



POSTHUMANISM & THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

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**BRAINWARE
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Edited By

**Dr. Mukulika Duttagupta
Ms. Anandita Das**

Co-editors

**Mr. Alankar Das Dalal
Mr. Sourav Das
Ms. Shrestha Chatterjee**

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Ecological Issues in the Trilogy of Isabel Allende: An Analysis

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Abstract

The research paper attempts to explore the ecological issues pervading in Isabel Allende's trilogy, City of the Beasts, Kingdom of the Golden Dragon and Forest of the Pygmies. Isabel Allende's trilogy sketches the adventurous journey of the protagonist Alexander Cold in three different continents. The journeys undertaken by the protagonist reveal the relationship between nature and human beings. The journeys into the African, Amazon forests and the Himalayan Ranges provide scope for the readers to sense the influence of nature and environment in the life of the human beings. The paper examines the devastating attempt of human beings in controlling the natural/cultural atmosphere for material benefit leading to an ecological crisis.

Keywords: Ecological crisis, ethics, environment, laws of nature, materialism.

Literature, through its varied expressions, tries to enlighten humanity about the various dimensions of life. The ethical tenets embedded in the literary discourses express the desire of creating a world throbbing with love and respect for all, transcending human boundaries. Many literary works reflect this sensibility emphasizing the role of human beings as a part of the ecological world. The notion of claiming human beings to be the centre/superior of all creations is shattered through many literary and theoretical discourses. The humble role of the human beings in this world is underscored; but at the same time, their harmful deeds resulting in the disturbance of the ecological web and other natural phenomena are also portrayed effectively through literature. Isabel Allende is a Latin American writer who attempts to remind society of the lost values of humanity and culture. Isabel Allende was born in Lima, Peru on August 2, 1942. As a gifted story-teller, her eloquence and lucid expressions craft her thoughts to great works of literature. She is a prolific writer authoring fiction, non-fiction, memoir, short story and articles; more than being a mere story-teller, she astonishes the readers with her extended knowledge on life and soul. Her concern for nature and environment echoes in her works. She is a great humanist concerned with the betterment of humanity, particularly through spiritual means. She is an optimist who charges against the pessimistic outlook of human beings. In an interview with Michael Toms, Allende says thus;

I don't think that we're going to destroy ourselves with ozone layer or a nuclear holocaust. I think that we're going to survive and be better ... I think there are new forces in society that are leading to change... So I'm hopeful, very hopeful (43).

The research paper attempts to explore the ecological issues pervading her trilogy, *City of the Beasts, Kingdom of the Golden Dragon and Forest of the Pygmies*.

Isabel Allende's trilogy sketches the adventurous journey of the protagonist Alexander Cold in three different continents namely South America, Asia and Africa. The journeys undertaken by the protagonist Alexander Cold reveal the relationship between nature and human beings. The journeys into the African, Amazon forests and the Himalayan Ranges provide scope for the readers to sense the



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