

## TROPHIC CASCADE

Camilla.T.Dungy is an American poet and professor. Trophic Cascade, Smith Blue, Stuck in the marrow etc are some of her famous poetry collections. Through her poem Trophic Cascade, Dungy signals her commitment to the small, the grieving and interconnectedness of our world.

In Ecology Trophic refers to the relationship between species in a food chain or web. There are different trophic levels in our ecology according to the existence of different species. In the poem Trophic Cascade, the poet portrays the reemergence of species in the wake of the reintroduction of grey wolves to Yellowstone National park in America. So according to the poet, the park saw a huge reduction in the number of trees, when the number of deers increased. And when the authority introduced the grey wolves to the park, the trees started growing. As they thought, the innumerable number of deers ate the plants and trees over there and it stopped when their number got reduced by the introduction of grey wolves.

Everything inside the park got restored after the incident. Songbirds came back and nested on huge trees, hares inhabited underbrush areas, weasel and watershrew returned to the water. One could see vole, a rodent moving around in the mud. Soon birds like hawk, falcon, eagle, kestrel etc haunted the areas over the newly found brook and their shadows could be seen all around.

Free and independent deers in the past have now become cautious, since they got surprised by the arrival of wolves. As plants and trees began to grow, its berries attracted bears and growth of the willows created underwood and that helped the weavers to build dams across streams. Muskrats and tadpoles came to these dams and one could hear the songs of frogs at night beside the dams. The great American dipper, a bird strided over water for fresh fishes. Bears also competed with the birds in fishing.

Lost trees and bushes began to flourish and thus the straight flowing river is now forced to meander its way in between the thick trees and bushes. According to the poet, this is the same everywhere. The equilibrium of nature, including the river and the landscape changed. And it can be restored by another living being of the trophic level. This gives a whole new perspective on our most basic trophic relationship.

Thus the reintroduced wolves called the overabundant deer population and the positive results ripped out to the other species too. A sudden turn happens at the end of the poem. The poet reminds us of our place which is connected to the world around us. Her poem shakes us awake to the rippling effects of choices we make each day.