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# An Analytical Study Of The Novel "Paishi"

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## ABSTRACT:

Asad Mahmood Khan is a renowned writer of Urdu literature. He holds a PhD in International Relations. He is currently serving as a Colonel in the Pakistan Army and is also involved in literature. He has contributed to various genres of novels, fiction, sketches, travelogues, and satire. In addition, they have successful efforts in column writing and essay writing. His style and themes play a key role in his creations. He has beautifully incorporated life's observations and experiences into his creations. The novel is also a link in the same chain.

**Keywords:** Appearance, Faith and Iqan, Islamic elements, Spirituality, Caliphate, Tawaf, Echoes, Sufi poetry.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Due to the Islamic religion in this region, Islam and the religion of nature have been present in some form or the other in the creations here. These creations are directly and indirectly influenced by Islamic elements. In some genres, i.e. non-fictional literature, Islamic themes are presented directly. While in fictional literature, there is a special arrangement of Islamic civilization and history in some dramas, legends and novels. A movement called "Islamic Literature" was also started before the existence of Pakistan. Geniuses like Mahir-ul-Qadri and Maulana Abul-Ali Maududi were

associated with this movement. This movement was brought as a reaction to the progressive movement of Urdu literature. Its main objective was to curate the works of writers associated with the progressive movement and to promote Islam and the Islamic point of view in its place so that the influence of progressive literature was removed and replaced by Islam. Special mention of religious themes has been found in the literature of every era. One aspect of this is that Islam has been present in this region from the beginning, and the other is that Sufis have had love and devotion to religion and this group has been associated with literature in one way or another. Therefore, in his works, especially in poetry, Islamic elements are present as basic components. and religion of nature.

### **The Tradition of Islamic Elements in Urdu Literature:**

When we look into the past, various creators have mentioned religion consciously and unconsciously. Especially in the context of novel writing, the novel "Ibn al-Hawq" is of special importance. Religion and Islamic orders are reflected in this novel. Similarly, references to Islamic history are also found in Nasim Hijazi.

Among the representative novelists of the modern era, the names of Ashfaq Ahmad (Gudria), Bano Qudsia (Raja Gadh), Quadratullah Shahab (Ya Khuda), Mumtaz Mufti (Alkh Nagri) and Jameela Hashmi (Dasht Suos) have taken their sources from Islamic elements. Among the important novelists of the present era are Halim-ul-Haq Haqi (Ishq Ka Ain), Umira Ahmed (Peer Kamil), Hashim Nadeem (Abdullah), Qaisra Hayat (Alf Allah and the Last Man) and Khan Asif (Bat Shakan) and others.

### **An Analytical Study of the Novel "Paishi":**

In Urdu literature, the subject of "Hajj", and "Umrah" has also been a part of travelogues, plays and novels. Among them, the present-day novel "Paishi" is on top. This novel is full of Islamic civilization, history, traditions, and worship. Details have been taken regarding. This novel by Asad Mahmood Khan was released on August 2019. He wrote it after performing Umrah during his military duties.

The centrality of this novel is "Khana Kaaba" the house of Allah. The story revolves around this from beginning to end. The construction of the Kaaba, the conspiracies against it in different periods and the events of its construction and expansion with changing times have been presented in the context of historical references.

The details regarding the construction of the Kaaba have been specifically transferred to Page. Thus, the wealth of information about this house of Allah adorns the novel:

"The four turns in the four walls of the Kaaba are called Korkan; thus, the four pillars of the Kaaba are formed: the Hajr e aswad, the Iraqi,

Syrian and Yemeni pillars stand in the four corners; the marble letter of the Prophet, peace be upon him, is on the ground just in front of the Hajr e aswad. There is a clear line, which is very noticeable because of its colour and edge; behind the line drawn on the ground, all the pilgrims stand; finalize the intention and preparation and begin the circumambulation." (1)

While reading the novel, there are many techniques that the author has used for the information and communication of the readers. Among them is a technique of comparison. Asad Mahmood Khan has brought out the topics like dua bad dua, love and worship in a comparative form. Love and worship have also been compared with spiritual realization. In this review, he takes to love a step further than worship and concludes his discussion by saying that if I had the happiness of only one lifetime, I would bow down to love rather than worship. In a highly philosophical manner, he appears to be discussing these elements:

"This one thing is understood that worship is to know Allah and love is to find Allah; the prostration in the prayer of presentation understood the meaning of worship while the mother in prayer said Allah in love. I saw and understood Allah through the eyes of a mother." (2)

The philosophy of love is present in this novel in various forms whether it is in the form of questions or the form of answers. In this way, the author sometimes expresses his feelings by losing the philosophy of worship and sometimes the philosophy of love.

"Yes! Worship done with satisfaction and attention and love knocks on the door of acceptance." And how can this satisfaction, attention and love be found? Contentment is preserved between contentment while attention is also related to love. The more love increases, the more attention will increase, so love will be the answer to love." (3)

The story of Islam and Deen Haq along with a whole civilization is present in this novel. This story is going along with the three eras. That is, the history of Islam, the Hajj/Umrah itinerary and the story of the novelist's childhood in his village are part of this novel. Thus, the story in this novel continues in three eras at the same time. Mention of home and family, sometimes while taking care of professional responsibilities and sometimes performing Umrah. The story moves forward with these three situations but all these situations have a deep connection which helps the story to move forward without any hesitation or interruption.

Sometimes though Hazrat Adam and sometimes Hazrat Ibrahim and his son Hazrat Ismail, the story seems to cover the life of Muhammad (S.W.A). All these details are closely related. The style of the story is narrative. An overall flashback technique is used. He mentions his feelings and emotions regarding the first sight of the Kaaba in these words:

"I saw the white marble floor in front of me, the room bathed in the milky light of the moon, the round wall, I looked at Allah in the middle of the people with white robes with warm hands and ripping; no image was formed. However, I felt as if I had come from the house of a great host." (4)

The spiritual condition is overshadowed throughout the novel. The beginning of the novel is so charming and spiritual that it grabs the reader's attention immediately. There is charm and attraction in the name "Paishi" that makes one spontaneously want to read the novel.

The novelist has such stylistic qualities that the reader gets lost in the story of the novel. Sometimes he feels himself in the Arabian land of Hijaz and sometimes he finds himself in the pleasant atmosphere of the village.

In the entire story of the novel, there is a special arrangement of "relationship" in the mention of past and present. This "linkage" is also in the structure of the story and is also taken into account in the novel in literal form, i.e. when one scene ends, the next scene begins with the response of the words to them. Thus there is continuity.

"The sun of the tradition of patience and thanksgiving was rising.

The sun of mockery and contempt for the verses was setting behind the valley." (5)

"The tradition of conspiracies against Allah's divinity in Allah's house is very old. The time had come to ask Allah for Allah's divinity in front of Allah's house." (6)

There are so many echoes of the past in the novel that the reader does not live in the present while reading the novel. Similarly, mental concepts and stream-of-consciousness reflections are also found. The reader repeatedly gets lost in the crevices of the past, and the crevices are also where the light of faith and devotion continues to subjugate the soul and heart. Where we find the events of the Holy Qur'an in the form of anecdotes, especially the events that are related to Hajj and Umrah.

The novelist has arranged his words and sentences in this novel in such a way that while reading the novel, one often stops looking at such sentences which, if interpreted, would have to blacken the page:

"Giving way to prayer gives way to the destination." (7)

Similarly, regarding the coming of Prophet Muhammad, he writes:

"The eye of the waiting age is completed; the fleeting moments bow down." (8)

A technique used by creatives is to examine an event or emotion from different angles. In this way, the image is created from several angles. As a result, a complete image emerges. Mumtaz Shirin writes in this regard:

"From many angles, the full contours of the object emerge and this image is more clear than the picture. If the artist presents an image by shedding light on an event, problem, character or human life from many angles in his fiction or novel. If he does, he goes beyond the artist and becomes an idol carver" (9).

Regarding the imagery, especially in the description of the imagery of the village, Asad Mahmood Khan has covered it with mud in such a way that you can feel its fragrance wherever you are:

"There was a time freed from the confinement of hours, minutes, and seconds; the falling shadows of the trees, the "clucking" of the chickens, the crowing of the roosters, the rustling, and the streaks of smoke from the oven kept track of the passing moments-" (10)

The most important thing that attracts us when we first look at the novel "Paishi" is the detailing in the novel. The novelist has described the scenes in great detail where he has described the details in detail. In this style of narration, the words are strung together or the pearls are strung in such a way that the words present a complete picture.

This story begins with the incident between Hazrat Ibrahim (A.S.) and Ismail (A.S.), how Ibrahim (A.S.) abandoned his son Ismail (A.S.) in the desert in the presence of his mother as a result of Allah's command. The style of the novelist is at its peak in the description of the incident:

"The distance between the feet narrowed as Salar's caravan went, but it did not stop; this time, silence answered the pressing question; the wife knew that the matter was not between them, but between the Lord

and the servant; Perhaps the heads of three or four hills would have gone down when a wife stopped asking her husband and the wife asked the beloved of Allah.

"Are you saying this by the command of Allah?" (11)

The allegorical style has also been adopted in the novel. Often inanimate objects seem to have a dialogue with each other. The novelist refreshes his situations, events and memories of his childhood, and then he makes a path through these memories and goes towards his main subject. That is, they turn from the present to the past. In the novel, there are also very interesting examples of similes:

"In the Faran valleys for miles, the grains of Hijazi sand sparkled like the grains of wheat growing and ripening on the rain-covered hills in the sun." (12)

No period of Urdu literature has passed without the use of symbols. From Mulla Rabbi's "Subras" through the works of Nazir Ahmed, symbolism has come to the fore in contemporary literature with renewed intensity. Asad Mahmood Khan also has a symbol after symbol. They do not describe their observations, feelings and emotions simply, but almost every sentence is full of symbols. In this way, the lines of his mental evolution are seen throughout the novel.

Obsolete words in Urdu are also used in the novel. The words which are now almost extinct in Urdu have been beautifully used in the novel "Peeshi". By reading it, the vocabulary of the reader increases significantly. At the end of the novel, a dictionary is also given regarding these words.

One of the characteristics of the novel is a reference to poetry. At each place, the poems are attached to suit the occasion. Wherever the novelist felt that the intensity of emotions was beyond the scope of prose, the choice of mystical poems completed the expression. Here are some sample poems:

Jahan Zindagi Mein Jab Koi Mushkil makam Aaya

Vahi zikar shahe konain Aakhir Mere kam Aaya

Behad tashnagi Jab yaas ki yurush Hui Mujh per

Meri Serabi Jaam Ke Liye rahamat ka Jaam Aaya (13)

Asad Mahmood Khan has also provided the details of the members regarding the performance of Umrah in the novel "Paishi". Where one gets to read a lot of information along with respect and devotion. In the same way, Quranic verses are

also written in the novel. Islamic history is mentioned everywhere. Be it important events, Muar or the Caliphate, the novel "Paishi" covers all this information.

The main message of this novel is obedience and consent, whether it is a servant towards his Lord or a child towards his parents. This basic idea or central point becomes imprinted in the mind after reading the whole story. The path of happiness for the servant to his Lord, and obedience to his parents for the children is the preparation that the servant makes to meet his Lord. Through which peace of heart and well-being in this world and hereafter are found.

In this novel, the novelist himself takes the story forward in a narrative manner. Apart from this, the presence of various characters are playing an important role in the completion of the novel.

"Babuji was a tall and slender figure in whose face a tradition of three generations had grown." (14)

Similarly, Asad Mahmood Khan writes concerning Be Noor:

"Be Noor was a woman of medium height and womanly size. Three generations had ridden on her saddles." (15)

Apart from this, many characters are mentioned in the novel. Which includes "Maanji", the role of the writer's wife and "Lalaji" and Phaphu "Parveen".

The novel is very long, which is not easy to cover in a short time. Words in sentences support each other like bricks in walls to create scenes. The human mind is told from the story of Adam (A.S.) to today's human beings. The following quote is of particular importance in this argument. Where the events from Hazrat Adam (A.S.) to Hazrat Ibrahim (A.S.) have been wrapped up so beautifully.

According to the researchers, the elements that are considered necessary for the novel, "Piashi" covers all of them. There is also sentimentality, philosophy of life, perspective, character, and story. And finally, a quiet ending is also part of the novel.

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