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ECOWARNING IN THE POEMS OF JUDITH WRIGHT

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Abstract

*Judith Wright seeks to posit a world where both ecology and human existence face grave danger. Anthropocentricism in general mean a lack of awareness about the impending dangers awaiting man and nature. Human actions and decisions might prove to be fatal in the long run. The fate of ecosystem of our planet lies in the hands of some of the most technologically advanced countries. Scientists foresee if the rate at which humanity is currently burning fossil fuels continues, the world will become warmer. Judith Wright's *The two fires* (1955) is a kind of eco-warning that explores the fatal advancement of human beings who try to direct nature. The conviction that "everything is connected to everything else" underlies in Wright's poems.*

Judith Wright seeks to posit a world where both ecology and human existence face grave danger. Anthropocentricism in general a mean a lack of awareness about the impending dangers awaiting man and nature. Human actions and decisions might prove to be fatal in the long run. The fate of ecosystems of our planet lies in the hands of some of the most technologically advanced and affluent countries, Scientists foresee if the rate at which humanity is currently burning fossil fuels continues, the world will become warmer.

Judith Wright's *The Two Fires* (1955) is a kind of eco-warning that explores the fatal advancement of human beings who try to direct nature. The title poem, 'The Two Fires' explores two opposing infernos; one that symbolically represents the love from which humanity originated and the one that is man-made atomic fire that might smother love. The poetry confronts an existential terror magnified by humanity's complicity in collective annihilation. About Wright's intense pessimism in *The Two Fires*, the Australian critic Inglis Moore writes:

Wright, an elemental poet, finds abundant faith in the creative and regaining power of fire also. She tries to turn to mythology to give her guidance. "In the

beginning was the fire; / Out of the death of fire, rock and waters; / and out of water and rock, the single spark, the divine truth" (CP 121). But in the modern age, due to man's hatred the fire has caused havoc. The simile "like matchwood" is a reference to the atomic bomb and man-made fire which is capable of total destruction.

In 'The Two Fires,' 'Fire Sermon,' and 'Patterns,' Wright warns humanity about the man created fire of atomic weapons which has the power to reduce the human order to ashes. In the poem 'The Two Fires' she says, For time has caught on fire, and you too burn: leaf, stem, ranch, calyx and the right corolla are now the insubstantial wavering fire in which love dies. (CP 121)

In the man created fire, 'love dies.' Love is a redeeming experience, love forms the indispensable link in any relationship between man and man and man and nature. "Whirled separate in the man-created fire / their cycles end, with the cycles of the holy seeds; / the cycle from the first to the last fire." (121). Eco-aesthetical assumption also sees war as an essential element in the destruction of the natural environment.

War is the root cause in the destruction of natural environment. War brings havoc not only to human beings but to the very