

SILENCE OF COW: ECHOED IN KAMALA MARKANDAYA'S *TWO VIRGINS*

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ABSTRACT

Stray cows, roaming in the roadways, are a common scene in the urban areas. In order to make their living, they learn to digest even plastics and metals. 'Plastic cow' is the trendy name given to the pathetic creatures. It is doleful to view the domesticated animals left carelessly on roads, after draining all their goodness. Human treatment of animals exclusively cows are highlighted in Kamala Markandaya's Two Virgins. Ecocriticism voices out the nature that is silenced by the so-called licensed human. It is not a mere accusation or argument that human is a dreadful enemy to nature, ecocritics try to insist the duty of man towards nature which has been annihilated. Spiritual ecology insists upon the very duty that man has to perform in order to maintain the sustainability of nature. The motto of spiritual ecology is that nature should be considered sacred. Such following is not something new in Indian scenario. For instance, cow is considered sacred and is reverentially called as 'Gomatha'¹. The paper focuses on the treatment of animals especially cows in the hands of human and to make people conscious of other demonic environmental disasters.

KEYWORDS: *Ecocriticism, Spiritual Ecology, Anthropocentrism, Cows, Plastic Cows*

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