Abstract

The Gospel of Ecology in C.S. Lewis

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Clive Staples Lewis is recognised as an eminent British writer of the twentieth century. He is a creative writer and his writings, comprising the fairy tales, science fiction, essays and letters are lasting assets to the realm of literature. The present study “The Gospel of Ecology in C.S. Lewis” examines the writer’s good news proclaimed that man’s healthy ecological relationship will result in the holistic salvation of all life forms as well as prevent ecological disaster. He unveils man’s harmonious and balanced relationship with his environment. The characters, events, myths and symbols shape human attitudes toward the environment. His creation of various enchanting worlds enables both children and adults to understand the principle of the interconnectedness of man with the rest of creation which is essential for the survival of all creatures. The works of Lewis extol respect for the natural world and encourage cultivating the habit of honouring their integrity and importance on their own terms. Nature has its own intrinsic worth irrespective of its use for man’s sustenance. Such an attitude instils a sense of love and reverence towards nature. Nature-loving responsibility and stewardship is advocated rather than ego-centredness and ecological exploitation. Man should learn to wonder at the marvellous and amazing forms of natural landscape and their creatures. Similarly, he advocates cultivating appreciation or a sense of wonder and enchantment for nature. Another significant aspect of the analysis is the writer’s capacity to raise ecological awareness in his readers. The writings of Lewis affirm the gospel of ecology as the restoration of sound ecological relationships. When readers are re-educated in the values professed by Lewis in his writings, humans will again seek to be interrelated to nature, learn to enjoy and appreciate its beauty and humbly share the environment with his fellow-creatures. This study is unique because it analyses the writer’s ecological message of salvation for man through recovering a sound relationship with his environment. The study is extremely relevant in the present time when man is facing ecological deterioration.