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•Vikram Nagar, Boudhi Chouk, Latur.
•Tq. Latur, Dis. Latur 413512
•(+91) 9922455749, (+91) 9158387437

Email

•aiirjpramod@gmail.com

Website

•www.aiirjournal.com

CHIEF EDITOR – PRAMOD PRAKASHRAO TANDALE

An Echo of Eco-Buddhism in Gary Snyder's Poetry

- **D. B. Wankhade**

Assistant professor of English
Shri Shivaji Arts, Commerce & Science College Akot,
Dist. Akola (M.S.) India.

Abstract-

Gary Snyder is an American poet, a philosopher, naturalist, essayists, an Environmental activist and the worshipper of cosmopolitan creatures. As a poet Snyder's poetic power is influenced by Buddhism and its Natural love. As a first scientist in the world, Lord Buddha, has propounded to balance the ecological atmosphere of Natural world. The doctrine of Buddhism has neglected the existence of Godly appearance in the entire universe. The human being is an epitome of Nature. It is composed with five essential elements as Panchatatva i. e. air, water, fire, earth and space. To restore Nature in its ancient value, Snyder peeps into Buddhism which provides peace and content of life on the level of medium path of Lord Buddha. The sense of meditation, casting off the yoke of corrupt human senses, the concept of 'All in Nothingness and Nothing in All', are the trends of Buddhism rested in dark and deep woods, in high mountains and meadows, appealed to Snyder. Far from physical and pleasure life, Gary Snyder finds a dose of tonic to the anxiety in Nature. The central philosophy of Buddhism rounds around the preservation of Primitive Nature. The same is important for existence of human life on the earth.

Keywords- Eco-Buddhism, Sanfransesco Movement, Beat Generation etc.

Gary Sherman Snyder is an American man of letters, best known as a poet, essayist, prose writer, translator and traveler, associated with the [Beat Generation](#) and the [San Francisco Renaissance](#) movement in literature. The term San Francisco Renaissance is a global designation for a range of [poetic](#) activity centered on [San Francisco](#) which brought it to prominence as a hub of the [American](#) poetic avant-garde. However, it was a broader phenomenon encompassing visual and performing arts, philosophy, cross-cultural interests, particularly in Asian cultures, and new social sensibilities. He uses mainly common speech-patterns as the basis for his lines, though his style has been noted for its 'flexibility' and the variety of different forms his poems have taken. He does not typically use conventional meters or intentional rhyme. Love and respect for the primitive tribe, honor accorded the Earth, the escape from city and industry, the possible, contemplation, the communal, such, is the awareness and commitment behind the specific poems. Snyder's poetry addresses the life-planet identification with unusual simplicity of style and complexity of effect.

Gary Snyder is an American poet, a philosopher, naturalist, an active Environmental activist and the worshipper of cosmopolitan creatures. As an ardent lover of Wild Nature and a genius in the world of words his is a credit of winning a host of prizes and awards for expansion the poetic canvas. As a member of Beat Generation in American literature, Snyder's contribution to the entire English and Buddhist literature is unsurpassable. He has no excel in depicting the lively human lives. Beat generation is a group of litterateurs whose works explore the cultural complexities and twist in tenets in the American lives in the

post Second World War period. A number of significant figures are included in Beat Generation among which the mention may be made of [Herbert Huncke](#), [Allen Ginsberg](#), [William S. Burroughs](#), [Lucien Carr](#), and [Jack Kerouac](#), Gary Snyder and Neal Cassidy. The New York City being the literary hub and Sanfransisco Reanissanince is the movement of this core group of literary giants in the 1950's. All these literary artists were indulged in depicting the co-relationship between the American natives and the perennial power of Natural world. Gary Snyder is on the forefront of rest of all for he is not only oral speaker on the nativism and American Wild world but has got the first hand experience as a wild man in the American coastal and wild jungles. As an artist his poetry is not giving only a docile message of antic peace but he understood Nature as his first abode, as malady to all panic on earthy life.

As a poet Snyder's poetic power is influenced by Buddhism and its Natural love. The central philosophy of Buddhism rounds around the preservation of Primitive Nature. All the teaching of Lord Buddha is rested in support of Natural Neutrality. As a first scientist in the world Lord Buddha has propounded to balance the ecological atmosphere of Natural world. The doctrine of Buddhism has neglected the existence of Godly appearance in the entire universe. The human being is an epitome of nature. It is composed with five essential elements as Panchatatva i. e. air, water, fire, earth and space. The same is important for existence of human life on the earth. Snyder accepts Nature not only as his family but as abode. The preservation of Nature in its genuine stage is the need of hour. To restore Nature in its ancient value, Snyder peeps into Buddhism which provides peace and content of life on the level of medium path of Lord Buddha. The sense of meditation, casting off the yoke of corrupt human senses, the concept of 'All in Nothingness and Nothing in All', are the trends of Buddhism rested in dark and deep woods, in high mountains and meadows, appealed to Snyder. Far from physical and pleasure life, Gary Snyder finds a dose of tonic to the human anxiety in Nature. Snyder is a firm believer of Buddhist philosophy, urged the world to keep the eternal bond of Natural love in practical life. The medium path of Buddhism and an echo Ecology in Snyder's poetry teaches to love Nature and its all creatures. As a medicine to the malady of human whimsical nature, 'Natural Neutrality' is an elixir to Snyder, to balance the Natural World.

The preaching of Lord Buddha is called as the doctrine of Buddhism. Originated in India the Buddhism has rapidly transcended the regional and geographical boundaries and spread throughout the world. As the time proceeds the original philosophy of Buddhism has melted in to the cultural variations according to the ethos and ethics of the locale. This variation leads Buddhism to split into vivid sects as Mahayana, Haryana and Zen worldwide. Though the waves of thinking and practicing of it are differed with the cultural traditions, the native hue of Buddhist philosophy of love to Nature and its Wildness, cosmopolitan compassion, peace, non-violence and altruism is not of an age but for all time to come. One of the facets of human developments, literature as an art form has not remained an untouched area from the philosophy of Buddhism. The source of literary composition was rested in 'Jatak tales' and 'Folk literature' about Buddhism. Various architecture and sculpture are also erected throughout the then Buddhism acquainted spheres which tells the various facets of facts and

fiction about Buddhism. A host of literary upheaval has been taken place about Buddhism in Indian context. The renaissance of Buddhism intermingled in Sanfransisco Renaissance movement emerged in 1950's with New York City as a center to restore the Buddhist philosophy in a neo guise into literature. A new type of writer's generation with humanitarian ground appeared on the literary horizon. It is famous for Beat Generation in American literature. The beat generation tried to examine the gap between the spiritual, mental, social and ecological with the cultural counteraction. Gary Snyder is an expert in examination of human and humane on the basis of his rich fund of profound experience.

As an all time devotee of Buddhism Snyder spare no moments of life aloof from Buddhism. The various aspects of his personality are absorbed in the atoms of Buddhism. He rendered the whole life in using literature as powerful tool of sprouting and spreading of Buddhism all over the globe. He travelled wildly and widely. He worked as a logger. The coastal life of American region was once a medium of his bread and butter. He is the first man of literary background of the first devoted generation absorbed in Buddhism from top to bottom. As a creative artist his mind is wounding when Snyder sees the fire on the mountain, a shelter of masses living in with the home of once own. He spent the span of more than a decade in living an acetic life suited to the Buddhist practice of salvation through simplicity. In the Buddhist monastery in Japan he abandoned his relationship with the world which is full with 'weariness, fever and fret' to quote the famous romantic poet, John Keats. The fine combination and concrete balance of Nature and its Wildness and Buddhist vision is not an overnight transition responsible to the philosophical and artistic bent of mind of Gary Snyder. It's a steady and slow strength of an inner insight and acute observation of outer glimpse of Snyder. His work, in his various roles, reflects an immersion in both Buddhist spirituality and Nature. The love for Nature, cordiality for wildness, sympathy for the billows of the killing animals, disappearance of million species and pathos in deforestation and compassion in deserted birds is highly projected in the poetry of Gary Snyder.

Snyder's work blends physical reality and precise observations of nature with inner insight received primarily through the practice of Buddhism. While Snyder has gained attention as a spokesman for the preservation of the natural world and its earth-conscious cultures, he is not simply a 'back-to-nature' poet with a facile message. Snyder has looked to the Orient and to the beliefs of American Indians for positive responses to the world, and he has tempered his studies with stints of hard physical labor as a logger and trail builder. Snyder's view of nature is neither romantic nor one-dimensional. Having spent a great deal of time hiking trails, and working as a fire for the complexity of the natural world: "life in the world is not just eating berries in the sunlight. I like to imagine a depth ecology that would go to the dark side of nature, the ball of crunched bones in a seat, the feathers in the snow, and the tales of insatiable appetite." Hence, for Snyder, in addition to being beautiful, fecund, and alive, wild nature is 'also nocturnal, anaerobic, cannibalistic, microscopic, digestive, fermentative, cooking away in the warm dark.

From the primitive to the present day, the Natural creativity is showering its blessings upon human beings. The greed for Mammon worship, lust for physical pleasure and

power and craze for blind development of modern man is limitless. For the attainment of all these blind values in this 'fast food generation' world, under the guise of glow and glamour, the moral and ethics are on its devastation. Consequently, the Natural ecosystem is losing its aboriginal stage. The world is facing the numerous problems on National and International level. The environment along with its all aspects is showing its dangerous mood due to human hurt. The global warming, melting glaciers, deluge, water, air and sound pollution, deforestation, destruction of rocky mountains, drought, famine, aridity of soil and countless diseases in human body are the burning problems before the universe, today. The only panacea to all these problems lies in the real follower and execution of moral and spiritual ethics rested in Buddhism. The restoration of organic unity is only possible through Eco-Buddhism.

Gary Snyder is an American poet, a philosopher, naturalist, essayists, an Environmental activist and the worshipper of cosmopolitan creatures. As a poet Snyder's poetic power is influenced by Buddhism and its Natural love. As a first scientist in the world, Lord Buddha, has propounded to balance the ecological atmosphere of Natural world. The doctrine of Buddhism has neglected the existence of Godly appearance in the entire universe. The human being is an epitome of Nature. It is composed with five essential elements as Panchatatva i. e. air, water, fire, earth and space. To restore Nature in its ancient value, Snyder peeps into Buddhism which provides peace and content of life on the level of medium path of Lord Buddha. The sense of meditation, casting off the yoke of corrupt human senses, the concept of 'All in Nothingness and Nothing in All', are the trends of Buddhism rested in dark and deep woods, in high mountains and meadows, appealed to Snyder. Far from physical and pleasure life, Gary Snyder finds a dose of tonic to the anxiety in Nature. The central philosophy of Buddhism rounds around the preservation of Primitive Nature. The same is important for existence of human life on the earth.

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