
CELEBRATION OF AGRICULTURE IN THE POETRY OF ROBERT FROST

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First of all Robert Frost is a farmer, than a poet and philosopher. He adopted agriculture as the aim of life and enjoyed it a lot. While laying down the foundation of America Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin had decided that the agriculture will be the first priority of their nation. So, being a true American Frost precisely stepped on their principles and adopted agriculture as his profession.

In the English literature John Milton and Thomas Gray have dignified the tradition and profession of Shepherds through their pastoral elegies. Just like them Robert Frost has enhanced the great and grand tradition of agriculture in his poems. He has painted the wide word portraits of beautiful forms and enlivened even the smallest processes in the agriculture. His involvement in the farm is so deep that he can speak to his crops and understand the longing of his utensils correctly.

In his 'Mowing' Frost's scythe expresses its own views about the world of a farmer. Instead of dreaming leisure and comfort his scythe likes to work in the field. The scythe inspires the poet to take pleasure in hard working and making hay,

"The fact is the sweetest
Dream that labor knows
My long scythe - whispered
And left the hay to make."

Here, the poet has used the word 'whisper'. This 'whisper' personifies the scythe. Convert it into a close friend and working colleague of the poet rather than a mere farming tool. This scythe goes further and expresses its philosophical views on hard work. In the disguise of scythe, the poet puts forward his own views on the profession of a farmer.

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In this regard his 'After Apple Picking' is an ideal poem. In this poem he presents a simple theme that how peacefully an overtired farmer is lulled to sleep by "the essence of winter sleep." An apple picker has a plentiful crop. He is picking apples while standing on the two pointed ladder. The winter evening falls soon. The apple picker is fed up with apple picking now. The cold winter breeze is replated with the scent of apples.

It is a wonderful setting to incline to sleep and he is 'drowsing off' under the hypnotizing effect of nature. The poet wants to pick the apples and tries 'rub' the strangeness away." Soon he is on his way to sleep. In this sport of sleep 'Magnified apples appear and disappear." The poet leaves it on the reader whether it is a common human sleep or an external sleep of mankind.

After Apple Picking is purely based on the content of different activities in agriculture. The 'magnified apples' may also be referred to as human desires which may never be quenched. Many times, one may even have achieved great lifelong goals but life does not stay longer to support one to enjoy the fruits of one's labors. Here this 'Magnified apples' may refer to the unfulfilled desires of mankind. However, if one moves a step further, it directs the lust of man which can never be satisfied.

So far as Frost is concerned he is very happy in this poem because he has got a great harvest. He expresses his gratitude to nature in the following line,

"For I have had too much
Of apple picking: I am overtired
Of the great harvest. I myself desired.
There were ten thousand thousand
Fruit to touch,
Cherries in hand, left down, and
Not let fall."

Actually, satisfaction and joy are the states of mind. In our society some people acquire good qualifications and positions in their life; but they always long more and robs over their condition. On the contrary, Robert Frost was fully satisfied and involved in the

profession of a farmer. Even he feels proud to introduce himself as a farmer, rather than a poet. His involvement in nature made him choose the profession of agriculture and he celebrated each and every minute moment in the life of a farmer and made it immortal in his poems.

In his Mending Wall he has depicted the beauty of apples farms and uplifted them to a great level as if it is not only a farm but also his country and he is standing on the border of his nation.