



## **ROMANTIC IRIDESCENCE OF BERNARD M. JACKSON**

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Bernard M. Jackson, the romantic poet of this century, credits more than six collection of poems to his credit who has been exhuming romantic iridescence for Tom, Dick and Harry in general and the poetry lovers in particular on this strife-stricken earth. These are a number of romantic essences- love for rural landscape, nature, melancholy, love, beauty, lyrical luminosity, subjectivity, imagination, dream etc that bloom time and again for romantic iridescence worldwide. As a result Bernard M. Jackson has become out and out a poet of romantic traditions all through his poetic journey in life.

There are some example of unique word-compositions- tousle-heads, flower-beds, flattened patch of grass, fern-clad glades, thorn-scarred knees, fern-strewn hill, blue- capped wonder, soil-stained glove, whispered trees, seasoned show, bluebelled shades, rippled magic, woodland's dream, martial mound, sprawling ridge, metallated melody, rustled boughs, grass-fringed way, sewing shields, twittered squalls, scurried falls, smouldered grey, trampled ground, and many more that approve his poetic maturity in the kingdom of romantic poetry with might and main.

As a painterly painter Bernard M. Jackson paints a lovely picture of ruralscape that makes him a poet of romantic tradition in English poetry. Like Keats Jackson has become an expert painter of the rural landscape in this stanza of the poem 'Thomas Bewick':

"No lowly task he undertook  
that showed no spark of genius;  
his hand upon the moment's blade  
winged birds, carved trees,  
made vignettes loom; and,

from that dream,  
with facets of stilled  
circumstance,  
immortalized a rustic world,  
combining skill of master-craft  
with sense of rural  
symmetry." (1) [2001:28]

The romantic poets were lovers of birds, animals and several other living creatures that are frequently found across the poetic groves of Jackson. Owl, sparrow, blackbird and several other birds appear again and again in one poem after another that paves the way of his romantic traits in English poetry. Like Wordsworth and Keats Jackson remained a great suitor of the melodious song of the birds that sends him in the seventh heaven so far poetry is concerned. The poet murmurs melodiously in the poem "A Song Supreme":

"Flame of vernal glory  
chancing through the boughs,  
and a calm, unhurried  
wind among the leaves;  
ubiquitous in rhapsody  
where symphony allows  
the black bird swells in ecstasy  
though sometimes one may not espy  
this lilting songster,  
dark and sleek,  
who views his world with sage round eye  
and charms with gold of beak."(2) [2001:22]

Like Wordsworth Jackson paints his childish reminiscences in the poem 'Childhood Remembered' in which he calls it the golden period of life absolutely free from the humdrum of lives at all. Jackson

remembers tea time, kitchen table, riding on horse, Sunday clothes and sister's wedding in one stanza after another with great poetic perfection.

His childhood romance with natural objects sends him in the seventh heaven because he was habituated to play on the lap of nature without interruptions.

'Dream has remained the leading poetic tool of the Romantic poets that is used very happily by Jackson across his poetic groves. It is the Dream that plants the germs of success in life. Dreamy life is ever blissful that scatters gold on everyone. The poet muses in his poem "Somewhere":

"My dreams still stray;  
And in a time where such a day  
Has scattered gold on everyone," (3) [2001:6]

His dreams are ever young that is beyond the ravages of time and space. Like the Romanticists Jackson is a sonneteer who fuses his verses with the painterly painting of natural iridescence in general and the spring in particular because spring is the prime of the season. One can find the uses of various figures of speech-alliteration, personification, simile, metaphor etc throughout his poetic groves. These words- drowsing woodland, whispered trees, smiling earth, sweet songsters of the boughs and seasoned show are the fine examples of personification of his poetic groves. The poet remembers the essence of the spring in this stanza:

Now daffodil and foxglove come to bloom,  
And bluebelled shades give rise to silvan glow .  
From lofty ridge to lowly hidden coombe,  
Fair nature brings to bear her seasoned show,  
And those who find her magic long shall sing  
In praise of these-rememberances of spring. (4) [2001:14]

Like the romanticists Jackson is a great lover of nature and its iridescences that spreads eternal bliss for the living beings in general and the human beings in particular. The poet glorifies the sunlit days that can rarely be traded. The poet's heart leaps up with the sunlit rays as he muses beautifully in this stanza of the poem 'Sunlit Days':

These wondrous eyes more precious are  
Than finest crock of gold.

How blest am I by Nature's charm;  
To woodland sounds I cling  
Where cool winds sigh  
Through rustled leaves  
And countless songsters sing. (5) [2001:36]

Jackson is a great lover of nature and its beautiful objects. The greenery of the meadow, craggy rocks, the highest hills, grass in the vales, flowered may, autumn frails, sky lines etc. thrill his poetic heart for creation in life. Like Horace Jackson seems a suitor of the seasons in general and the spring in particular that symbolizes the prime of life, prime of beauty and the prime of the creativity from alpha and omega of his poetic groves. Jackson is the descendent of the romantic essence in this century who has been fragranting the poetic scenario very passionately. Love is the eternal gift of God for the human beings on this strife-stricken earth. B.M. Jackson has proved his mastery over the uses of personification, alliteration, parable, metaphor, pun, onomatopoeia, assonance, hyperbole, imagery, and several other poetic tools all through his verses. His focus on rural landscape in general and the small birds in particular establishes his poetic credit as a lover of natural objects and natural sanctity. He is not only a poet of romantic tradition but also an environmentalist who fights with his poetic weapons for the proper order of natural sanctity on this earth. Barnard M. Jackson has become a father – figure in the creative grove who has been shaping souls of many a peeping poet for the cluster of the aster amidst the humdrums of lives in this monetary infected global society. His romantic tradition of writing, uses of various figures of speech, celestial wisdom, capital idea, unique style of versification, painterly painting of natural pay sages and its glittering objects, models of sonnets and various other poetic qualities make him a poet of high water mark of the creative world. His romantic passion with celestial wisdom has won thunders of applause amidst the poets all around the continent. Barnard M. Jackson has earned name and fame as a global poet of the Romantic tradition who inherits not only the romantic features in toto but also possesses mastery over the uses of the compound, and pictorial words throughout his poetic rosarium. Here lies some examples of the compact and compound words – ploughed furrows, cloud – borne, tousle – heads, flower – beds, flattened path of grass, fern – clad glades, black – thorn, thorn- scarred knees, fern – strewn hill, blue – capped wonder, soil – stained glove, whispered trees, smiling earth, sweet songster of the boughs, blue belled shades, seasoned show, drowsing woodland, rippled magic, willowed minstrels, woodland's dream sprawling ridge, scheming clans, martial mound, metallised melody, blaming air of morning, troubadour aflame, rustled boughs, sewing shields, grass – fringed way, scurried falls, twittered squalls, trampled ground, brown – baked paths, smoldered grey, and several others that approve his poetic mastery amidst the creative groves all around the corner.

In a nutshell I observe that the poems of Bernard M. Jackson consist all the romantic qualities -love for nature, beauty, poetic theory, lyrical luminosity, love, painterly painting, dream, vision, imagination,

song and subjectivity that justify his designation as one of the leading romantic poets of this century. In an interview with A.K. Choudhary he declared his belonging to romantic tradition in English poetry. These are six poetry collections – A Season’s Gold, Distant Shores, Paradise Mislaid, and Found, Wendy Webb, Wisdom of The Heart and Disasters Comic Verse- to his credit that make him a global English poet with reputation. He has been involved with the Poetic Circle of Friendship. His passion for romantic tradition of writings is unmatched in the contemporary creative milieu. Bernard M. Jackson has been widely published and reviewed in the U.K, India and several other countries primarily as a romantic poet in English poetry. His romantic passion for the poetic world shapes soul of many a peeping poet for poetic perfection in life that speaks volumes about his romantic poetic personality in detail. As a matter of fact Bernard M. Jackson is an intellectual drunk yard.

### **References**

Jackson, B.M & Cranke, Annie, A Feather for Your Thoughts, 2001, WWB Poetry, Norwich, NR 8 6YN, p.28

Ibid, p.22

Ibid, p.6

Ibid, p.14

Ibid, p.36