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Mysticism across Culture: A Comparative Study of Kabir and Maulana Rumi

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Abstract : The present paper is an endeavour at making a comparative study of the two greatest mystics belonging to two different eras and culture, that the world has celebrated, namely, Kabir and Rumi. This research makes an attempt at showing how Kabir inspite of being a marvellous religious reformer does not live in our hearts because of his instructive teachings but by his heart stirring, euphoric mystic songs. This study strives at highlighting the ways in which Kabir differs from all the professional ascetics making him an offbeat mystic and even a heretic in some eyes. Further, this endeavour crowns Kabir as being associated with that premier breed of mystics who have accomplished the synthetic perception of reality and disintegrated the never ending antagonism between the transcendental and the immanent. The second part of the paper however, deals in detail with Rumi and his unique heart jolting mystical outburst, clothed in the form of *mathnawi*. The paper glorifies Rumi for introducing the whirling dance, danced to the tunes of the reed's song, giving rise to an unprecedented ambience, which sets the entire universe of feelings, ideas and language revolving around the fresh and stimulating beats. Then there is a probe into the intricacies of Rumi's style, which bears resemblance to a trackless ocean, having no dividing line between the kernel and the husk. This study will also try to investigate Rumi's handling of the concepts of *Tawhid* and *Wahadat* as well as his evolutionary concept of "The Perfect Man". Last but not the least, this undertaking will attempt at foregrounding the commonalities and differences between Kabir and Rumi as mystics belonging to different times.

Keywords: Mysticism, Kabir, Maulana Rumi