

## A Reflection of the Modernist Views of Isolation: An Analysis of the theme of 'Fragmentation and the Loss of Control' in Robert Frost's "Mending Wall"

Ms. Mrinalini B Chavan , Head, Dept. of English , D.E.S'S Kirti M. Doongursee College , Dadar( west ) , Mumbai :28.MH, India

Email : [mru\\_hc@rediffmail.com](mailto:mru_hc@rediffmail.com)

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### Abstract :

The primary purpose of this study is to understand the modernist view of isolation in the context of fragmentation and control loss in the Mending Wall. The modernism theory that has been depicted in this study is used frequently in the literary studies that have been prevailing since World War 1. Modernism is considered an international movement that erupts in other countries for generic and national boundaries. The main motivation for conducting this study is the creation of Robert Frost in his poems that depicts the outside world beautifully. The problem of modernism is general agreement that has altered different phases. This includes several poems, such as Seven Woods and Responsibilities. These critics have judged at the time Frost became a modernist poet. There were certain claims that are important to recognize in the modernism theory. In this study, the modernism theory has been put forward for analysing the works of Robert Frost. This study indicated the fragmentation and control loss in his poem Mending Wall. The characteristic classical style is depicted in modern writing for producing political implications and diversity in developing the theory of supplemental selves. . Hence, one can live a life by adjusting himself or herself in accordance with society.

**Keywords:** Boundaries and limitations, Work value, modernity, Strong bond

### Introduction :

Robert Frost was a poet, born in America on March 26, 1874. His work was published initially in England, and after that, it was published in the United States. Frost has written about

his settings in the rural life of the early 20th century. In the year 1960, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and was named the poet laureate. Robert Frost is famous for providing importance to nature in his collection of poems. He did not limit himself to the themes of stereotypes that involve shepherds and sheep. The common themes that Frost uses in his study are Nature, Communication, Everyday Life, Isolation of an Individual, and Rural Life versus Urban Life.

These researcher intendeds to study different works of Robert Frost and themes in his work, related to modernism and traditions being conflicting aspects of human lives. Further, the analysis of the fragmentation theme and control loss has been depicted.

The poem "Mending Wall" focus on the theme of *Borders and Limits*. The speaker and their neighbour have been involved in rebuilding a Wall that divides their properties and affects their bond (Frost, P. 20). The Wall is practical and unnecessary, thereby separating different people in their relations. Neighbours have the view of strengthening the Wall thereby improving the relationship and preventing the conflict. The poem allows users to decide the vision of a human community that is liveable and persuasive (Apple, P. 25). Speakers asked neighbours to continue rebuilding the Wall. Neighbours help in predicting future conflicts, thereby considering the fundamentals of human society.

*Something there is that doesn't love a wall,*

*That sends the frozen ground swell under it,*

*And spills the upper boulders in the sun;*

*And makes gaps even two can pass abreast ( 1-4 )*

In the first line, the author says that there is something that does not want the Wall to be in that place. It could be anything, such as wind, water, or even human beings that do not want the Wall to be in that place. In the second line, the author says that the ground underneath the Wall is swelling and making the Wall-less stable (Robert, P. 39). The speaker has predicted that no matter how many times the Wall is built, it will break again and again. It has been assumed that the ground got frozen, which has resulted in the expansion of ice, thereby causing cracks in the

Wall. It also pushes the stone, thereby making cracks that are big enough for two people to pass through it by walking shoulder to shoulder.

*The work of hunters is another thing:*

*I have come after them and made the repair*

*Where they have left not one stone on a stone,*

*But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,*

*To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean ( 5-9 )*

In the above lines, the speaker wants to convey the idea that the Wall could have been damaged by the hunters. It has dispatched the stones to allow the rabbits to come from their holes. It helps the hungry dogs in their feast. According to the speaker, gaps present in the Wall could have been developed by the force of something else that could be heard or seen by anyone. The speaker has noticed that he finds the Wall in this damaged condition every spring (Picking, P. 41). This develops a sense of mystery as there could be something evil that does not want the Wall in that place and is a mysterious character. The unusual shape of the stones is considered as some kind of magic trick that is like an outdoor game.

The work that the speaker and the neighbour do is a ritualistic work, and every year during the springtime, the speaker and his neighbour take an inspection walk along the Wall. They have together repaired the areas that have been damaged over the years. It is a tedious process since their hand gets injured often over the years. The speaker and the neighbour have constructed the Wall until the next spring, and the boulder will roll back in order to start all over again. The speaker and their neighbour will reconstruct the Wall and the rolling down of boulders as the punishment of the gods (Frost, P. 33). The poem presents a repetitive and tiring process that speaker wants to insist his neighbour continue. It is the process of developing a fence that makes good neighbours, thereby establishing good relationships (Frost, P. 50). This poem also points out the value of certain work that is creative and does not change materially an individual's soul and mind.

*I let my neighbour know beyond the hill;*

*And on a day we meet to walk the line*

*And set the Wall between us once again.*

*We keep the Wall between us as we go ( 13-16 )*

The Wall is situated between two farms that are separated by a hill. The speaker informs his neighbours that they are living on the other side of the Wall. They tend to meet each other on a fixed day, thereby taking a long walk alongside the Wall. The walls that are damaged separate the two neighbours when they walk on their side of the Wall (R, P. 31). The neighbour and the speaker inspected the damage that has been done on their individual sides and informed them about the hole. These stones are shaped like loaves of bread, while some of them are rounded in shape. This type of mysterious shape has found it difficult to put them in a previous position.

*To each the boulders that have fallen to each.*

*And some are loaves, and some so nearly balls*

*We have to use a spell to make them balance:*

*Stay where you are until our backs are turned! ( 17-20 )*

Speakers have depicted that it is their responsibility to put the rock in their individual positions on the Wall. The speaker depicts the stones as staying in their original position unless they are gone. The narrator has depicted several possible efforts to make his neighbour understand that he has only one line tree and one apple tree (Robert, P. 62). The narrator makes his neighbour understand that there is something present that does not love that Wall and continues in believing his father's old cliché that good neighbours are made by good fences.

*We wear our fingers rough with handling them.*

*Oh, just another kind of outdoor game,*

*One on a side. It comes to a little more ( 21-23 )*

The speaker depicts that their hands are getting injured due to the picking up of rough and heavy stones. This activity is considered an outdoor game where there will be an individual rival on each side. It has been depicted to the speaker that it is necessary to rebuild the Wall to maintain their good relationship. The speaker wanted to grow apples in his neighbours and also pines. This poem suggests a perspective that is wiser on the walls of the boundary (Gerber, P. 11). This poem helps in realizing the walls' importance and the boundaries between two different countries. The Wall acts as a hurdle for different people that are unsociable and helps in respecting neighbours' privacy. This helps in maintaining a distance, and good fences keep good distances.

The entire poem indirectly raises the possibility of raising the question of the ideas that are outdated. The speaker calls the neighbour an old-stone-armed savage that considers him a man that is primitive in his nature and characteristics. This poem depicts the readers to debate between his neighbour and the speaker will resolve. The speaker depicts simple language that is used daily. He is a loquacious figure and has enough knowledge by referring to him as a cow (Gadbois, P. 65). There are mythical characters, such as Elves, that damage the Wall and uses a blank verse for conveying their ideas to the readers. The speaker's neighbour is an old aged man who is not fashionable and speaks directly in an unpretentious manner. It has put emphasis on the unwillingness of their neighbour to think in a broad way. Speakers have objected to his neighbour relying on the wisdom that is received. It has not been improved beyond the level of primitive. According to this topic, the speaker of this poem is coming out of the darkness in a primitive state. The speaker of this poem believes in the enlightenment of one's life and bringing them peace and joy (Robert, P. 70). The poem suggests that people that hold on to their beliefs and ideas will be affected. Society is unable to refuse the notions of different people that are hard in demolishing the belief and bringing changes in the future.

*There where it is we do not need the Wall:*

*He is all pine and I am apple orchard.*

*My apple trees will never get across*

*And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him ( 24-27 )*

The poet has depicted that the apple trees do not cross their limits and reaches their property in their neighbourhood. He added that he is a good neighbour because he has constructed fences. The speaker is unconvinced by the logic of the neighbour and he thinks it is easier to convince him alongside his opinion. Throughout the poem, the narrator wants to put their notion into the mind of the neighbour (Philip, P. 25). This type of imagination has convinced their neighbour about the existence of a wall and that there could be a non-human entity that breaks and destroys the Wall. The narrator gets irritated immensely when he sees that his neighbour is firmly holding a piece of stone and producing the look of a stone-aged man that is ready for battle. The narrator feels that the neighbour does not want to convince and wants to be stuck in his own world. The speaker has asked his neighbour about the importance of maintaining good bonding with his neighbour (Bruce, P. 40). The speaker focuses on the fact that fences are required to prevent the cows. In that area, there are no cows, and the narrator's neighbour does not understand the reason for constructing a fence. He wanted to know the idea of building a wall to protect the property. The speaker predicts that the Wall has been broken down by the Elves. The narrator does not want to describe the assumption since he wants to figure it out on his own to his neighbour. According to the work of the neighbour, the speaker helps to compare the uncivilized person who is living in the Dark Age. According to the narrator, these stones were present in the hands of neighbours that seemed like weapons from ancient times.

“Mending Wall”’s speaker narrates this poem from his viewpoint in a dramatic narration. The speaker present in this poem possesses a carefree attitude for reconstructing the wall boundary. The dividing properties, enlightenment and radical mind have opposed to the neighbours' mind that is narrow (Robert, P. 53). The tone of "Mending Wall" is mysterious that suggest that there will be a supernatural force that breaks the Wall simultaneously. The speaker has rejected the view of the neighbour, thereby listening to them patiently and carefully.

Frost has depicted the fact that there has been a necessity for borders between the people surrounding us. The matter is specifically of the neighbours who dwell beside the speaker in the poem. “*He will not..... Good neighbours*” (45) depicts the reality of the relationship among the neighbours. The poet portrays the fact that there has been an enhancement of the relationship in the middle of people by building a wall. There has been the importance of maintaining boundaries in the case of the good neighbour. Problems are prevented with the help of the

boundaries among those people who resides closely. It seems that the probability of conflicts in the upcoming days for preventing the issues in advance (Nash,p. 173). The issues of quarrels between neighbours are quite common in society of humans. The reply that the neighbour has given to the speaker is apt for leading a peaceful life. In order to maintain peace and harmony among different walls, it is mandatory to have a wall. The significance of the Wall in the poem represented the importance of the border in the middle of two families (Robert, P. 53).The poem has given a crucial notion to the readers about the utility of the Wall, urging them to decide by themselves about the correctness of thoughts of the speaker and the neighbour(Philip, P. 25). The poem has implicitly indicated the worth of innovative that has its beauty yet it never transforms society. However, the soul and the mind have been satisfied by it. The concluding lines of the poem point out the residing of the neighbour within the darkness. There has been a scarcity of awareness within the neighbourhood about the enhancements and transformation of life even after the modernization of the world.

### Conclusion:

It has been understood from the above explanations that there has been a need to understand the modernity of the contemporary world. The neighbour has always obeyed the father and repeatedly utters that there is significance to the fence. The darkness in the poem is the symbol that presents ignorance. The neighbour is not modernised and is devoid of extreme modernity across the world in the current scenario. Hence, one can live a life by adjusting himself or herself in accordance with society.

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