

Analytical Study of AD Hope's Poetry : Australia



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Abstract – The legacy of leading Australian poet A.D. Hope is unquestionable to the world literature. His works include eleven books of poetry, seven collections of critical essays and two plays. His writing, compelling in its originality and passion, and rigorous in its satirical edge and philosophical insights, embodies in its language both the greatness and the frailty of the human spirit. He will be remembered best and longest as a poet, though he wrote some works on criticism as well.

Keywords- Analytical, Study, AD Hope's, Poetry, Australia, collections.

Critical Appreciation simply means to evaluate and analyze the poem in order to have its better understanding. So to have the better understanding of the poetry of A.D. Hope, it requires to have a look on him as a poet.

Alec Derwent Hope is Australian poet, essayist, critic and editor. He is recognized as one of the most influential and celebrated Australian poets of the twentieth century. Critics classify him as a "Classic Poet", in that much of his work utilized traditional forms and rejected modernist and postmodernist poetic trends. He also incorporated mythology, legends and fables in his Verse.

Despite the anachronistic nature of Hope's poetic oeuvre, commentators praise his biting satire, the clarity of his language and sophistication of his poetic vision and view him as important contributor to traditional prosody in contemporary poetry.

Australian poet Hope was born on 21 July 1907 at Cooma in the Snowy Mountains area of southern New South Wales. His father was a Presbyterian minister His primary education was given at home and schooling in Tasmania and New south wales as the family moved around to different parishes. Matriculating to Sydney University, he graduated Bachelor of Arts with majors in English and Philosophy in 1928 and won a scholarship to University College, Oxford. His Oxford career, however, was not a distinguished one; he returned to Sydney in 1932 with a disappointing third- class degree and trained as teacher. In 1937 Hope married Penelope Robinson with whom he had three children. He was appointed lecturer in education at the Sydney Teachers' College in 1937, later becoming lecturer in English there from 1938-44. During the 1940s, Hope took part in the Australian Broadcasting Commission's Children's Session, as "Anthony Inkwell" conducting the literary section of the Agonaut's Club. In 1945 he moved to the university of Melbourne and in 1951 was appointed professor of English at Canberra University College (Later The Australian National University) where he taught until his retirement in 1968.

In his poems A.D. Hope always practices what he preached, he harmonized the natural rhythms of prose with the meters of verse. His lines can be read as easily as well written prose. Among his poems, here I give a look on his famous poem "Australia".

Australia

A Nation of tress, drab green and desolate grey
In the field uniform of modern wars,
Darkens her hills, Those endless, Outstretched paws Of Sphinx demolished or
Stone lion won away.

They call her a young country, but they lie:
She is the last of lands, the emptiest, A woman beyond her change
of life, a breast Still tender but within the womb is dry.

Without songs, architecture, History:

The emotions and superstitions of younger lands,
Her rivers water drown among inland sands,
The river of her immense stupidity

Floods her monotonous tribes from Cairns to Perth.
In them at last the ultimate men arrive
Whose boast is not: "we live" But "we survive"^{""},
A type who will inhabit the dying earth.

And her five cities, like five teeming sores,
Each drains her: a vast parasite robber- State
Where second hand Europeans pullulate Timidly on the edge of alien
shores.

Yet there are some like me turn gladly home
From the lush jungle of modern thought, to find
The Arabian desert of the human mind,
Hoping, if still from the deserts the prophets come,

Such savage and scarlet as no green hills dare
Springs in that waste, some spirit which escapes
The learned doubt, the chatter of cultured apes Which is called civilization
over there.

Australia is a poem by A.D. Hope. His major subjects are English and Philosophy. His collection of Poem is "Wandering Island" (1955). The first five stanzas deal with how the Australia is.

He says that Australia is a mechanical and Monotonous land. In this poem, he says that his country is intentionally traumatized. The poem gives a kind of negative perception regarding Australian Culture. The poem reflects the lack of individualism and spiritual poverty. It is the continent with an ambiguous state.

The first stanza conveys that the trees in Australia are dull and it stood in a desolate place. Generally, the term NATURE is a charming thing but in this continent it looks like a desolate one. Nobody cares about it. Many people give importance to their outer appearance. They do not care about inner beauty. Appearances can be deceptive. The author compares this to a "Sphinx".

The people in Australia are heterogenous in their tradition. The author called them as young but it ironically conveys their immaturity. He points out the vulnerability of land and the theme of rebellion. By reading this poem, the readers come to know that he is against his country. He says that there is no proper sense with respect to their culture. He calls the vulnerability of land the theme of rebellion. By reading this poem, the readers come to know that he is against his country. He says that there is no proper sense with respect to their culture. He adds that they are not creative and independent. From the famous spot Cairns to Perth there is only Flow of stupidity. He says that the people are stupid and foolish. The people in this continent are not living, they are surviving. He calls five teeming Stores which denote Melbourne, Sidney, Perth, Canberra, Adelaide. The People in these places have not had their own identity. They are like parasites which depend on others. The author callstheir mind as "of Australian Dumb like". He says that their mind is dumb like people who lives in the Arabian desert. He is waiting for his prophecy to come true. They themselves call as civilized people but there is no civilization.

The Poem "Australia" by A.D Hope is a juxtaposition of people's or societies view of Australia, versus the patriotic stance of the writer. It also shows how A .D. Hope is trying to convey his perspective on the identity of Australia. A.D. Hope reveals his discontentment and scathing tone on Australia's identity through his descriptive imagery, "a Nation of trees, drab green and desolate grey", where the somber and bleak nature of Australia is divulged through the derogative language, "drab" and "desolate". Furthermore, the poet reflects his dislike towards the Australian Society which is built on trying to, "inhabit the dying earth", and to "survive", by the "ultimate men" and "Second-hand Europeans". As well as this, the sibilance of "savage and scarlet" reveals A.D. Hope's despise towards Australia's Identity, as the words "savage" and "scarlet" are

recognized as negative and derogative terms, reflecting the poet's views. Through these various poetic devices, A.D. Hope has successfully revealed his negative perspective of the Australian image. Australia to him is devoid of culture. Which is "without songs, architecture, history" where he "rivers of water drown among inland sands, The river of her immense stupidity".The "her" he is referring to in this paragraph is Australia. He sees Australia as being a country that has neither historical background nor culture to speak off. Yet, he believes that it has the capabilities to do so, however, the ideas are drowned among "inland sands". This can be seen as he blames the detractors for the slow erosion of Australia, where it has become a country that is no longer as intelligent as it was before. This reflects the writer's patriotic view where Australia is the victim here. Australia is next portrayed as a country that is nothing at all, where there are "monotonous tribes from Cairns to Perth" and the five main cities, compared to "five teeming sores."

The legacy of leading Australian poet A.D. Hope is unquestionable to the world literature. His works include eleven books of poetry, seven collections of critical essays and two plays. His writing, compelling in its originality and passion, and rigorous in its satirical edge and philosophical insights, embodies in its language both the greatness and the frailty of the human spirit. He will be remembered best and longest as a poet, though he wrote some works on criticism as well.

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