

Islamic Beliefs in Qasidas of Khaqani

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Abstract: Establishing any new government leads to some social issues shaped by social interaction. Social shift demands own beliefs and thoughts. By study on Khaqani qasidas, information can be obtained about his period. Literature of any period reflects social status and its ups and downs and it is affected by social shifts in different periods and achieves particular meaning. So the social status can be studied from literature of any period and understand its reflection since literature is affected by social phenomena. Particular beliefs and customs are appeared in any society by establishing new governments. It can be found some issues and customs in qasidas of the poet of Shirvan. This article aims to investigate the most affective Islamic beliefs in ideology of Khaqani extracted from his couplets.

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Introduction

Persian literature sociology is a new science that has influenced Persian literature in broad scope and social rules and customs are highlighted in literature.

Sociology has expanded its research scope in Persian literature. The researches show that social issues could influence on style and manner of creation of a work so we investigated Islamic beliefs in order to comprehend the poetical and ethical characteristics of the poet and his poetical compounds.

The study on the Iran literature history indicates that most of the poets have had intimate relationship with people and they were familiar with public beliefs. So, the poets have used public beliefs and folklores as their theme to employ national and religious accounts and refer to the cultures and traditions and guard their social culture in history and transfer their heritage to the next generations.

Public culture flows in life and civilizations and manifests itself in different shapes. The important aspects of human life are related to culture consciously and unconsciously. The public culture has old precedence among nations with old history and the culture is established due to the different reasons. Sometimes social customs and offered interpretations of natural incidents and life events have led to advent of a culture. Nowadays, old cultures cannot be analyzed by new and contemporary ideology; since according to the modern ideology their culture is rooted in ignorance so that we could not consider our beliefs as product of inaccurate imaginations and contemplations.

The customs of any period are rooted in beliefs of that period. Some beliefs are legendary and an event that was considered real in a period, it is introduced unreal due to expansion.

Research on folklores and beliefs is not only justified in scientific and psychological perspective but also it uncovers implicit points in philosophy (Hedayat, 2000:21). This article researches on the work in a period with domination of different religions that Jews and Christians lived together (Zarinkoob:1968 :15).

Islam has dominated on other religions in some parts of the world. By progress of Islam in the world, different historical events have been happened and these events have been considered gradually as believing system and the people have exaggerated in some of these beliefs and they have been introduced as superstition and unacceptable.

Khaqani was familiar with religions due to influence of his mother and he has referred to some beliefs, religions and classes.

Islamic beliefs in Khaqani qasidas

Khaqani is one of the great poets and we get familiar with different contents particularly with public beliefs in his works. He has tried to use common beliefs as a part of Persian literature and culture in his works and he was successful in this way.

Islamic beliefs

Spring of life

In Islamic beliefs, spring of life is a spring that anybody who drinks from it or wash in it gains eternal life and becomes invulnerable. Alexander could not drink of it and Khider drank and gained immortal life. So it is also called spring of Khider (Shamisa,2008&Yahagi,2009:10-17.)

The king is also Khider and Alexander

That he brought a religion and got familiar with spring of life (Khaqani:21)

The image of his cup shows both worlds
That reflects the spring of Khider and mirror of
Alexander (ibid:113)

Warning events

The Muslims believed that some events announced
birth of the prophet before Islam. It can be referred to
collapse of Kasra palace pillars and falling of idols at
the time of birth of holy prophet (peace be upon
him):

At the time of birth of the prophet
All the idols fell down (ibid:320)

Angles and the pilgrims

The Muslims got in trouble in route of Mecca and
they suffered hot weather, dust, water deficit and they
encountered with thieves. They believed that those
who go to Mecca eagerly the angles carry them with
their wings and they could bear the difficulties.

The angles expanded their wings for pilgrims
The pilgrims saw colored carpet under their feet
(ibid:92)

Prohibition of hunting around Kiblah

The Muslims believed that the creatures around
Kiblah are immune and it is not allowed to hunt
them and hunting is sin (Yahagi, 2009:663 & Shamisa
2008:997).

Hunting is prohibited around Kiblah
Since the hunter is sinner and the prey is immune
(ibid:219)

Avoiding touching of Quran by unpurified person

Quran is a noble and holy book and the person should
be purified to touch it. It is believed that
unpurified person could not touch Quran and it is
illegal. None touch it except the purified
(Alwaqiah:79).

Quran is a holy book
And unpurified could not touch (ibid: 304)
When I am unpurified
I am not allowed to touch Quran (ibid:153)

Hazrate Mahdi

Every religion introduces a savior that saves mankind
from any event and disaster and he is considered as
an ideal man (Razmjoo, 1996:24). Muslims believe in
Imam Mahdi as the savior that one day he will attend
and fight with oppression and cruelty.

Mahdi is who promising and he is a savior
And the just governor of government and religion
(Khaqani, 79)
Belqis is lady of women and Solomon is the king of
the people
Mahdi who promises and saves the people (ibid:73)

The Muslims believe that at the end of the world a
man, unbeliever, will be born with one eye that he
will rule unjust and Imam Mahdi also will attend and
fight with him and establish peace and just (Mahyar
2005:56).

When the fire sees the sword of Mahdi
It says that antichrist is like a mass of ash for me
(ibid:281)
His dagger is like Mahdi's sword
That attacks on the unbeliever (ibid:125)

The horn of Seraph

And the Horn will be blown, and whoever is in the
heavens and whoever is on the earth will fall dead
except whom Allah wills. Then it will be blown
again, and at once they will be standing, looking on
(Az-Zumar:68).

According to the miracles and narratives it is
believed that the resurrection day will be begun with
blowing of Seraph horn and all dead will be alive by
twice blowing of horn (Kazazi:22). It is a huge horn
with width of sky and earth and Seraph blows on it
and he waits to Lord order. According to narratives,
he will blow on it three times. At the first, the
mountains will be shaken and earth and world will be
collapsed. In the second every creature in the sky and
earth will die with it and nothing is remained except
Lord so the angle of death will die. At the third time,
the soul will return to body and the dead will be alive
and all creatures will go to the resurrection desert
(Abi nasr serajol goloub, 2000:28).

The ancient believed that it has seven branches and
every branch has three hundreds branches. [This is] a
revelation of the Exalted in Might, the Merciful (Ya-
sin:5).

All mountains of the world are moved dreadfully
When the horn is blown (Khaqani:361)

Rezvan(Heaven)

The angle guarding the heaven and he means heaven.
Muslims believe that Idris deceived him and he
entered to the heaven and never left it and now they
are in the heaven (Shamisa & Atiq Neishabouri, 1977:
339-340).

When Rezvan opens the door of heaven
They enter in it like turning around kiblah (ibid:103)
Although this place is like heaven why
Rezvan is near and he is in the heaven (ibid:73)

Fasting

Fasting is a religious order and since the poet of
Shirvan obeys Islam rules he is prejudice about
religious orders.

I obey the rules like an old man who is fasting
And I act like a fasting child of Arab (ibid:149)
The branch has been decorated for feast day

Since the fasters have been promised for feast (ibid:192)

Also he has pointed that the ill person could not be fast (ibid:322)

Drinking wine was illegal in the Ramadan month and the cabarets were closed (ibid:111)

The people broke their fasts with hot water (ibid:322)

Lote tree (ultimate boundary)

According to the narratives, lote tree is a big cypress located in top of seventh sky and it has leaves like ear of elephant and its fruit is like a jar and the knowledge of angles and other creatures reaches only to it and wisdom could not pass beyond it and only the prophet has passed from it and nobody has not knowledge beyond it (Yahaggi, 2009:453).

The springs of milk and wine flow under this tree and its height is so long that it takes seventy years to reach to it by a horse (ibid)

I do not wish to pass from lote tree

Since I pass from ultimate boundary (ibid:290)

The soil of the lovers raises cypress

The cypress of lord is ultimate goal of the lovers (ibid:354)

Sarandib and Adam and Eve

According to Islamic narratives the Muslims believe that Adam was sent to exile after eating prohibited fruit and he spent hundred years with praying and crying so that a meadow was formed around him (Balami, 1977:53). It is said that the thunderstorm is roaring in the top of this mountain without any cloud and it is believed that the tombs of Adam and Eve were on this mountain until Noah flood and they were transferred to Jerusalem after flood (Yahaggi, 200:29)

If I praise him as much as soil of Andalib

Kosar flows from Adam and Eve tomb (Khaqain:247)

Night of decree

And what can make you know what the Night of Decree is?

According to Shiite narratives it is not obvious which night is night of decree so the believers say prayer all nights. It is believed that one of the odd nights of the last decade of Ramadan or twenty seventh night of Ramadan is night of decree.

At this night the door of heaven is opened and the residences of the heaven are ready and the soul of prophets and martyrs are happy and they are blessing by Lord (Meibodi, 1982:564).

The fate of mankind and rules of the world are written and the angles are freed at this night (Meibodi, :559)

At night of decree the lord that his sword is sharp He becomes calm and silent (Khaqani:223)

It is divine kindness that the believers

At night of decree and day of feast enter to the divine court (ibid:311)

The intervention of the prophet

It has been referred to intervention of the prophet about his followers in Islam and some narratives. The Muslims believed that in the resurrection day the prophet will intervene in his followers' affairs and demand God to forgive their sins.

In the resurrection day the prophet

Will intervene in the court of Lord (ibid:247)

The sneeze of Adam

According to the Quran miracles and narratives the Muslims believe that when God wanted to create Adam at first He created his body and then blew his soul on it when the soul came to head it sneezed and at this moment the Gabriel was standing on his head and said to say thanks God and according to this event it is believed that sneezing is sign of being healthy. In reply to sneeze it is said to bless God seven times (Hedayat:70)

According to the secret of sneeze of Adam and tradition of Eve

His body was created from water and soil (ibid:50)

The promise

And [mention] when you're Lord took from the children of Adam - from their loins - their descendants and made them testify of themselves, [saying to them], "Am I not your Lord?" They said, "Yes, we have testified." [This] - Lest you should say on the day of Resurrection, "Indeed, we were of this unaware." (Al-araf:172)

The Muslims believed that God made the children of Adam testify themselves and they testified God (Zaryab khoei:281)

Every creature was created in the old times

In the promise day it was testified to uniqueness of lord (ibid:36)

Kosar (spring)

According to the narratives the Muslims consider Kosar as a spring in the heaven. This spring is originated from lote tree and its stones are made of pearl. The width of this spring is from west to east. Imam Ali is the cupbearer of this spring. There bowls made of red pearl as much as number of stars and who drinks of this spring never feels thirsty and who washes his hands and face he will be purified. Its water is as white as milk, as sweet as honey and it smells soft ((Abi nasr, 2000:11)

The cannels of spring of Kosar have connected to basins

Tuba has expanded its branches (Khaqani:192)

Everybody who praises you
His mouth is like Kosar (ibid:71)

Mirhashtjenan (Idris the prophet)

Idris the prophet entered to the heaven before his death. He was allowed to go heaven and skies due to obedience of Lord. When he saw the angel responsible for moving of the world in trouble demanded Lord to reduce its burden and the angle thanked him and he asked the angle the place of the angle of death and it showed the fourth heaven. When he met the angle of death the angle wanted to take his life and then rerun it and the angle did it. Then the prophet asked the angle of death to show him the heaven and he entered to the heaven and returned but he entered again to the heaven to find his shoe but he never returned. The heaven said him to keep his promise and he said I kept my promise and now I returned for your promise. The heaven said you do not have enough time he said I have time since I experienced death and hell and now I enter to the heaven and they disused each other and then the Lord ordered heaven to stop (Atiq Neishabouri, 1986 & Shafiei Kadkani, 2008:251-253). The old man who surveyed in seven skies

The lord that Mirhashtjenan is his slave (Khaqani:301)

Conclusion

Beliefs, folklores and customs are treasures of human culture and valuable heritage of the past. These valuable heritages manifest themselves in culture, literature, art and other scopes. This research investigated beliefs and customs mentioned in Khaqani poems as a great poet in Persian literature. Societies have changed during centuries and these shifts are seen in different area of politics, sociology, cultures and beliefs. These beliefs sometimes have scientific aspect and they were introduced as believing system due to illiterateness of some people. Culture plays an important role in progress of nations and governments and this fact is proved by study on historical and literary books. In any government, valuable works are created that indicate the manner of governance so any literary work reflects society. Khaqani Shirvani has inspired by social, cultural and natural incidents and he has created great works that lead to dynamicity in his visualization. His offered images contain colors, shapes, meaning and dynamicity.

Khaqani was born in middle class family and indicated social events of his period. His knowledge on medicine, philosophy, astronomy and music let him to introduce his society with scientific terms and words.

He described social events in tangible and elegant way so that the reader does not expect to encounter with them.

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