

**“THE ALIVE BEING”: DE-RATIONALIZING ENVIRONMENT
IN BIBHUTIBHUSAN BANNEJEE’S “ARONNAK” AND
AMITAVA GHOSH’S “THE HUNGRY TIDE”**

REESWAV CHATTERJEE

Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Narendrapur, West Bengal, India

ABSTRACT

Western Rationalist ideologies always attempted to segregate Nature and environment to a relegation zone and thereby to deny any symbiotic relation between Man and Environment. Enlightenment ideologies were based upon definite set of binaries. A particular idea or a certain aspect of seeing things was epitomized by denying the value of the opposite. Ironic but true is that this optimization of rationalism was depended upon the denial of these “other” aspects. This power hierarchy of epistemology was at the centre of the political hierarchy in the colonies. The Enlightenment ideologies not only constructed the identity of the colonizer, its denial of the ‘other’ ideas determined the oppression of the Native identity and cultures. Native culture, through its own denial, constructed the Western identity and pride. The excessive focus of Enlightenment upon the binaries actually evolved from its observation of its difference with the ‘other’. Now, this difference peculiarly led west to dominate the ‘other’ instead of appreciating it.

KEYWORDS: *The Alive Being, Aronnak & The Hungry Tide*

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