



Symbolism in Robert Frost Poems

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Abstract: The present paper analyses the symbolism in Robert Frost Poems. Robert Frost is a typical American Poet. He is called the poet of Americans or New England. The woods which the poet admires so perfectly are opposed to the promises that the poet has to keep. Further, the poet tells us about his intension of sleeping only when he has kept his promises, when sleep becomes a reward of a well-earned toil. It was this symbolism of the poem which so attracted our beloved Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, that he kept the last lines of the poem on his work table.

Key words: symbolism, Robert Frost, Poems

Introduction

Robert Frost is a typical American Poet. He is called the poet of Americans or New England. He is the American Poet because of this concern with the common American man and his treatment of the American Life in his poetry. He has rightly been called "The essential voice and spirit of the area." "See us and you see New England."

Narration

Symbols are words that stand for or denote something else, not by exact resemblance but by vague suggestion. So symbolic poetry is evocative rather than descriptive. Symbolism is the practice of representing things by symbols. A symbolic poet does not convey his meaning by direct statement; he uses words with symbolic meaning to convey his ideas. Even the symbolic poems have surface meanings but rich symbols add deeper meanings to words. Many of Robert Frost's poems are simple and plain, but there are poems that are rich in symbolic content and have symbolic overtones. Frost wanted to be known as a symbolic poet as is evident from his following statement.

"I am by intention, a symbolic who takes his symbols from the public domain."

Frost enriches his poems through symbols which add deeper meaning to particulars situation events and happenings; W.B. Yeats was a truly symbolist poet who drew his inspiration from the French Symbolists. But Robert Frost is not a symbolic poet of the order of Yeats. Still he is in the line of Yeats and hence a truly modern poet, although many critics deny him the title of a modern poet and dub him as a conventional poet.

Robert Frost was a regional poet who drew his inspiration and material from New England region of American to be exact, the area while lies North of Boston. The people of his poetry are the people of New England people. His themes also have a bearing on New England situation, its people, its weather, its hardships, and its beliefs. Frost celebrated New England in poem after poem.

Take for example the poem "Mending Wall." The surface meaning of the poem is well expressed by the line.



“Good fences make good neighbours”.

But the poem becomes more significant when taken as a symbolic level. Speaking about the symbolism of this poem. We are told how the speaker in the poem and his neighbor get together every spring to repair the stone wall between their properties. The neighbor, a Crusty New England farmer, seems to have a deep – seated faith in the value of walls.

The poem “stopping by woods on a snowy Evening” is also rich in symbolic overtones. The theme of the poem is simple enough: it is the description of a scene of the woods and the circumstances under which the narrator has stopped there. But behind this seeming simplicity there runs a meaning which is far reaching in its effects”. The woods which the poet admires so perfectly are opposed to the promises that the poet has to keep. Further, the poet tells us about his intension of sleeping only when he has kept his promises, when sleep becomes a reward of a well-earned toil. It was this symbolism of the poem which so attracted our beloved Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, that he kept the last lines of the poem on his work table.

“The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Conclusion

It is concluded that the poems becomes more significant when taken as a symbolic level. Speaking about the symbolism of this poem. We are told how the speaker in the poem and his neighbor get together every spring to repair the

stone wall between their properties. The neighbor, a Crusty New England farmer, seems to have a deep – seated faith in the value of walls. It was this symbolism of the poem which so attracted our beloved Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, that he kept the last lines of the poem on his work table.

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