

**Eco Alarm and Eco Sensitivity towards Mother Earth in "Warned" by  
Sylvia Stults**

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**Ashish Aggarwal**, Research Scholar, Department of English, Central University  
of Himachal Pradesh

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**Abstract**

To study nature and its trajectory, how nature once used to be, and what the present scenario of nature is through the poem of Sylvia Stults. The paper aims to study how humans use the environment for their benefit daily without realizing that anthropocentrism indirectly leads to digging their graves. The paper can be read as an indicator of how the various ideologies or typecasts circulate in society, leading to the misuse and marginalization of nature.

**Keywords:** ideology, typecasts, anthropocentrism, marginalization.

**Introduction**

Nature is the best and most benign benediction given to us by God. It is an umbrella under which all creatures, from tiny insects to humans, are made to fit down in the same framework by the supreme creation and are supposed to live in harmony. Even great philosophers like Rousseau have talked about the same at great length in his famous work "Origin of Inequality," in which he states that man is born free and that his natural goodness lies in nature. However, as Hobbes says, man is selfish; thus, as soon as he tries to form social connections or bonds, he tries to develop in his mind the notion of 'self' and the 'other,' which leads to the creation of distinction and hierarchy thus leading to debunk or collapse all the notions related to transcendentalism theory which treats every creation equal without creating any distinction or hierarchy.

This can further be substantiated by the theory of 'Tabular Rasa' by John Locke, in which he says that the mind is like a blank slate and that whatever you try to scribble on it leaves a deep impression on the mind. Thus, as soon as a human or a child is born, whatever is taught from the beginning leaves a deep impression upon the mind, creating preconceived notions. Similarly, man and nature, from the very beginning, were supposed to be in harmony. However, after man realized he was superior to nature, he started misusing it for his benefit and tried to exploit nature to its best. This all started or did not spring up in a vacuum, but it all came from the 'Quest for Democracy,' which started in the Age of Renaissance. Humanism was at its peak, leading to humans being superior, having the upper hand in things, exploiting nature to its best, slowly and steadily progressing, and sidelining nature.

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Moreover, by the time of the Victorian age, there existed a conflict between science and religion, and various works like *Origin of Species* (1859) by Charles Darwin came, which brought the concept of the 'Survival of the Fittest' which led to the creation of supremacy in the humans thus giving them upper hand over the nature. Humans slowly and steadily progressed but at the cost of nature without even realizing what harm they were causing to nature. Human beings became so advanced that they made nuclear weapons, which further led to significant events like World Wars, causing great destruction not only to humanity but also to nature.

Nature is being targeted and hit upon from this very point in time. Man is daily committing 'Ecological Suicide' even without realizing it. The way we live and consume nature and its products, unaware of its consequences, is all due to the passive ideology or the passive hegemony we are part of. In this way, nature, daily and at many levels, is denigrated at multiple levels, causing significant threats to nature.

Through her poetry, Sylvia also tries to bring attention to the environmental concerns needed by the hour to cope with the climate crisis or the situation. For their comfort, humans are trying to exploit nature by ruthlessly cutting down trees, depleting natural resources, and overconsuming things, adding to the disturbance of the natural cycle of the ecosystem. As a result, the planet, which used to be lush green, is turning out to be dull and grey and is on the brink of deterioration.

Sylvia is a twentieth-century American writer and poet whose poems often address environmental concerns. She staunchly believes in preserving the environment, thinking it is the moral responsibility of individuals to safeguard the world around us. Through her poem 'Warned,' she also tries to create awareness among people so that we can avoid environmental catastrophes.

The very opening lines of the poem set the tone and primary concern of the poem as they depict the concern for the environment. The poet tries to highlight and bring forth the defiled ecosystem humans inhabit due to the misdeeds we all conduct. She says that the 'sands of time' have rendered, which tells how even the situation has become, and the climate changes have made things di. This indicates that humans should stop the cycle of misdeeds. She says that the sky, which used to be crystal clear once, has become dull and gloomy, and even the stars, which used to be visible at night, have become hazy due to the pollution. This indicates how rapid urbanization and industrialization have contributed to converting the green and lush planet into a concrete jungle. The immense industries, especially after the Victorian era and during Modernism, have led to cutthroat competition, giving rise to a capitalist-driven economy and overexploitation of natural resources.

Further, as the poem unfolds, the next crucial concern that the poet tries to highlight is how the waters, which used to be clean and crystal clear once, now stand polluted. If we try to scrutinize the water bodies around us today, then mostly the rivers and drains are choked by plastic and agriculture runoff, and the oil spills in the ocean have polluted the water bodies. The poet feels nostalgic about how once water bodies that used to hold aquatic life, may it be flora or fauna, have depleted, and the ocean floors have become dull and white after getting defiled. She also highlights how the trees that used to stand tall once have been cut down, and the rate of

deforestation has increased rapidly. This has led to global climatic changes and quicker heating of the earth. Due to cutting trees, an ecological imbalance has occurred, and many creatures have also lost their habitat. The birds that used to chirp and sing happily on the branches have disappeared and have gone extinct. Humans are becoming a race for money. For money-mining, we need to remember the basic ethics of nature.

As the poem approaches the end, the poet quite aptly tries to pinpoint that 'As you sow, so shall you reap.' According to the poet, human beings bear the consequences of their actions on Mother Nature. The same concern is highlighted in the lines-

One cannot blame pollution alone  
As they say, you reap what you have sown

The lines stated above act as an alarm for human beings, indicating that we need to revisit our deeds and work for the betterment of the planet. As it is said, 'the sooner, the better'; similarly, humans must walk on this saying to protect and safeguard our planet. It is high time that we planted better seeds for a better future. We need to take responsibility for the planet on our shoulders individually, and all this can be done by contributing through small daily acts. We must condition ourselves to teach our future and present generations the importance of nature. This can be done by organizing various campaigns or awareness drives, planting trees, and spreading awareness to those less acquainted. Also, we should plant trees on every occasion and take care of the basic things, such as not littering around. These tiny baby steps would eventually contribute something significant. Society Thus, we must realize that whatever is present around us, we must safeguard it, as everything is the benediction of the almighty. We must protect all-natural wealth because it cannot be quickly recovered once it is depleted. For all these things happening around intentionally and unintentionally, eco-critical studies, environmentalism, or green movements try to become the voice and study man's relationship with nature and how(man) treats nature. Environmentalism becomes an umbrella term that indirectly tries to provide a voice to the environment. It is a social movement to protect, safeguard, and cherish habitats and raise voices against the malefactors.

The kind of peril that we have caused to nature daily has led to various things being pondered upon, like the Australian Bush fires, Amazon Forest Fires, massive earthquakes that have hit recently, may it be in Nepal or Pakistan, or multiple deluges that even have impacted Himachal in 2023 and the list is endless. This all is nothing but, in one way or the other, the protest or retaliation of nature against the malefactors called human beings. It is the kind of repayment that humans are paying in installments to nature. Nature has taken a fierce form to make humans realize that the "Earth is One, but the world is not." It is high time for humans to realize that by exploiting nature, we are not just causing harm to nature, but we are also digging our graves by inviting danger to humanity. All this is an alarming situation for human beings by nature, that progress at the cost of nature is harmful. Various dismal situations today may be dull or lonely, with dead rivers; c, lawful lives with dead souls and humanity, and far and far-spreading jungles, which are all creations of so-

called human beings. We all inhabit our niches and various habitats and are quite aware of the falling state of nature from that blissful to a doomed one. Thus, for this reason, and returning to the Edenic state and restoring Biocentricism from Anthropocentrism, it becomes essential to realize what we are doing for the reality check, which will lead to revisiting our deeds as human beings. In totality, we all need to revisit our attitude towards it and rework the casual attitude towards it. It is high time that we realize that nature has given us abundance, and we owe a great responsibility towards it, too!

### **Conclusion**

Through this paper, the researcher has tried to trace the human relationship with nature in various ways and how humans and nature are interdependent. The paper will act as a reminder not just for one person here dealing with it solely but will be an alarm for the immense multitude, directly or indirectly. The paper itself will act as an epiphanic piece not just in the lives of one but many readers who will go through it, making them realize what exactly they are trying to do with nature and in how many deep waters' we' stand as individuals.

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