

## POETIC ENCOMIUM ON PROPHET MUHAMMAD BY NON MUSLIM POETS OF URDU

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### **Abstract :**

*Naat is the poetic device in which poets express their thoughts and feeling regarding prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Beside Muslim poets many Non Muslim poets of Urdu composed encomium on Prophet Muhammad. Many Non Muslim poets composed at least one eulogy, but there are certain poets who compiled anthologies of poetry based on prophet Muhammad . In their poetry they depicted life and character of Prophet Muhammad, yearning for Madinah. Love for prophet, teaching and saying of prophet etc. some even composed his life's important happening in poetic form. It is their best effort for enrichment of national integrity and social harmony.*

**Keywords:-** Naat, prophet Muhammad , Non Muslim , Seerah , Madinah . Eulogy. Encomium

### **Introduction :**

Naat is the Arabic word which means to praise. In Urdu and Persian it is used as a term for the praise of Prophet Muhammad. The poetry which is based on the praise of Prophet Muhammad is called as Naat it comes under the category of eulogy poetry. Dr. Abdullah Shaheen writes 'in Urdu and Persian the couplets having them of praise of Muhammad is called Naat' Naat is the poetic genre which can be created in any form of poetry such as Qaseedah , Mathnavi, Ghazal etc. In this genre of poetry poet depicts the character of Prophet Muhammad, express his love for Prophet, Seerah related themes and all other things related to Prophet.

### **Brief History :**

Naat have history of writing back to fifteen hundred years. It's pioneering element found in Arabic from the time of Prophet Muhammad. Many poets of Arabic such Hassan Bin Thabit , Kaab Bin Zuhair , Abdullah Bin RawaHa and Kaab bin Malik composed Naat. It is continued in Caliphate Era and Arabic Naat flourished from that period. Gradually it developed from classic to medieval, modern and post modern. In Persian also naatiya shayeri was into practice from the very beginning or after the revival of Persian language. After entrance of Islam in Persia, Persian Poets also followed the tradition of composing Naat in Persian. Saadi , Rumi , Attar Sinai , Jami are famous for eulogy.

Like Arabic and Persian, Urdu poets also wrote Naat. From the early period of Urdu or from the period when Urdu was in its initial stage and developing gradually, Naat Elements are found from then. Means these elements are in the blood of Urdu. It is visible in near about every poetic work exist in Urdu. Each and every Urdu poet tried his best to write Naat. After that it became tradition of poetic culture to write at least one Naat. Poets of every era assumed it is mandatory to include Naat in the beginning of their anthologies. This tradition was adopted not only by Muslim but also by Non Muslim poets of Urdu.

### **Poetic Encomium of Prophet Muhammad(PBUH) By Non-Muslim Poets :**

People of different ideologies and religious beliefs live in India together. It might amaze that Non Muslim poets praised Prophet Muhammad with love and devotion. We find in India a lot of fair-minded Non Muslim writers and poets who expressed their love and gratitude to Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). There are many poets and writers who studied Islam and the biography of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and then expressed their sincere feelings towards the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and gave balanced opinions on Islam and its teachings. Such efforts are always welcomed by peace-loving people everywhere in the world. Kanwar Mahendra Singh Bedi expresses his thought in the couplets regarding belongingness with prophet and love for Muhammad ( Peace Be Upon Him)

Ishq Hojaye kisi ko koi Chara to nahi

Sirf Muslim ka Muhammad Pe ijara to Nahi

(There is no control of human being over love, if it happen there is no cure, and there no authority of only muslim over Muhammad.)

Non Muslim Poets played a vital role in the development and progress of different genre of poetry practice in Urdu Language. They also contributed a lot in the flourishing of Naat. Their Naats are collected by different literary personalities in various anthologies of Naat. It clarifies their contribution in the development of thematic genre called Naat. Noor Ahmed Meerathi compiled anthology named “ Ba Har Zaman Ba Har Makan” which is the book consist of selected Naats composed by Non Muslim Poets. In this anthology he collected Naat of 336 poets. Fani Mooradabadi edited a book consist of 168 pages known as “ Hindoo Shora ka kalam”. Maktaba Raza E Mustafa Gujranwala published “ Hindoo Shora ka Nazarana E Aqeedat” of 36 pages. Raja Rasheed Mahmood Poet and great researcher in the Field of Naat he is also editor of monthly Magazine “Naat”, he published four Special Number of Magazine on the topic “Ghair Mulimo ki Naat”. In these journals he published hundreds of Naat composed by Non Muslim poets. Munshi Muhammad Deen Fauq edited “ Deewan E Naatiya lahore’ In this book he included Naat of Lala Arora Roy Dehlvi , Lala Lachand Falak Lahori and Misr Ram Das Qabil and Lala Tarachand Tara Lahori. Dr Dharamendra Nath Edited the Book “ Hamare Rasool” which is published by Iran Culture House India. This book contains Naat composed by 472 poets. Recently Professor Abdul Mannan Tarzi compiled Manzoo

Tazkera (Poetic Narration) namely “ Naatgoyan E Ghair Muslim”. It has distinguish feature as it is in the form of poetic narration , in this compiler wrote life and work of the poet in the form of poetry and poet’s one naat is given as an example. In this he collected Naat of 372 poets. Noor Ahmed Meerathi’s Noor E Sukhan , Muhammad Mahefoozur Raheman’s Hindoo Shora Aur Darbar E Aqeedat , and Muhammad Deen Fauq’s Azan E butkada are significant work.

As a tradition many poets composed at least one naat but there are certain poets who compiled anthologies of their own eulogy poetry completely based on the theme of prophetic praise. Maharaja Kishan Prashad Shad one of the prominent poet of Deccan. He was acquainted with five languages Urdu, Persian, Arabic , Telangi and Marathi. His anthology of Naat have been published which is known as Hadiya E Shad . Dallu Ram Kausari was prolific poet who composed only Naat. His anthologies Gulshan E naat E Kausari , Aab E Kausar , Bazm E Kausari , Hindoo ki Naat and Basharat E injeel have been published. He is conferred upon as Hassan E Hind and Firdousi E Hind. Sadhu Ram Aarzo Saharanpuri was the Scholar of Persian and Arabic. He composed many charming naats. His anthology “Zahoor E Qudsi” also has been published. Professor Jaggan Nath Azad was the great scholar of Urdu, prose writer, poet and journalist. He wrote many beautiful Naat in praise of Prophet Muhammad. His eulogical anthology “ Naseem E Hijaz” have been published.

Nazrana E Aqeedat by Gursaran Lal Adeb , Ashk E Khuloos of Kanwar Suraj narayan Sinha Adeb Seetapuri , Seel E Aqeedat written by Gopi Nath Aman , Shiv Bahadur Singh Dilbar’s Aqeedat Ke phool are great treasure of eulogy poems in Urdu literature. Damodar Thakur Zaki veaved 15 naats and 5 Qatat, while kalidas Gupta raza presented his anthology “Ujale” which is attractive in nature. Lakshmi Narayan Shrivastav presented his poetic gift to the Prophet Muhammad in Meraj E Mohabbat.

Lala Amar Chand Qais Jaladhari had mastery over four major languages –Urdu, Hindi , Punjabi and English. He created work in all these four languages. He explain his love for prophet in anthology Rassool Darshan. Devi Parshad Gor Mast Barelvi’s Gulhay E Aqeedat , Simt kasha se Chala an anthology of Krishn Singh Menk Akbarabadi , Balmukund Arsh Malsyani’s Aahang E Hijaz , Jon Mukhlis Badayuni’s Guldasta E Naat and Aye Hawa Moazzin Ho by Christian poet Nazeer Qaisar are the best examples of eulogy poems in Urdu composed by Non Muslim Poets.

### **Themes of Encomium composed by these poets :**

#### **1. Theme of life and work of Prophet:**

Many non-Muslim poets shown interest in the life of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and they studied his ideal life styles and historical ideologies. Prophet Muhammad’s great teachings impressed and influenced many writers of Urdu and they obtain light from his life and wrote many verse based on his life and work. Shambhu Dayal Danish have composed a poem based on an event from the life of Muhammad which is consist of 145 couplets. The

event is stated in seerah books that once prophet Muhammad was sleeping under a tree a man came with sword came to him with purpose of killing prophet, when prophet opened his eyes he found him with sword, the man asked to prophet “now who will save you from my sword?” prophet very calmly replied, “My supporter is Lord of all the worlds.” As soon as the man heard these words the sword from his hand drop down on earth. Meanwhile prophet took the sword and asked him now who will save you? The man was full fear but prophet forgives him. Shambhu Dayal Danish composed this in very charming poetic style.

Shiv Charan Das Akhter Bhangalvi woven a poem based on teaching and saying of prophet namely :Paigham E Irfan” some of couplets are as follows-

|                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dilaawez hai qabil e dad hai        | Muhammad ka kya khoob irshad hai |
| Khulasa hai Qran ke farman ka       | ke lalach na kar mal ka jan ka   |
| Ghareebon ki khidmat ho tera shi’ar | isi me hai mastoor raz e waqar   |
| Darindon ki aadaat se baz aa        | badi se burayi se khood ko bacha |

(saying of Muhammad are heart touching and commendable. His statements are summary of Quran, He says don’t become greedy of wealth and life. Your motto must be helping poor and needy, in this work the secret of dignity and prosperity lies. Avoid the habits of beasts and save yourself from evil actions.)

Maharaja Kishan Prashad Shad compiled two verse based on Prophet’s teaching about harmony and brother hood.

Takeed e ukhuat kee thi her fard o basher ko ta hone na paye kabhi aapas me larai

(Prophet advised to every human being not to fight and maintain brotherhood)

Famous Urdu poet Talukchand Maheroom wrote a poem on Seerat E Nabawi. This is a long eulogical poem. In this poem a event from life of prophet presented in a delicate manner. Prophet Muhammad once stood up after seeing a funeral of non muslim, his companion asked about this respectful manner regarding non Muslim, prophet replied “ his and our creator and protector or caretaker is same”, some couplets of the poem is as follows-

Sahaba mahv e hairat ho gaye ye guftugu sun kar  
Na kiyu kar dilnashee hota jawab purasar aisa  
Baja laye khuda ka shukr beanadaza ye kahe kar  
Zahe qismat ke hum ko milgaya hai rahbar aisa  
Mubarak peshwa jis ki hao shafqat dost w dushman per  
Mubarak peshru jis ka hai seena saf keene se

(his companion astonished after listening such a heart touching answer. They thanked god a

lot saying that fortunately we got a guide who is clean heart for every one irrespective of friend and enemy, they congratulate each other.) In present era Chander Bhan Khayal composed a long poem based on Seerah of Prophet Muhammad known as “laulak” been published by Naat research Centre India. It is unique work by Chander Bhayan Khayal. In this poem poet depicted basic teaching of Islam and blessing of Prophet Muhammad for mankind.

## 2. **Miracles shown by Prophet Muhammad :**

Many miracles shown by the prophet Muhammad. One of them is ascension. Meraj in Islamic tradition is known for the ascension of prophet Muhammad towards Allah, it is proved by the Quranic verses and Hadith. As per this narrative prophet Muhammad is prepared for the meeting with Allah by the Angel Gabriel while he was sleeping. Poets of Urdu while writing naat presented this event in there poetry. This is also depicted by non muslim poets. For example Munshi Mahadeo Prashad Sami wrote a couplet regarding ascension. One another miracle is of recite Kalimah by pebbles in the hand of Prophet also narrated in the form of poetry. Breaking of moon into two also famous miracle of prophet in the Islamic tradition , this also enlightened poetical imagination of poets. Many other miracles are derived by the poets in their poetry.

## 3. **Theme of birth of Prophet :**

Maulood name is a poetic device in Urdu in which poets writes about the birth of prophet Muhammad . Non Muslim poets also composed couplets based on birth of Prophet Muhammad. Professor Jagan Nath Azad wrote a poem “ Jamhur Name” in which he wrote verses regarding birth of prophet. Gursaran lal Adeeb Dehlvi and Pyare Lal Raunaq also wrote on this theme.

## 4. **Yearning for Madinah :**

Madinah is the city where prophet Muhammad’s tomb situated. Every follower of the prophet yearn to go to Madinah even he wish to die in Madinah. These feelings are expressed in eulogy of prophet written by different poets. Non Mslim poets also shown their curiosity to go to madinah in their poetry. Following are the some example of such poetry

Ya rab hame dikhlayega kab ruye madinah

Aankhe hai ke takti hai sada suye madinha ( Dharmedra Nath)

(O God ! when do You allow me to see madinah . My eyes are relentlessly seeing towards Madinah)

Madinah ko chalo darbar dekho      rasool ullah ki sarkar dekho  
Nazar aati hai wan shan e khudai      dar w deewar ke anwar dekho  
(sarkishan parshad sha)

( come on go to madinah and see the court of rasool ullah . there glory of God is visible and look at the lights coming from wall and doors means light spread all over madinah)

These are the themes widely found in the encomium composed by Non Muslim poets. Beside these themes other topics such as asking for intercession of prophet on the day of judgement , expression of love for prophet , aesthetics elements related to the prophet etc also specifically used by poets.

### **Conclusion :**

Non Muslim poets of Urdu played vital role in the development of eulogy poetry in Urdu. Like other genre of literature they exhibit skill and talent while composing Naat. They viewed their emotions , feeling and imagination towards Prophet Muhammad in a masterfull way. They used symbols, similies , metaphor , Islamic terminology , Quranic Verses and hadith (quote of Prophet), expression of love , depiction of prophet's miracles wishes to go to Madianah where Prophet's Tomb is situated . By composing Naat they not only serve the literature but also assisted in the establishment and promotion of national integration and cultural harmony.

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