All the land and sea are connected in one or another way. Yet there are so many differences in the same land of same people.

The climate, weather and natural occurrence always set the human both physically, mentally, philosophically and morally. Writers and directors use the nature as a tool to enhance the depth of the scene in their story. Introducing the character in a sunrise, introducing the heroine in a slight drizzle. Narrating the pas in dark and heavy downpour to show its cruelty and hardship faced by the character. Dawn and Dusk are used as a poetic touch to the plot. Heavy sun

and dry land are the symbols of poverty. Dark nights are coated for intimacy and treachery. In the book *Sea of Poppies*, the very beginning the character Deeti will be dreaming of a bird that swam through the river, as the same she saw and felt a dejavu when her life was crossed with the ship Ibis which was introduced with the horizon, that denotes the new beginning of something. Following that their travel through the sea towards Mauritius the battle with the sea and the state of adopting and adapting to the circumstance to survive the fittest. The storm in the sea acts as a test of their will power and ability to accept their importance of survival. Finally, at the end of the book the same storm and wind act as a liberation for the inmates to escape the ship. This same kind of scene can be seen in the movie *Shawshank redemption*, where the protagonist will escape the prison after many years for the mistake, he had not committed. Andy (the protagonist) will crawl through the sewer of 500 yards ie., the length of a five-football field. At the moment when he escaped into the lake there will be heavy rain as if it is cleansing him from the prison environment and the heavy thunder as an applause for his courage and gumption.

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