

POETCRIT

30th Year of Publication

**This Issue is dedicated to Prof. Shiv K Kumar
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The doyen of Indian English Literature**

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30TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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Symbiosis in Nature: A Deep Ecological Perspective in the Poems of Judith Wright

ECOLOGISTS DEFINE symbiosis as partnership among species; it is the interconnection among species for the happy existence of living beings in this universe. Each individual species benefits from the other. The relationship between people and nature is interdependent. Nature provides us with all kinds of natural wealth which are crucial to our existence. Without nature, people cannot live. We need air, water, sunshine, food and so on. Man must learn and strive to co-exist with nature, because it provides us with the vital things for our lives.

The relationship between the concepts of complexity, diversity, and symbiosis could be considered the core of deep ecology - where three ideas from the science of ecology are applied in a philosophical frame ... complexity is the single word for the virtue and perfection of nature that we are slowly discovering more about, leading to an increase in awe and wonder. Diversity together with symbiosis are the particular qualifying factors that define and make possible this complexity (Rothenberg 159).

Judith Wright's poetry gives a broad view of Australia's ecological predicament in a universal context. She highlights the accelerating exploitation of the resources of the earth. In her poems, Judith Wright states that unless human race learns to live in harmony with the rest of the natural world, the human world will face extinction. She advocates an eco-holistic approach to nature which involves the unity of man and all creatures and the environment around.

In the poem, 'Lichen, Moss, Fungus', Judith Wright highlights second principle of deep ecology. "...Diversity, symbiosis, and the complexity sustain the life of nature itself" (Rothenberg 159). When a species of algae and a species of fungus exist in a symbiotic relationship, the resulting organism is called 'lichen.' The lichen, moss and fungus are inconspicuous because of the small size of their structures; still they have their intrinsic value in the ecosystem.

'Lichens' are important to the ecosystem as some types of lichens make nitrogen in the air usable to plants and they are homes for spiders and other insects. Christopher Manes views in his essay, 'Nature and Silence':

If fungus, one of the "lowliest" of forms on a humanistic scale of values, were to

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