

THE THEME OF NATURE IN THE WORKS OF V. RASPUTIN: SYMBOLISM AND METAPHOR**Karimova Nigora Maratovna**

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Abstract: The article is dedicated to analyzing the role of nature in the works of V. Rasputin, with a focus on the symbolism and metaphor of natural images in his writings. It explores how natural elements become an important philosophical and aesthetic tool in the writer's works, symbolizing deep human experiences, moral dilemmas, and metaphysical concepts. Special attention is given to the interaction between humans and nature, which in Rasputin's works serves as an integral part of the spiritual and cultural context of his writings. The author analyzes various natural images — from rivers and forests to elements of natural phenomena — and reveals their metaphorical significance in the context of moral choices and the life trials of the characters.

Key words: V. Rasputin, nature, symbolism, metaphor, natural images, spiritual quest, morality, man and nature, Russian literature, ecological philosophy.

The theme of nature holds an important place in the works of Valentin Rasputin, one of the most prominent writers of Russian literature in the second half of the 20th century. In his works, nature is not merely a backdrop for the action but becomes an active participant in the events, symbolizing the inner world of the protagonist and their spiritual journey. The natural images in Rasputin's works are often not limited to simple descriptions of the external world; they are filled with deep metaphorical and philosophical meaning, which allows them to be explored as an important element of the artistic structure of his works.

Special attention in the writer's works is given to the interaction between man and nature, which reveals the moral-ethical and existential aspects of human existence. Nature serves as a kind of mirror, reflecting the inner experiences of the characters, their spiritual quests, and their confrontation with eternal questions of life, death, loyalty, and betrayal. In Rasputin's works, nature becomes not only a metaphor for moral choice but also a symbol of integrity and harmony,

which, according to the writer, are lost in the conditions of social and spiritual disarray.

The aim of this work is to analyze the symbolism and metaphor of natural images in the works of Valentin Rasputin, exploring their role in revealing philosophical and moral themes. The work is based on theoretical approaches to literary analysis and examines specific works of the writer in which nature plays a key role.

In the works of Valentin Rasputin, nature plays a key role as a symbol and metaphor, revealing profound philosophical and moral themes. The natural images in his writings not only serve as a backdrop for the action but also act as important tools for conveying the emotional states of the characters, their philosophical reflections on life and death, and the connection between humans and the surrounding world. This paper will analyze the symbolism and metaphor of natural images in Rasputin's works, such as "Farewell to Matyora," "Live and Remember," and "Do Not Shoot at White Swans," based on theoretical approaches to literary analysis.

Nature as a Moral Compass

In "Farewell to Matyora," nature serves as a symbol of moral choice and the ethical crisis that the characters go through. The river, forest, and earth in the work symbolize both inevitable changes and the ideal of natural harmony. The natural images become carriers of folk morality, a kind of moral compass for the characters, who face the reality of change. Specifically, the river, as an element of the natural world, becomes a metaphor for the flow of life and time, which cannot be stopped. This depiction aligns with the philosophy and theoretical ideas put forth by Yu. M. Lotman, who asserts that in literature, nature often becomes a symbol of fate, inevitable changes, and the moral path of the hero [3].

In this work, Rasputin portrays nature not only as a symbol of the passage of time but also as a kind of mirror of the characters' souls. The old way of life, like nature itself, which changes, is subject to the laws of time. In this context, nature serves as a carrier of moral values such as loyalty, honesty, and harmony, which are lost with the departure of traditional society.

Nature as a Metaphor for the Inner World

In Rasputin's works, the metaphor of nature is used to express the inner world of the characters, their spiritual and moral struggles. In "Live and Remember," the river, which at the beginning of the novel symbolizes tranquility and harmony, gradually becomes a metaphor for destruction and crisis. The protagonist experiences emotional turmoil, and the river reflects his inner struggle, symbolizing anxiety, instability, and the loss of integrity.

According to Roland Barthes, the metaphor in literature plays not only a decorative role

but also contributes to the creation of hidden meanings, deepening the perception of the text [2]. In this context, the river, which changes its course, reflects the inner world of the protagonist, his moral uncertainty, and his search for the meaning of life after the war. Nature serves not only as a backdrop but also as an active participant in the development of the play's dramaturgy, creating an atmosphere that influences the characters' perception of their own fate.

Nature as an Existential Question

In the work "Do Not Shoot at White Swans," nature becomes a metaphor for existential themes. The white swans, symbolizing purity and freedom, contrast with the cruelty of the world in which they live. Their death serves not only as a tragic motif but also as a philosophical question about human helplessness in the face of fate and the cruelty of the surrounding world. In this context, nature becomes not just a backdrop but also a metaphor for the fragility of human existence, the loss of innocence, and harmony.

According to V. Y. Propp's theory, the symbolism of nature in Russian literature is often associated with the cyclicity of life, the inevitability of loss and change [1]. In "Do Not Shoot at White Swans," the death of the swans symbolizes the tragic loss of ideals and hopes, the destruction of beauty and innocence. These natural images become a metaphor for the internal struggle of a person, his aspiration for perfection, which confronts the cruelty and soullessness of the external world.

Symbolism of Natural Elements

The river, forest, and earth — all these natural elements play an important role in revealing philosophical themes in Rasputin's works. In "Farewell to Matyora," the river personifies the flow of time, relentless and irreversible. The forest, with its eternal shade and abundance of life, symbolizes the immutable values that are lost with the transition to a new, more technical and rational world. The earth becomes a metaphor for the homeland and the connection with ancestors, symbolizing the need to preserve spiritual heritage despite contemporary challenges.

According to Yu. M. Lotman's theory, natural symbols in literature not only reflect external changes but also embody the internal transformations in the lives of the characters, making nature an active participant in the narrative, rather than just a backdrop [3]. In Rasputin's works, nature serves as an important indicator of the moral and philosophical state of the characters, determining their interaction with the surrounding world and their inner experiences.

Nature in the works of Valentin Rasputin is a multifaceted and multi-meaning element that helps to reveal the philosophical and moral themes of his writings. The symbolism and metaphor

of natural images in "Farewell to Matyora," "Live and Remember," and "Do Not Shoot at White Swans" serve as important means of conveying the depth of human experience, the emotional torment of the characters, their moral choices, and existential questions. In Rasputin's works, nature not only symbolizes the transience of time but also becomes a source of moral and spiritual quest, reflecting the inner struggle of the characters.

1. Nature as a Moral Compass. In the works of Valentin Rasputin, nature often serves as a moral and philosophical guide, symbolizing the inevitable changes that occur in the lives of the characters. Natural elements such as the river, forest, and earth become metaphors for moral choices and inner harmony. This is particularly evident in "Farewell to Matyora," where nature symbolizes the departure of old values and traditions, which are accompanied by the moral and spiritual losses of the characters.

2. Nature as a Metaphor for the Inner World. In Rasputin's works, nature serves as a metaphor for the inner world of the characters. In works like "Live and Remember," the river becomes a symbol of emotional turmoil and crisis experienced by the protagonist. Changes in nature mirror changes in the characters' fates, highlighting their existential quests and philosophical reflections.

3. The Existential Aspect of Nature. Nature in Rasputin's works also serves as a backdrop for deep existential questions. In "Do Not Shoot at White Swans," nature becomes a symbol of lost innocence and the cruelty of the world. The white swans, as a metaphor for the ideal of beauty and freedom, contrast with reality, emphasizing the philosophical theme of the human struggle against the inevitable and harsh laws of life.

4. Symbolism of Natural Elements. Each element of nature in Rasputin's works carries significant symbolic weight. The river personifies the flow of life and time, the forest represents immutability and eternity, and the earth symbolizes the connection to the homeland and ancestors. These symbols not only serve as the backdrop for the unfolding events but also help reveal the central philosophical ideas of the works, such as the connection between man and nature, the loss of harmony, and the search for the meaning of life.

The theme of nature in the works of Valentin Rasputin is a layered and profound element that plays a crucial role in uncovering philosophical and moral themes. Nature does not merely serve as a backdrop for events, but becomes an active participant, a metaphor and symbol through which the author expresses ideas about life, death, the transience of time, and inner harmony. Natural images, such as the river, forest, earth, and animals, help the author explore fundamental

issues of human existence — moral choices, spiritual quests, and existential struggles. In Rasputin's works, nature acts as a mirror in which the characters see their inner experiences, while simultaneously serving as the philosophical context in which their fates unfold.

Valentin Rasputin's works affirm the importance of nature as an integral part of human life, a philosophical reflection of the world, and inner harmony. Thus, nature in Rasputin's works is not only an essential element of artistic style but also an important means for expressing deep moral and philosophical reflections on humanity and its place in the world.

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