



Loss Of Morals In The Devastated Ecosystem In Cormac Mccarthy's The Road With Biophilic Uphold

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Abstract

Exploiting the earth's ecosystem has become very casual in the present day. Creating awareness among human beings to stop the exploitation done to the ecosystem is vital. As a part of nature, human beings cannot live without nature. Many public programs are connected for such awareness. In Literature, there is a separate genre named Apocalyptic fiction. Cormac McCarthy's The Road was a post-apocalyptic novel showing the world's reality after the apocalypse. "...McCarthy cause to warn the public of imminent threat, to prepare for the worst personally, and to continue voicing his canticles of praise lament and prophetic warning"(Lincoln 22). Upholding the ecological issue with biophilia a Dual Inheritance Theory provides a clear understanding of human beings as a part of nature, and they will not survive without symbiosis with other biotic and abiotic.

Keywords: Biophilia, Apocalypse, Cormac McCarthy, The Road.

INTRODUCTION

Earth's entire ecosystem is moving towards a particular point where all the biotics are reaching extinction. That point of extinction is known as Apocalypse. This Apocalypse has three grounds for the periodical change. The first one is the pre-apocalyptic period, and the third one is the post-apocalyptic period. The middle and the second one is the point of an apocalyptic event. However, the notable thing is that the second point is the apocalyptic event on particular species, or the entire ecosystem will not occur in a single day or a fraction of a second. Some apocalypses are slow, take some time, and the destruction is gradual. Same as some apocalypses are not gradual; they finish their consequences in a fraction of a second. For example, earthquakes are not a gradual apocalyptic; they take only a fraction of a second to accomplish massive destruction without partiality. Here the pre-apocalyptic periods are considered a primary one to focus on because this pre-apocalyptic period is the only period that can preserve the ecosystem from the apocalypse. The pre-apocalyptic period is the root cause of the apocalypse and post-apocalyptic era. This period is the dawn of ecological devastation.

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“Environmental instability, speeded by abusive technology like carbon or nuclear fuel debris, threatens to do humanity in—global warming, poisonous waste, weaponry fallout, polluted air and water, chemically altered foods, industrialist and lobbyist cover-ups”(Lincoln 22). As a centre of the earth, human beings began to alter nature. From this point onwards, there were some benefits in altering nature. There is nothing wrong with it. However, when it comes to exploiting nature, the same beneficial turn into the thread that threatens the entire ecosystem or specific species. Evolve of this thread is caused by the over-alteration of nature, known as Exploitation of the ecosystem. What will occur if the over-exploitation of nature continues? To answer this question, humans must know about life after the apocalypse. That is where the third period stood, the post-apocalyptic era. In recent times in Cinemas, movies have been directed in the post-apocalyptic genre, such as Steven Soderbergh’s *Contagion*, Albert Hughes & Allen Hughes’s *The Book of Eli*, Xavier Gens’s *The Divide*, Yolanda Ramke & Ben Howling’s *Cargo*, extra. Still, many apocalypse-based movies are directed. Even in writing, novels are being written in the apocalypse genre. In recent times the most thriving novel in post-apocalypse is Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road* which won Pulitzer Prize in 2007 and James Tait Black Memorial Prize in 2006. This novel was adapted into a movie in 2009 by John Hillcoat. Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road* was the best example of what will happens after the apocalypse. Here, this research article gives a clear understanding of how moral values are lost after an apocalyptic event. To uphold the explanation, here biophilia hypothesis is implemented.

“McCarthy’s latest novel, *The Road*, addresses that very issue of survival - not just humankind’s survival but that of life as a whole”(Edwards 55). This novel is the story of two main characters, Father and the son were caught in the post-apocalyptic world. They kept moving on towards the south from the novel’s beginning to end. This novel “tells us the odyssey of a father and son as they make their tortuous journey toward the Gulf Coast across the scorched wasteland of a post-apocalyptic America”(Ibarrola-Armendariz 2). In their journey towards the south in the devastated landscape, they met many problems, and the novel’s story was about how they escaped those problems. The very immediate problem they had was a lack of food and water.

...The Road serve as nightmarish wake-up pre-documentaries. Nuclear holocaust is a probable apocalypse, biblical Revelation and the Rapture notwithstanding. The unanswered question is to be how life-forms will continue, or whether any beyond cockroaches, rats, and flies would want to survive a nuclear winter.(Lincoln 22)

In the novel, Human beings’ population was countable in significantly less number; the streets and avenues were without traces of alive humans. While crossing the malls and streets, they entered the malls and houses in search of food and water. For self-defence, they had a gun. They met a group of men with guns and a noisy truck when they were moving on. They were none other than the Cannibals. Due to a lack of food and water, people began to eat their fellow people. Ashes covered roads, Streets, buildings and everything. Even the daylight was filled with ashes. “...watching the ashen daylight...”(McCarthy 6). Even the air they were breathing was impured. Arriving at the river for drinking water was polluted, and the colour was black. This devastated ecosystem turns certain people toward an immoral way of living. In the devastated land where fewer people were surviving, there was a formation of anarchic society, with No rules and No Hierarchies. Thus, Cannibals reign freely among the devastated land. Father and Son escaped from them. They had a habit of invigilating the houses in search of food. In one particular house, they were caught by a group of enslaved people in the nude in the basement. That house belonged to another group of cannibals who captive the enslaved people nudely in the basement. Again, Father and Son escaped from them.

Throughout the novel, immorality is evident. There were no rules, no government, no morality and no hierarchy. Even there was no more moral society to judge whether an action was right or wrong.

In such a devastated world, the moral value itself an insane instead better to defence from predators. Father taught his son not to eat people, not to steal and help others, but the world they were surviving was contrary to Father's principles. "The man tries to teach these principles to the child and he tries to follow them himself. Throughout the novel we witness the man's struggle to be a good guy, to do what is right in a world in which most people seem to have abandoned morality altogether"(Wielenberg 6). Morality is a set of values about what is right and wrong and choosing the right one. "Today, the word "model" evokes an abstract, artificial construction, following ideal laws, against which ambiguous and complex social situations are judged"(Wright 2). Searching for such morality in devastated land went in vain.

Upholding moralism with biophilia provides an ecological perspective. Biophilia is human beings' inborn connection with nature. That inborn refers to genetic inheritance. In other words, Biophilia is an inherited tendency to seek connection with nature. From the early period of Human civilization onwards, human beings lived along with nature. Ecosystem refers to the whole human being as part of the ecosystem, but later on, humans isolate themselves from nature. That tendency occurs due to the development of materialistic thought among them, which leads them toward an anthropocentric attitude. Though anthropocentrism conquered them, the way human biology grew was bonded with nature. That bonding was none other than Biophilia. This Biophilia is derived from Gene Culture Coevolution, which combines Culture and Gene. Human beings' cultures were framed on the tie-up with nature. None of the cultures omitted nature. The continuous repetition of specific actions in culture abided in Gene. For food and water, human beings are needed to abide by nature. This abidance is visible in the culture and the repetition of the abidance inherited in their gene. This, both gene and culture, the dual inherited theory framed this Biophilia.

We moral agents, human subjects who act, must have morality based in our genes. And those who are the focus of concern, the objects or beneficiaries of our moral behavior, are not simply other humans but plants and animals. This ethics is based in a love for all forms of life: biophilia.(Kellert and Wilson 353).

Father in this novel was born in the period of pre-apocalypse. Son was born in the period of post-apocalypse. In other words, Father migrated from the pre-apocalypse to the post-apocalypse period. Father knew nature, and his biological body was adapted to the world of the pre-apocalypse but not the world of the post-apocalypse. Son was born post-apocalypse period and was slightly adapted to it with fewer illness symptoms like vomiting and fever. Father's health condition was significantly worse than previous and "The entire novel is devoted to a journey motivated by the father's heroic quest for a place in which his young son can survive"(Bloom 188). However, there were differences in adaption under the circumstances; the inner biophilic tendency urges them towards to place of safety where inhalation of air without ashes and water without toxins and place without cannibals. "...the biophilia tendency might become manifest once the basic human needs for survival, protection, and security have been realized"(Kellert and Wilson 64). Their body depended on the beneficiaries of nature. Here nature was devastated, and the immediate question will arise without nature, where do they get their beneficiaries? Those beneficiaries are food, shelter, pure air, etc. All the biotic elements and abiotic elements are part of nature including human beings. Human beings should realise that. Love for all forms of life is biophilia. Throwing away the love and intake the materialism and over-exploiting nature results in the complete loss of all the beneficiaries from nature. That point is called Apocalypse. In order to prevent the ecosystem from the apocalypse, the over-exploitation of nature (both biotic and abiotic) should be terminated. Edward Osborne Wilson, a naturalist who contributed a lot to Biophilia, states, "...human bond with other species, loving not only human diversity but biodiversity throughout the fauna and flora"(Kellert and Wilson 380). From this research article it is evident that human beings are inseparable from nature, and their biophilic tendency makes them seek a connection with nature. Avoiding nature leads to the apocalypse.

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