



Nurturing Nature With The Biophilic Tendency In Cormac Mccarthy's The Crossing

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Abstract

Biophilia “is the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms”(Kellert and Wilson 35). Human beings are one of the components of the natural world, but at some point in their history, they lost sight of the fact that they were a component of nature and began to exploit it. This biophilic tendency is inherited in their gene, so they seek nature whenever they get wounded physically and mentally. This biophilic tendency played a crucial part in improving human health on various fronts, including the physical, the emotional, and the intellectual fronts, all throughout the course of human evolution. As a result, it is eventually encoded in the human genome. Humans evolved in an environment that was primarily natural rather than manufactured, as shown by relying on their interactions with the natural world. Through this biophilic inclination in Cormac McCarthy's The Crossing, readers can better understand how this innate tendency assists people in caring and abiding for nature. The novel The Crossing by Cormac McCarthy is a great example of how the biophilic propensity may help individuals care for the natural world around them.

Keywords: Biophilia, Cormac McCarthy, The Crossing, Nature.

Full Paper

Biophilia “is the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms”(Kellert and Wilson 35). Human beings are part of nature, but at one instant, they forget that they are a part of nature and begin to exploit it. This biophilic tendency is inherited in their gene, so they seek nature whenever they get wounded physically and mentally. Throughout the history of human development, this biophilic tendency played an essential role in improving human health on several fronts, including the physical, the emotional, and the intellectual. As a result, it is eventually encoded in the human genome. The fact that humans depend on their interactions with the natural world reflects that humans developed in a world that was primarily natural rather than artificial.

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Through this biophilic inclination in Cormac McCarthy's *The Crossing*, readers can better understand how this innate tendency assists people in caring and abiding for nature. The novel *The Crossing* by Cormac McCarthy is a great example of how the biophilic propensity may help individuals care for the natural world around them. "At the time of the New York Times piece, McCarthy was immersed in composing *The Crossing* (1994), the second border book and a novel that would stand out as the most weighty, complex, and multifaceted volume of the trilogy" (HAGE 12).

Cormac McCarthy's *The Crossing* is a story of a cowboy named Billy Parham who was busy setting traps for Wolf to protect their Cattle. Because he was a cowboy, he had experience working with horses and cattle. One fine day, he discovered that the wolf captured in his trap was pregnant.

As a social animal, the wolf has an instinctive need for the pack more powerful than hunger, for when she finds herself alone she leaves an area of abundant game in search of companionship. In order to survive, she must adapt to the new environment and learn "new protocols" or be destroyed. (Frye 49).

Billy's horse halted and started to go backward when he saw the wolf. That Wolf was crouching at him. The gaping incision made by the trap's teeth made her white bone apparent. The bleeding cut between the trap's jaws showed white bone. Here his biophilic tendency nurtured him. Bio means biology and philia means love. Instead of killing that pregnant wolf he helped her to get away from that trap. As a predator, she exerted every effort to escape that trap, but her attempts were ineffective due to the severe wound. "White bone showed in the bloody wound between the jaws of the trap. He could see her teats through the thin fur of her underbelly and she kept her tail tucked and pulled at the trap and stood" (McCarthy 40). Billy assisted her with his kind heart. She managed to escape the trap, but she was still immobile. She regularly turned her gaze toward the Mexican mountain. "Then she stood again and looked at him and looked off toward the mountains" (McCarthy 40). Billy was aware that she was a native of the Mountain. He decided to leave her "...to its native habitat, the mountains of northern Mexico" (Estes 41), but he was in New Mexico. "He turned the horse and crossed through the ditch and rode up onto the broad plain that stretched away before him south toward the mountains of Mexico" (McCarthy 48). They started their journey towards the Mexican mountain along with his horse. On their journey toward the mountain, they met many people. "In his journeys, Parham meets a number of people who speak at length to him, either to give advice or to tell a story, or both at the same time" (Gilbert 38). Some people helped them, and some wounded them. A gang of men encircled them when they crossed the border and enquired. His heart trembled. Although they seemed wrong, they were not bad people; they were good souls. They helped him. That night, he had supper with them, which they provided. One among the Mexican studied the wound of the wolf and cleaned it. "The Mexican took hold of the wolf's foreleg and began to clean the wound" (McCarthy 55). The next day he began to move on but was caught by the immoral gang who attacked the wolf. That gang had two dogs. Here the miracle happened. Wolf understood him. This understanding is nurturing.

Wolf joined Billy in his fight against the group because she trusted Billy. The wolf was attacked by two dogs, while Billy was assaulted by the gang members. Both were gravely hurt, and the wolf died away. With Wolf's Blood shredded in his dress went up to the mountain and buried her. "After he reaches the mountains earlier promised to the wolf, Billy "fell asleep with his hands palm up before him like some dozing penitent. When he woke it was still dark" (126)" (Arnold and Luce 74-75). Billy's brother was Boyd. "After that, Billy returns to find that his parents have been murdered and the family's horses stolen, so he and his younger brother, Boyd, set off into Mexico to recover the horses" (HAGE 12). Boyd and Billy crossed the border to recover their stolen horses and Boyd was shot and nursed. Billy searched for Boyd, but Boyd ran away with a girl, but Boyd died. Billy was left alone at the end of the novel. He was frustrated. First, Billy lost the Wolf; Second, Billy lost his horses; thirdly, Billy lost his brother Boyd. When a wounded dog approached him, he expressed his frustration over the dog. Later, when he realised what had happened, he looked for the dog but could not locate it.

Biophilic are irreplaceable. When a human migrates from a Natural to Artificial Environment, he/she will not adapt to the Artificial Environment. This migration will not result in a reduction of the biophilic tendency found inside; instead, this biophilic tendency will grow as a result of this migration. Stephen mentioned this: "...the biophilic learning rules are not replaced by modern versions..."(Kellert and Wilson 35). Returning to the novel, Billy and his family set traps for the wolves, which is the anthropocentric tendency, but they cannot live without nature; that is why they protect their animals on their farmland. Biophilic tendency urges humans to seek connection with nature which is the introductory statement that every biophilic theorist emphasises. Though the traps were a barrier for Billy, his inner biophilic tendency made him help the wounded pregnant wolf. The first time he approached the wolf, it crouched but gradually, their relationship developed via mutual benefits, which is also a part of biophilia. Billy fed her, lifted her and retrieved her to reach the native. Ecologicistic-Scientific is one of the dimensions of biophilia which "...involving an emphasis on interconnection and interdependence in nature..."(Kellert and Wilson 49). First, Billy was beneficial to the wolf, and in the middle of the novel, the wolf joined Billy and fought against the bad gang, which clearly shows that Wolf gradually understands Billy. Billy's biophilic tendency did not allow him to kill the wolf; instead, it created a bond with one another. In one of the dimensions of biophilia, Stephen also mentioned, "The humanistic experience of nature reflects feelings of deep emotional attachment to individual elements of the natural environment"(Kellert and Wilson 54), which is apt for Billy, who was emotionally attached to the wolf and rescue and urged save and return it to its native. "The humanistic experience of strong affection for individual elements of nature can even be expressed as a feeling of "love" for nature,..."(Kellert and Wilson 55). In the last portion of the novel, Billy again crossed the border to retrieve his family's stolen horses, which shows his love for nature. According to Stephen this love for nature on individual elements in nature is "...usually directed at domesticated animals"(Kellert and Wilson 55), which is also applicable here in Billy Life. From this research article, it is evident, via Billy's Character, that Biophilic tendency nurture nature.

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