

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL WORRY IN THE NATURE STORIES OF RUSKIN BOND

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ABSTRACT

Ruskin Bond is a prominent environmentalist who writes extensively about environmental problems in the Himalayas and around the world. His writings foretell an environmental catastrophe brought on by humanity's over use of natural resources in the future. Human dominance and the exploitation of natural resources in the name of development and urbanisation have resulted in a host of environmental problems, including global warming, floods, droughts, ozone layer depletion, acid rain, river pollution, and the extinction of countless species. As a pantheist, Ruskin Bond regards all things in nature, living and non-living alike, to be endowed with consciousness. He is continuously awed by the beautiful natural surroundings where he lives in Landour, Mussoorie, which is renowned for its richness of wildlife. Disharmony between humans and the rest of nature can have far-reaching effects. Investigating Bond's preoccupation with nature is essential to appreciating his writings.

Keywords: Ruskin Bond; Environment; Himalayas; Nature Stories; Indian Culture

INTRODUCTION

Whether these statements are viewed as a wakeup call or the unreciprocated didactic tone of his work, Ruskin Bond, out of his love for people, seems to be concerned about Nature. Unlike other contemporary authors, who seem to be fixated on metropolitan settings and themes, Bond appears to be expressing rural beauty and natural landscape while resonating the waning streets of Mother Earth. His reputation as "Our very own resident Wordsworth in prose" was not earned overnight. His short stories are more than just words on a page. Instead, it has been his close connection to the natural world that has sustained and inspired him. Nature was his greatest protector, father, and God; thus, he sought it out eagerly at every opportunity.

In both world literature and Indian writing in English, a deep appreciation for the natural world has always predominated. Even Ruskin Bond, who has spent a lot of time wandering about the Himalayan forests, is a good observer of nature. As a means of expressing environmental concerns and raising awareness of environmental issues, Ruskin Bond turns to literature, and in particular the short story. It is no exaggeration to say that the short stories of Ruskin Bond provide ample room for in-depth discussions of environmental issues. This section divides Ruskin Bond's classification of the natural world into the following broad categories:

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A famous Indian English writer, Ruskin Bond, has always wanted to reside near hills due to his love of them. He watches everything on the hills, including nature, people, places, and animals. In *The Leopard*, he prefers hills. Bond has never seen India as just land. It always symbolised love, simplicity, unity, and acceptance to him. Bond has always set his works in north India; thus, one can see how it becomes Indian. Bond sees India as alive.

Trees have been important to Ruskin Bond from boyhood. Later, his short stories frequently feature the abundance of banyans, sacred peepals, sal, deodar, pines, and shisham. Trees watch over his daily life. Bond calls trees 'guardians of his conscience.' Trees generously but firmly supervise his life and job. At every thousand feet, the trees and bushes on the foothills change. In his short stories, Bond takes readers on a little mountain trek to showcase the diversity and complexity of the forest. Flowers, like trees, are prominent in Ruskin Bond stories. He loves flowers and writes many stories about them. He searches for wild flowers, even the smallest on hillside, as he walks. Flowers aid his labour if trees defend his conscience. So, he always has fresh flowers on his desk while writing. He believes flowers were essential to his survival.

Rivers are significant in nature. Many humans depend on it. When the water is high, the river gets furious. It severely damages riverbank islands and towns. River flooding is perilous and wipes away everything in its tremendous current. However, riverside residents cannot leave since they depend on it.

Ruskin Bond mentions gorgeous orchards in his short stories. According to him, orchards are vital for ecological balance but are disappearing to fulfil human land needs. If we keep cutting trees, future generations may not see these magnificent mango and guava orchards. Ruskin Bond wrote extensively about trees, shrubs, and small bushes. Like trees, small bushes and plants matter. He describes little bushes and plants in his short stories because they are part of nature. Ruskin Bond often addresses forest fires in his short stories. Forest fires, caused by natural and human causes, are uncontrolled and can take a long time to contain. This causes massive tree devastation and wildlife disturbance.

RUSKIN BOND'S NATURE STORIES: ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

Mother Hill

In *Mother Hill*, Ruskin Bond worries about Himalayas. The story begins with Bond comparing mountains to humans. Mountains last forever, but people don't. Bond appreciates Himalayas' permanence. They refuse to relocate even if humans dig holes for minerals or build tubes for transit. Bond jokes that despite these destructive actions, humanity cannot easily remove mountains.

He laments the loss of forests and green spaces. Bond jokes that being an environmentalist is trendy after environmental disaster. Bond encourages us to save the little environment we have. Bond would rather write in the mountains than in the plains. Happy among the hills, he writes stories, articles, poems, and children's books. Bond compares hills to mother by referencing Kipling. Hills represent mother's lap. Hill dwellers feel comfort and rest from hills like mother's lap. People in the hills are safe like children in their mothers' laps. Mothers always feed and care for their children. Mother Hill also feeds and cares for her kids. Bond's connection to nature, his warning to protect the environment, and his admiration for the majesty of mountains are all portrayed in the novel. Bond is also shown to care about animals and deforestation, and to value trees, mountains, wildflowers, and rocks. Bond compares hills to the nurturing embrace of a parent.

Dust On the Mountain

Bishnu, a little kid of twelve, lives in the Himalayas. His story is told in *Dust on the Mountain*. The tale is broken up into seven sections. Bishnu represents the plight of the poor hill people who must rely on the changing of the seasons and the proximity of towns in order to make a living. Despite this difficulty, they maintain an unwavering faith in Mother Nature. As "*Dust on the Mountain*" opens, the hills are suffering from a drought. In spite of the drought, he demonstrates, people are still able to live and work in the hills. The Indian people have a history of believing in their ability to overcome natural disasters. People have found ways to cope with natural disasters, and their trust in God's mercy and nobility helps them keep going even in the darkest of times.

Bishnu's confidence in a healthy monsoon, despite a snowless winter and a sweltering summer, opens the first section of the novel. Bond tells about a forest fire spread nearby the house of Bishnu. Carelessness on the part of humans causes a fire that quickly spreads across an uncontrollable expanse of forest. He thinks summer is a good time to get work in Mussoorie. Travellers from the plains come here to relax. He waits a long time, but eventually the bus arrives. Bond also speaks about the patient of hill people. For both the bus and the monsoon, they have become accustomed to waiting. These mountain dwellers are well aware of nature's superiority and are prepared to stick by it come what may.

A Village in the Mountains

An Alpine Community, by John Cheever Bond mentions a hamlet called Manjari in the Garhwal area of the Himalayas. Gajadhar, the narrator's friend, invites him to spend a few days in his home, in the village of Manjari that clings to the terraced slopes above the small Nayar river.

Bond goes on to detail the morning routine of the tiny Himalayan community. Bond has lived with the Himalayan villagers firsthand. As a result, he has a thorough understanding of what it's like to live in a mountain village. Bond goes on to detail the group's time spent swimming in the river and hiking up the mountain to get water. The story also depicts the hardships

endured by villagers living in isolated areas. Gajadhar receives the long-awaited letter with the results of his army exam. They have to leave early following morning to make the thirty-mile walk to Landsowne in a single day. Narrator stretches down on a cot under a starry sky as the story comes to a close. He closes his eyes and inhales deeply, hoping to bottle up the night's wonderful, fresh scent of lime for posterity.

Briefly describing the narrator's stay in Manjari Village is the story's occurrence. Even though it ends suddenly, this story perfectly captures the hardships endured by the inhabitants of a remote Himalayan village high above the rushing waters of the river below. In the story, Bond is in awe of the Garhwali tribe and the Himalayas. The author's firsthand visit to the Himalayas is reflected in the novel.

A Walk Through Garhwal

Bond's awestruck description of Himachal in *A Village in the Mountain* serves as the story's prologue. The Himalayas are lonely, enigmatic, and supposedly haunted by spirits, despite the fact that humans have reached the summit of their tallest peak. In the novel Bond refers to Manjari village in Garhwal set on the bank of a stream of the Ganga and on the terraced slopes above, there are little fields of grain, barley, mustard, potatoes and onions.

Despite the stunning natural environment, the Garhwali people are among the world's poorest. They have to constantly fight and endure difficulties. They are resilient and upbeat despite having to fight for survival at times. The narrator thinks back on the time he spent in the Manjari village of Garhwal as a guest at a friend's house. In "A Village in the Mountain," Bond goes on to detail the daily life of the remote Garhwali community. Small-scale theft is the only violent crime that occurs in the community. The heist is unusual because there is not much to steal in the little town. Thus, the clean air of Garhwal makes crimes much less common than they are in the cities. Manjari community doesn't even have a clinic. If he gets sick, he stays in bed until he feels better. While residents of Manjari do have access to some basic home treatments, anyone very ill is typically taken to Lansdowne's hospital. However, the inhabitants of Garhwal are far from simple, and their lives are full of struggle, despite appearances to the contrary.

The Blue Umbrella

The Blue Umbrella, by Bond, is situated in the back ground of hilly part of the Himalaya mountain range, especially the area known as Garhwal. The novel also explores the cultural divide between those who live in the plains and those who live in the hills. Biniya approaches the picnickers after hearing their voices, and the city dwellers begin making comments about the hill people's poverty after seeing their tattered and filthy attire. A leopard's claw from Biniya's necklace catches a woman's eye, and she longs to have it for herself.

The story doesn't end with showing the difference between flat people and hilly people; it also shows the difference in behaviour between hilly people. Ram Bharosa, who is old, is a greedy and smart trader who wants to have Biniya's blue umbrella no matter what. As with all Bond

stories, the story ends with a happy ending about friendship and getting along again. Instead of being greedy, Ram Bharosa gives up, and Biniya gives him the blue umbrella. More than anything else, the story shows how the peaceful atmosphere of the hills can change ordinary people into loving people.

Death of a Familiar

The impact of the surrounding hills on the characters' actions is discussed in Death of a Familiar Bond. Friend of the narrator and protagonist of the novel, Sunil is a young college student. A little village in the north Indian plains is where he makes his home. The criminal actions in which Sunil is engaged include stealing and sexual assault. Sunil flung a brick at a fruit vendor's head when the vendor, who had been defrauded by Sunil, threatened to go to the police. He was so close to killing that guy. And once he was beaten by some fellows as he was flirting with a sister of one of the fellows. He enjoys interacting with females and finds them fascinating. With his criminal history in mind, the narrator invites Sunil to spend a couple of weeks in Simla with him. Sunil gives an instant yes to the proposition. The boy's bad behaviour in Shahganj is followed by his good behaviour in Simla, a mountainous station in north India, much to the narrator's delight. Sunil, experiencing the beauty of the highlands for the first time, agrees. He seemed to be less focused on himself and more interested in venturing out to discover new places like hidden waterfalls, forests, and valleys.

Death Of the Trees

Death of the Trees is a fitting title for this tale. It's a sign that the environment is dying slowly. Bond's worry over deforestation in the name of progress is the sole focus of this tale. Although he is not opposed to progress, it causes Bond great anguish to see forests cleared to make way for buildings. He regrets that the serenity and tranquilly of Maplewood hillside where his home is located diminishes as decision has been taken by PWD to build another new road to mountain. Bond feels a deep sense of loss at the loss of the trees he has lived with for over a decade. Bond remembers the young Deodar and The Oak as two more trees. Bond likens the trees to his younger brother, both of whom had been killed on the road, in this case by a truck and in the case of the trees, by the PWD. In addition, Bond laments over the destruction of thousands of trees in order to construct a bypass road in the highlands.

My Father's Trees in Dehra

Trees in Dehra Belong to My Father is a memoir written by the author. Bond first praises Dehra for being the only area where trees can compete with humans. The climate at Dehra is perfect for tree cultivation. Dehra Dun is located between the primary Himalayan range and the more compact but ancient Siwalik range. Dehra is lush despite the bleakness of the mountains to the north. A small number of tigers are still lurking in the woods, going where the spotted deer go and drinking from the forest pool. The narrator recalls his early upbringing in Dehra after praising the picturesque nature of the area. He spent his formative years in Dehra at the bungalow his grandpa had built on the city's outskirts. He is now completely unknown in Dehra.

The narrator then elaborates on Dehra's setting and history before explaining the city's famous marketplace, the Dilram Bazaar. Partition is mentioned, and its effects are explained. Bond remarks on the people of Dehra who are not violent and adds that there is no record of communal riots in Dehra until the partition.

The Last Tonga Ride

The Last Tonga journey recalls the Bond's a journey in a Tonga to the bank with his grandma. Bansi, the Tonga's owner, becomes friends with Bond and takes him for a free trip to the Ganga River. Bond elaborates once again on how ideal the climate is for tree cultivation in Dehra. Bond also emphasises the enduring nature of trees throughout the narrative. The jack fruit tree was first planted in 1927, and the banyan tree growing in the backyard was older than his great-grandparents, the home, and even Dehra herself. Once you plant a tree, it will exist forever. Bond gives a lengthy ode to the banyan tree and all its glory.

Bond believes the banyan tree wants to be friends with him and makes the first move by letting a leaf fall as he approaches. This symbolises that trees also desire to create relationships with humans and often make the first move but humans barely grasp it. By inspecting the leaf and feeling the rough bark with his hand, the narrator also acknowledges the tree's friendliness. Before ascending the tree, he takes off his shoes and socks in the manner customary for visitors to religious sites.

The King and The Tree Goddess

A monarch in the Himalayan foothills plans to construct a magnificent palace using only a single column cut from the kingdom's tallest tree in Bond's The monarch and the Tree Goddess. The king plans to cut down the largest Deo -Dar tree for timber to build his palace on. He goes to his own park, where the Deodar tree goddess resides, and chooses the tallest tree there. The Tree-Goddess learns of the king's plan to cut her down and appears to him in his dream, pleading with him to reconsider. However, the king says that he has already decided. For these reasons, the Goddess has asked the king to give the topic more thought: But think about it, king! People from every town in your kingdom have revered me for hundreds of years, and I've only ever brought them good. The birds nest in me. I wish the grass the most beautiful shade. People lean against my trunk, while animals of the wild rub up against me. Under my watchful care, the ground responds favourably, sending up new vegetation and medicinal herbs. With my sturdy roots, I firmly anchor the ground. Little ones run around at my feet, and tired mothers rest here after working in the fields. Despite the tree Goddess's humbly pleading, the king remains unmoved, explaining that he cannot reverse his decision for this reason. The tree-goddess is pleading with the monarch one final time to fulfil his wish to cut her down. Start with her upper body, then her core, and finally her lower half.

An Island of Trees

A Narrative Bond's other story, "My Father's Trees in Dehra," has some parallels to "An Island of Trees." Grandmother, the story's narrator, and Koki are sitting on a string cot under a jack fruit tree, reminiscing about Grandpa's passion for horticulture. Koki's grandmother tells him that his grandfather was as beloved by the trees and plants as he was by them. She tells her dad about the day she saw a tendril from a trailing vine near her feet gently edging away from her. She doesn't believe the alternative scientific explanation for the plant's actions. Similar to what happens in Bond's My Father's Trees in Dehra. She goes on to tell Koki that her grandfather worked for the Indian Forest Service, so it stands to reason that he would have a deep appreciation for and understanding of trees. In preparation for his retirement, he constructs this bungalow on the outskirts of town and plants the many fruit trees and ornamental shrubs you see here and there, including lime, mango, orange, and guava trees, as well as jacaranda, laburnum, and Persian lilac. Grandmother further reminds Koki that there were other trees of course even before the home was built, including an old peepul tree which made its way through the walls of an old abandoned temple.

The Tree Lover

The narrator's grandfather is called "The Tree Lover" because of his deep and abiding affection for trees. The description of the narrative is essentially similar to Bond's above stated two stories "An Island of Trees" and "My Father's Trees in Dehra" with minor differences. The peepul tree, the banyan tree, and Grandfather's strong desire to continue planting trees beyond his compound are all described in identical detail, but Bond's messages to his readers about the importance of tree planting and environmental preservation are subtly different.

The Cherry Tree

In The Cherry Tree, a little kid named Rakesh lives with his grandfather on the outskirts of Mussoorie, near the beginning of the forest, so that he can attend school there. Fifty miles distant, on the foothills of the mountains, is where his parents make their home, but there is no school for him to go there. Rakesh once bought the cherries on his way home from school. There are still three cherries in the jar when he gets back. He gives his grandfather one and devours the other two. His grandfather inspires him to sow the remaining seed of the cherry which he has retained in his mouth for some time. Rakesh takes his grandfather's advice and walks to a spot in the garden where the soil is especially loose. After sowing the seed, Rakesh would soon forget about what happened. Almost a year later, he notices with amazement that the cherry tree has sprouted. He quickly notifies Grandpa to come take a look at the four-inch-tall cherry tree. If Rakesh wants it to grow quickly, his grandfather suggests he water it frequently. The cherry tree flourishes that year since the monsoon comes early. Although a goat eats the leaves of the tree and a lady cutting grass splits the tree into two, the tree endures. The cherry tree is a foot taller when Rakesh returns to his grandfather's house after the rain stops.

It's time for his heart to decide. Rakesh also spots the first visitor to the cherry tree: a vivid green praying mantis.

This narrative shows how little work is involved in tree-planting. A boy of six can successfully plant a tree. To grow a tree from seed, all you need to do is press the seed into the damp soil and water it for a few days. The tree will eventually develop without any human intervention. In addition to fruit, a fruitful tree can be a source of shade, breeze, and company. It also serves as a home to a wide variety of birds and other wildlife. Bond also demonstrates in the story that trees can outlive humans by a significant margin in both growth rate and total lifespan. A tree has greater longevity than any human. In the story, Rakesh and the tree both mature at the same time. A cherry tree seedling is planted by Rakesh. It grows into a little plant. The journey from cherry seed to mature tree is fraught with challenges, but the tree's ability to persevere through them is inspiring. Eventually, it towers over Rakesh and even Grandfather. This is how Bond proves that trees are better than people. The narrative encourages kids of all ages to go out and plant a tree. Bond, like Rakesh's grandfather, uses the story to encourage young readers to sow a seed.

My Tall Green Friends

Bond's home of many years, nestled among the trees at 7,000 feet in the Garhwal Himalayas, is described in his book *My Tall Green Friends*. A woodland appears practically within reach through the cottage's large window. His first-floor window must have opened into the second story due to the hill's sloping terrain. The trees around him have become like family to him. Bond talks about how much he loves various trees throughout the novel, including walnut trees, deodar trees, oak trees, and pine trees. The tree provides a basket of walnuts every year, but the nuts mysteriously disappear with time. The old woman who comes to trim grass on the hillside is the true perpetrator, while Biju, the milkman's son, and a fat langur are prime suspects. She quickly climbs the tree, despite being sixty years old, and helps herself to the rest of the nuts. The narrator, impressed by her dexterity in the tree, says nothing to stop her. In addition, Bond learns that the tree itself is a welcoming presence, especially during the summer when it is lush with foliage. When the wind dies down, the leaves start chatting, and it's a very upbeat sound.

Bond finally thinks that the big trees in the mountains know him very well. They remember seeing his face through the window as he watched them grow, listened to their secrets, bowed his head in front of their spread arms, and asked for their blessing. In the story that reads like an essay, trees that grow near the Cottage of Bond are described. Bond talks about the walnut, deodar, oak, and pine trees' honour, glory, importance, and how they act in all four seasons in the story. As the title suggests, the story is also about Bond's special friendship with the trees.

The Banyan Tree

In "The Banyan Tree," Bond writes about the old, beautiful banyan tree that is in the yard of his grandparents' house. Bond is especially interested in the tree because it belongs to him. It's easy for him to climb up and hide in its trees.

The narrator gains the friendship of a squirrel once the animal realises he cannot arm himself with a catapult or air-gun. The narrator has invaded the squirrel's territory, but the rodent doesn't seem to mind as long as he is left alone. The storyteller substitutes bits of cake and biscuits for that. Maybe his family and friends think he's crazy for trusting a human when he's still so young. As such, Bond exemplifies the trust between species that is crucial to maintaining ecological harmony.

Also, Bond talks about the banyan tree in the spring. Small red figs fill the tree with spring, attracting a wide variety of birds. During the fig season the tree is the noisiest point in the garden. Halfway up a tree, the narrator has constructed a platform, where he likes to spend the afternoons when it's not too hot. He has a grand-stand view of that classic of the Indian wilds, a duel between mongoose and cobra. Bond goes into detail about a struggle he sees on the platform between a mongoose and a cobra.

Bond's work "The Room on the Roof" also features a description of a banyan tree, and its depiction in "The Banyan Tree" is very similar. Bond also makes an appeal to his audience to be kind to animals such as squirrels in the story.

The Gentle Banyan

A few words are said regarding banyan trees throughout the novel. The Gentle Banyan starts off with a bang. huge trees are like huge persons, Bond says. Large trees, like tall men, tend to be the most affable of all plant species. Bond claims that the banyan tree is the largest and most sociable of all trees. Banyan trees are extremely rare to find in modern cities due to the lack of available land. But you may find banyan trees in many parks, and in every town there is at least one. Then, Bond elaborates on the banyan tree's expansive aerenchyma. Its fallen limbs become new trees after a period of time, creating a little forest clearing around the parent tree. If you were to compare the banyan tree to a palace, the areal roots would be the pillars. Also, Bond warns against having banyan trees planted too close to a home, as their roots are known to penetrate concrete and wood.

The trunk of the tree provides a soft, shady perch that is always cool to the touch. Because of this, the tree has become a popular hangout for kids of all sexes, as well as a home for a wide variety of animals. The banyan tree to Bond is like a comfortable motel or rest stop.

Bond makes a reference to The Akshaya Vata, the 'undying' banyan tree that is located at the sacred confluence of the river Allahabad and the name of the banyan in both Hindi and Tamil. In addition to that, he explains how the tree got its English name. The story also includes a description of how the wood of the banyan tree was utilised. At the end of the story, James Bond admires a tree for its ability to provide cool and refreshing shade on a hot summer day. According to Bond, this is the reason why the tree merits our love and care, therefore keep this in mind.

The Silk-Cotton Tree

In the tale, James Bond talks about a tree that is also called the Semul tree and the Silk-Cotton Tree. It sheds its leaves for only a short time right before it blooms, making it an excellent tree for providing shade. This type of cotton, however, is perfect for stuffing pillows and cushions because it cannot be spun into thread or woven into fabric. As is the case with the majority of trees, the semul tree finds its place in folklore. The Marias are a forest tribe that lives in Madhya Pradesh. Whenever they come across a village, they place a semul tree in the middle of the settlement. Bond goes on to detail the properties and use of the semul wood. Because of its extreme pliability, the wood is frequently employed in the production of playthings. In addition, fishermen will utilise it to fashion floats for their nets. While the gum that is extracted from the bark is utilised in Ayurvedic medicine, the seeds are a valuable source of nourishment for livestock.

As a result, for a variety of reasons, people may be seen gathered around the tree from dawn until night. Crows, mynas of varying species, barbets, bulbuls, king crows, and koels are some of the species of birds that frequently visit the semul tree. The palm squirrels and the rosy pastors, in addition to the various species of birds, are the most notable visitors. Large Indian bees are another species that call the semul tree their home. These bees build enormous nests that are typically fastened to the semul tree's branches.

Garden of Thousand Trees

Bond's Garden of a Thousand Trees is set in a fictional setting where a settlement develops in and around a massive mango grove with more than a thousand trees. Hazaribagh, which means "Garden of a Thousand Trees," is the name given to this area since it was settled. Bond, at the very opening of the novel, gushes over the delicious fruit that may be harvested from a mango tree. Bond claims that the tall, spreading branches of a mango tree are a common sight all over India, making it one of the country's stateliest trees. A young mango tree is planted and worshipped in Gujarat on the month of Savan (July-August) by the womenfolk to safeguard their children from sickness Shitla. The plains of India are home to a grove of towering mango trees, while the forests of northern India hide modest temples. The weary farmers come here to relax and fill up on chapattis. They will not remember, as they have lived in the area since they were children, when the mango grove was first established.

Riding Through the Flames

Bond's Riding through the Flames features a description of a forest fire, one of the most pressing environmental problems of our day. A section of the Himalayan woodland is destroyed by fire in this episodic tale. Romi leaves his friend Prem's house and heads back to his hamlet to start the first section of the story. As he is leaving, Romi notices smoke rising from behind the far row of trees and realises there is a fire in the forest. Even though Romi's father isn't doing well, Prem advises they stay the night at his place and leave the following day. The doctor prescribed medication for his dad, and he just got it. His village is situated seven miles distant

on the other side of the forest. His father, a sugarcane farmer, recently purchased a bicycle for him to use while attending high school. On his bike, he pedals off quickly. We learn about Romi's next part of his trip on his bike in the second part. He walks away from the town and into the forest. He can smell the smoke from burning wood, but he can see the way ahead. The forest fire is making the animals scared, so they are running away from it. Bond talks about how animals are running away because they are scared.

CONCLUSION

In Ruskin Bond's selected stories, his great sense of observation, love of nature, and desire to conserve Mother Nature are evident. Research suggests that Ruskin Bond was a passionate lover of nature due to his vivid descriptions of natural components in his writings. Bond breathes and writes by her, caring for her. Bond's Nature description is realistic. Long stays in forests have taught Bond to appreciate nature. So, Bond's colourful fantasy included breeze tunes, Maplewood, a wayside teashop, hill, river, tree, flowers, orchard, and bush. Bond expresses environmental concerns despite his passion for outdoors. His stories often involve the purposeful removal of mountain and plain trees for advancement and development. Bond writes on environmental pollution constantly. In his stories, Bond prominently addresses ecology and environment. Bond's stories remind us of the importance of natural living and maintaining a healthy ecosystem. His stories also urge his audience about the destruction trees in the name of development. Humans will lose in the long run if they continue to tear down forests without replacing them. Bond takes a very different approach to nature than, say, Anita Desai or R.P. Jhabvala because, unlike them, Bond's image of nature includes the characters who live closer to nature. Bond takes inspiration for his characters from the subset of the population that maintains symbiotic relationships with the natural world.

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