

Mahjoor as a Harbinger of New Age in Kashmiri Poetry: A Study

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The present paper is an attempt to place Mahjoor in the history of Kashmiri poetry and study his outpourings against the form and thematic background prevailing before him, so as to underscore his contributions as a harbinger of a sort of renaissance in twentieth century Kashmiri poetry. This paper will also illustrate how Mahjoor breathed in a fresh air in Kashmiri poetry while maintaining a middle ground between being an extreme traditional on the one hand, and an outright rebel on the other. Endeavour will also be made to explore how Mahjoor by introducing unprecedented themes and issues like nature, flora and fauna, ordinary day-day aspects, mundane love, local environment, freedom from political, economic and social subjugation etc. not only brought in modernity and a new era in Kashmiri poetry but also by doing so, expanded its canvas. What is more, unlike earlier poets all these themes were rendered in a language understood alike by the learned and the hoi polloi earning him such titles as “The Poet of Kashmir,” as well as “The Wordsworth of Kashmir”.

Introduction

Mahjoor stands as the most distinguished pioneers of the modern Kashmiri poetry. He remains a very well-known name in the whole of valley. Born in a religiously revered Peerzada family on August 11, 1887 at, Mitrigaam, a charming region of the valley of Kashmir, he was named as Ghulam Ahmad Peerzada. While his conformist father desired him to follow his ecclesiastical occupation, Mahjoor had different curiosities. One day, in the winter of 1905, he swiftly slipped away and reached Amritsar, a city in the Punjab. It was during this sojourn that he got the splendid opportunity of meeting such distinguished Urdu poets of the day, like Maulana Bismil and Alama Shibli which kindled his poetic imagination. It was here that he assumed ‘Mahjoor’ as his poetic pseudonym. However, the turning point