

CHAPTER-06

THE PEACOCK

The poem '*The Peacock*' by Sujata Bhatt explains how she saw a glimpse of a bird which according to her seems like a peacock. She explains more about the beauty, appearance, and magnificence of the peacock in the first stanza. The second stanza pictures the poet waiting upon the peacock. She remembers how the elders told her to read a book while waiting for the bird. Keeping full concentration in the book, she long waits doesn't take a toll on her. As she keeps the mind away from the bird, she feels a blue shadow. At the right time, she looks up to see the peacock with all its beauty, ending the poem with a happy tone.

Form and Structure

'*The Peacock*' is a subjective poem, written in free verse. The poet has not followed any particular stanza form or Rhyme Scheme. The first stanza consists of "eight lines", whereas the second and lengthy stanza consists of 21 lines. The first stanza structured like an introduction to the beauty of the peacock and the theme of the poem. The second stanza, reveals the more personal attempt of the poet to see a peacock.

Theme and Settings

The central idea of the poem '*The Peacock*' revolves around the national bird of India. The poet describes the beauty of the bird which symbolically refers to India. The peacock, though a commonly seen bird in India, presented as a rare one by the poet. The "setting" of the poem is not clear, for it takes place in the mind of the poet. Yet, the poet's description

of the “peacock” and the ‘Pipal tree’, which is native to India, gives the vivid image of colorful India as a background to the poem.

Literary and Poetic Devices

The poem ‘The Peacock’ though written in simple language holds rich imagery and symbolism. Along with that, the poet uses Personification, Allegory, and hyperbole to add beauty to the poem.

Imagery

The poet, when calls the peacock as “a flash of turquoise”, the mind of the reader is filled with the colorful, green, and blue image of the peacock. “A blue shadow” again in the second stanza casts a wonderful image of the peacock in its rich color. The bird is presented as a feast to the eye. Further, the bird walks down with its “slender neck arched away” and the line ‘the very end of his tail’ projects the glorious appearance of the bird.

Symbolism

The poem ‘*The Peacock*’ itself is a symbolic representation of the poet’s longing for her motherland. The beauty and magnitude of ‘turquoise’ in the peacock metaphorically symbolizes the Indian subcontinent being covered by water in three directions and mountains on the other side. She is telling how beautiful India looks. The ‘*Peacock’s* call “coming from nowhere” represents the far cry of the Nation for its people scattered across the world. Even though the poet tries hard to see the bird, it is eluding her, like the nation that she cannot see.

Hyperbole

The poet employs hyperbole in the last lines of the poem. He exaggerates the eye pattern on the tail-feathers as eyes of “amber”

and “gold” as it spreads and displays its feathers, the surrounding is lighted with “golden amber”. But to the surprise of the poet, he saw the peacock gathering its tails together like a tail. Here, the poet sees the simple and natural act of the bird gathering its feathers as a volunteer or purposeful act to blink all the eyes at the same time.

Personification

The ‘peacock’ is personified as a “man” and addressed by the poet as “He” and “His” throughout the poem. The voice, the appearance, and the way it climbs down with its head turned away projects the magnificent appearance of a man who thinks highly of himself.

Allegory

‘*The Peacock*’ can be interpreted as an allegorical poem. Though the poem sounds like a poem about the beauty and eluding nature of the bird, one could feel the longing in the voice of the poet for India. She presents her unyielding love and pride of India through the images and symbols used in the poem.

