

Blue Mind and the Waters: Exploring the Human-water Connections in

W. H. Auden's Poem, "First Things First."

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ABSTRACT

Mankind traces a deep-seated historical, cultural, and philosophical connection with water and water bodies. It is this interlaced and strengthened bondage shared between mankind and waters, which is evident through the manifold facets as outlined in human progress and civilization, upon which waters have left an indelible mark. The recent emergence of discourses such as Blue Humanities serves to highlight this rather interesting notion through its analytical lens seeped in an amalgam of divergent discourses spanning across arts, science, humanities, and technology; to perceive, redefine, sharpen our perspectives and understanding of waters. This paper attempts to perceive, how literary authors and poets share this deep-seated connection permeating the human psyche and waterscapes, and attempts to employ the above-mentioned notions in perceiving the representations of water in W. H. Auden's poem, "First Things First." The paper also

attempts to bring to attention the concept of blue mind, elaborately dealt in the book authored by Wallace J Nichols, *Blue Mind* (2014). According to him, the blue mind refers to a mildly meditative state characterized by general happiness and satisfaction experienced by the human mind, when it comes across water and water bodies. Many creative minds possess the blue mind while describing water and waterscapes. The paper attempts to perceive the poem taken for study, through the conceptual framework of the blue mind.

Keywords: Water, Poetry, Blue humanities, Consciousness.
