

**Title of the Project: A Study In Nature of Kalidasa's
"Meghaduta"**

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Kalidasa's poem "Meghaduta" is a superb example of love poetry in traditional Indian literature. Its traditional lyric poetry was originally composed in Sanskrit. It consists of 122 stanzas. It is one of Kalidasa's most famous literary works. It is divided into two parts, Purvamegha (previous cloud) and Uttaramegha (consequent cloud). This significant piece of literature is an illustration of richness that showcases Kalidasa's talent and knowledge. It highlights Kalidasa's contribution to the environment as Meghaduta. This literary work is environment-based, and each stanza addresses a different ecological topic. The poem explores a passionate relationship between a husband and wife even after their separation. Various agents of nature intervene to unite lovers while Gods attempt to stifle human love and feeling and punish them by exiling them.

The changing nature of the seasons has an impact on how people think about love. Monsoon season, often known as the rainy season, offers freshness to the environment and profound affection between lovers. The clouds' movement from one area of the sky to other causes rain and sends a message of love to lovers and those who are dear to them. Loved ones anticipate their love with tremendous anticipation. In "Meghaduta," the lover and his devoted wife are in a committed relationship. But a crisis quickly arises in their relationship. Yaksha's employer, Kubera, the Hindu deity of riches, was dissatisfied because he failed to uphold his responsibility to safeguard the lotus garden assigned to his care. Yaksha destroyed every lotus in the garden as he was involved in love with his bride, Airavata, the elephant of Indra.

"Megha," or the cloud, feels sympathy for them because of their miserable situation. Yaksha ultimately gets "Megha," to agree to tell his wife how much he loves her. The Himalayan Mountains' "Megha," travels from south to north toward Mount Kailasa's Alaka to represent Yaksha's exile-related emotions and circumstances. The woman in love understands that even if her husband lives

far away, he never forgets about her. He continues to become closer to his adored wife. They hope to meet soon. This message of peace elevates the poetry in the modern era.

In Ramagiri Ashrama, Yakṣa has spent his time restlessly and consoled himself by remembering the sweet memory of the days past. The sweet memory of love acts as a soothing balm in the heaviest breast of Yakṣa in exile. He is well aware that his wife eagerly waits for his return. Lovelorn Yakṣa decides to send the message of his return to his beloved wife. He makes a prayer to the "megha" or cloud to carry this message to his beloved wife.

The "megha" travels a long way to reach the city of Alaka to deliver the message to Yakṣa's wife. Yakṣa is very much confident that the "megha" or cloud will do it. The "megha" or cloud only can help him in his distress:

Yakṣa has given the "megha" a wide and vivid description on the way to the city of Alaka. The "megha" travels a long way to the city of Alaka. When the "megha" reaches the city of Alaka, Yakṣa's beloved wife is eagerly waiting looking forward the way of her husband Yakṣa's return. The pain of their separation makes her sick. Lovers are true in their love. This restlessness increases as consciousness in Yakṣa's mind and forces him to describe the passion of love. He has completed eight of the twelve months of his exile.

Yaksha brings back pleasant recollections of the times he spent with his devoted wife and believes that as his life partner, she has taken up half of his soul. She learns about her husband's sincere and devoted love. This lyric poetry shows how Yaksha suffers the agony of separation after having been exiled from Alaka. The graphical descriptions of nature and topographical details of ancient India have been shown in the lyric by Kalidasa.

There are a number of poems which deal with the environmental themes but this lyric of Kalidasa namely, "Meghaduta" is entrenched with the environmental theme from the beginning to the end. Literature plays an important role to ameliorate the environmental crisis. It conveys a message to human beings that living with nature and extracting limited resources is the only source to live in harmony and peace. Nature has been the theme of earlier writings, but serious concern of ecology seems to be lacking in the earlier works.

There are lots of ecocritical concerns in the midst of this poetry. The study of Meghaduta from an ecocritical perspective begins with the depiction of the landscape. Kalidasa's "Meghaduta" has defined the path of cloud from Ramagiri to Alaka city through Yaksha's instruction to cloud. This lovely journey pictures nature, as Himalaya, Rajhansh, Kailash Mountain, birds, animals, flowers, trees, lakes, forests, rivers, stars, moon, sun, clouds etc. These elements represent beauty of nature and physical environment. The journey of cloud encompasses nature from sky to earth. It involves the phenomena of natural environment like the changing seasons.

The wandering of Rama while in exile serves as an inspiration for the cloud's fictitious odyssey. Kalidasa goes in the opposite way because he is fully informed of the Monsoon wind direction. Kalidasa has done a fantastic job in describing Avanti and its surroundings. The poet was born in Ujjayin, the Avanti nation's capital. He therefore uses his own experiences to relate this geographically ideal segment.

Kalidasa's understanding of the genesis, make-up, and progression of the monsoon cloud is likewise highly excellent. Clouds are made up of four ingredients: water, wind, electricity and smoke. The last destination of the cloud is believed to be the celestial city Alaka in the Himalayas. This indicates that the poet is also familiar with the final destination of Monsoon. The Yaksha advises the cloud to collect water from few big rivers such as Reva and Vetrav.

The poet makes us aware of the necessity of forests for the development of the human society in terms of the social, historical, economic and cultural aspects. Eco-criticism is an authentic and recently developing literary theory. The protection of the environment is very important for human and non-human society. Indian Ancient Poet Kalidasa has defined the importance of environment for human being.

The poem also suggests that human beings are an integral part of nature. Yaksha's wife fosters Mandar tree which shows how people care for trees. She makes peacocks dance with clapping of her hands with jingling of her bracelets. It suggests that how people interact with animals and birds. This value system and ethics are suggested in the poem. The poem reforms modern sensibility of people to take care of flora and fauna.

Literature is the medium to reflect the current problems of society. The

development of science and technology has taken the world to the summit of progress. But the lives of humans are in danger. Eco- criticism alerts the society through literary works to sensitize these problems. At present, the world suffers from the problem of the global warming. We see slogans like 'Save environment and trees'.



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