



Investigating Common Epic Elements in the Poems of Contemporary Resistance

Poets

Revista Publicando, 5 No 14 . No. 1. 2018, 609-621. ISSN 1390-9304

Investigating Common Epic Elements in the Poems of Contemporary Resistance Poets

(Seyed Hassan Hosseini, Salman Harati, Ali Moallem And Gheisar Aminpour)

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ABSTRACT

Epic poem in attracting ideas and emotions of people in the contemporary period while it was appeared from another aspect, but it could be efficient like Ferdowsi's Shahnameh; as it could remember the Shahnameh. In the present study that by qualitative method and describing the content seeks poems of four contemporary poets: Seyed Hassan Hosseini, Salman Harati, Ali Moallem and Gheisar Aminpour, elements of the common epic from among their poems are extracted and analyzed. This research reflects the fact that the eight-year sacred defense periods created a radical change in contemporary poetry content and changed the language and the style of the expression of poets. So that in poets works of this period, prowess epic was mixed with the lyricism and created an essence called the Sacred Defense literature which includes religious and belief important issues such as Ashura and waiting, martyr and more.

Keywords:

Resistance Poem, Epic Elements, Seyed Hassan Hosseini, Salman Harati, Ali Moallem, Gheisar Aminpour



INTRODUCTION

In the field of poem, many names are tied with the category of "Sacred Defense" and "resistance literature" that the works of these poets has had a new plan in literature after revolution. They directed poem towards pure and light land by exploring new horizons. Muslim Iranian nation's victory in the February 1978 and shortly after it is the beginning of the sacred defense took an objective form in terms of ideological with modern approach to the issue of religion and human factors such as: freedom, sacrifice, patriotism, faith and despotism and ... Our poets by relying on such rich culture and branches related to it as Ashura, Imamat, martyr, waiting ... formed Sacred Defense poetry. They grew all human concepts such as freedom, sacrifice, idealism in the religious fields and through this gave a special passion to their poems and this may be highlight the social functions of ideology, but earlier in the area of speech and oratory and prose, a personality such as "Dr.Ali Shariati" as well had done it. Still today we see this poetic passion in prose of Shariati, especially in works like "desert" and "Fateme is Fateme" and "Sar" and

By studying the history of every country, we find that those incidents and events that have a profound impact on the life and history of the nation, along with it affected culture, literature and art, etc. What must be pointed out is that the literature of a country other than other branches tries to reflect modern issues of society. Looking at history of our country, we will see our country has been the scene of numerous incursions and developments due to special strategic situation and having a strong and firm belief system, whether or not. The advent and victory of the Islamic Revolution, the establishment of the Islamic Republic and the outbreak of war are, including important developments in the history of this country in recent years, which caused changes in the structures and political, social, economic, intellectual and spiritual, cultural and artistic norms of community. In the meantime, lyrics due to simplicity, pleasant and musical expression that can have the greatest impact on the audience has accepted these time changes and quickly tried to transfer events from them.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Familiarity with Iranian contemporary resistance poets and poems, especially poets and poems of Sacred Defense war.



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- Investigating the epic elements and different themes in Iranian contemporary resistance poem.
- Understand and receive shares, divisions and frequency of epic elements in poems of Iranian contemporary resistance poets: Hosseini, Herati, Moallem and Aminpour.
- Understanding the intellectual world of Iranian contemporary resistance poets: Hosseini, Herati, Moallem and Aminpour.

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

- Book of reviewing prose literature of Sacred Defense, works of Mohammad Reza Sangari, (2003), Tehran: Palizan
- Book of Rejat Sorkh Setare, Ali Moallem Damghani, 2012, Tehran: Sure Mehr, 318 pages
- Thesis of "investigating epic elements in poem of Sacred Defense", Student: Fereshte Ardust, Supervisor: Dr. Abdullah Hassanzadeh Mir Ali, 2010, Semnan University
- Harati, S., (2001), a complete collection of poems of Salman Harati, Tehran: Sure Mehr
- Aminpour, Gheisar, (2011), a complete collection of poetry, Tehran: Morvarid
- Hosseini, Sayed Hassan, (2008), Assonant with throat of Ismail, Tehran: Sure Mehr, 156 pages
- MA thesis "reflect the image of Imam Khomeini in poetry of poems (Shahriar Amin-Pour, Hamid Sabzevari, Sepideh Kashani and Tahere Saffarzadeh" Student: B. Purghorbani, Supervisor: Dr. M. Nazari Charudeh, 2015
- MA thesis "analysis of waiting in poems of Aminpour and Sabzevari", Student: Soraya Jahangiri Vangah, Supervisor: Dr. M. Nazari Charydeh, 2015

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a qualitative and descriptive study and implemented as analyzing the content. Collecting information of this research is as document and library. Research notes (taking notes) is the best tool of collecting data of this thesis, a variety of charts and graphs, scientific databases and the Internet were used.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Epic



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The first kind that has emerged in Greek literature is the epic kind. In Greek literature, epic has an aristocratic origin. This kind of poetry that its subject is the battle scenes is a true interpretation from a feudal community that with its neighbors is in the throes of battle to expand its sphere of control. In this community, person not has a specific existence; just some leaders are strong who leading the war is with them. This type of poetry imagines waking state of a society against life. In Persian literature is such this, with the difference that ethnic conflicts in the Ferdowsi not have foundation of aggressiveness in feudalism and it is the image of state of building a community.

Poem

Poem in Dekhoda dictionary is defined as: "poem is a sort, spiritual, balanced, fantastic and intent word; the difference between poem and order is that subject of poem is the thematic and spiritual complication of word, while the subject of the order is the appearance complication of word. In other words, the subject of poem is summarized in the sense and showing the effects of poet and in fact as we call the weighted word that is not sense as order not poetry, the imagination and feeling word that is free from weight and rhythm may be called rhymed prose rather than poetry because coordination is one of the best conditions of effect of poem"(Dekhoda, 1994: the following word of poetry).

"In fact, poetry is music of words and song is the music of lay and songs and it is not vain if Aristotle consider poem resulting two forces that one is instinct of (mimesis) and the other is to understand the rhythm and tune. However, man can be satisfied with prose, but we don't know any nation that its richness is with prose, because combining the poetry and music is the combination among music of words and music of lay"(Shafiee Kadkani, 2009: 44).

Features Of Epic Poem

Every epic inevitably must have full unity; this unity is the result of several factors: First, a major accident to be existed in it to bring other events. Second, a protagonist to be in it that leads events. The events can be imagined in four principles: 1. beginning, it is usually begun by addressing to the Goddess or one of the saints: "O God of poetry" or "O" that at the beginning of each section can be seen. 2. The sudden changes in the status of hero, for example sudden resignation of hero or intervention of unusual elements that change the



course of events 3. The node of epic: it is when the events are imagined so that forces are equal and reader will be excited 4. Opening node, i.e. a moment that the critical moment is opened by an act or an accident. Instead of remembering God in Shahnameh or other God in Ferdowsi, it is spoken of a concept that believe it (Islamic God) and mentions the narrators of story as Azadsarv or...

Sacred Defense Poem and Poet

The imposed war created a great influence on the literary world that the supreme leader at the beginning of the war and sacred defense said: "War has blessings, one of those blessings is heart effect that united minds and tongues of the Iranian people around this vast country. "(Avesta, M). Yes, including the blessings of the war is the emergence of numerous poets, from all corners of the country and the creation of valuable works with religious themes and national and homeland. Other significant achievements of Sacred Defense in the field of poetry are to create intellectual solidarity among different poets. Poets in the period with a variety of events sang about one thing and just their look to issue and turn it into content and its presentation was somewhat different. Poet committed has a heavy responsibility on the people and society and should try to reflect the noble values on his time in the lyrics and to be the voice of people of his time. He should portray all the important issues in his poetry and record it for future generations.

The presence of four epic elements and attributes is as the main pillars in terms of forming attitude of the poets, i.e. in terms of intellectual and conceptual center, highlighting of these four epic elements is seen on whole their work. Four elements that poets with intellectual help and poetic approach to them show their position against the war events:

A) Ashura

Ashura is a school that reaches people to peak and perfection in terms of worldview. If we look carefully at the life of the great martyrs, their deep sense of perfectionism is affected of the school of Ashura. The noble and worthy sample of such view can be seen in writings and films of martyr "Seyed Morteza Avini" and it is glory of such a feeling of ideal and humane that has introduced semiotic view of this great artist of "Avini cinema" as lasting and



identified. Our poet by blessing such a vision illustrates his narratives from the world of sacrifices and martyrdoms:

There was a holy cut head on the spear and there is a sad convoy. The climate is depressed and crying (Gheisar Aminpour, collection of suddenly mirrors)

B) Martyred:

Martyred and issues associated with it has thematic centrality in the Sacred Defense literature. Since the nature of war and the resistance has unbroken relation with sacrifice and self-devotion, it can be considered the martyrdom the major element that all war poets in addition to investigate other issues eventually reviewed it logically and poetically. As well as in Jebhe seeking such idea, adolescents and young adults and the elderly with incredible passion in wearing this beautiful gown were ahead of the others because martyrdom means complete understanding of the mission of the Prophet and the Imams, i.e. the objectivity to all beliefs that a true Shiites adhere to them and our poets in short opportunities as quatrains and a couplet, as well as in areas such as the sonnet and the Masnavi and Nimaiy and Sepid with detail and showing the events occurred in the heart of the epics of city and Jebhe expressed this issue with magnificent:

But, I remind you for your sunny took and clear sound and everything obey you (Seyed Hassan Hosseini, Collection of Ash and Gabriel).

The presence of this caravan / what glory is given to streets / They treated like birds / and with the heat of the morning breathing / teach me / to be like a tree / for the birds! (Salman Harati - the collection of poems door to the house of the sun).

C) Imamate and Leadership:

Part of our Sacred Defense literature is formed by religious and ideal describing that in the form of religious characters has expressed his adorable and green face. The warm and palpitating characters such as Imam Ali (AS), Imam Hussein (AS), Imam Mahdi (AS) and Imam Khomeini (RA), each at a higher and better level are sign of mythical concepts such as justice, selflessness and rescue and leadership has flourished beauty to the Sacred Defense poetry. In the meantime, the living and historic character of Imam Khomeini (RA) is



highlighted more. However, in other cases according to historical situations such as Muharram, Ghadr nights and holidays of Shabanyeh, great characters of leadership have been described. Character oriented and mystical and his loving and fatherly meeting with the warriors of Islam and his true belief about human values and divine were characteristics that trends poets of sacred defense and in the meantime, a large number of poets from various aspects showed their devotion sincere to him that the images can be seen in the poetry of Gheisar Aminpour, Seyed Hassan Hosseini, Fateme Rakei and Soheil Mahmoudi and Alireza Ghazve and Ali Moallem and Salman Harati and ...:

your smile shows goodness / your laughing is like beautiful flowers / love God's Rainbow /
Your heart is seen through the glass / talk us without distance / someone who are away from
me ... (Gheisar Aminpour - a collection of morning breathe poems) .

D) Waiting:

The concept of waiting in the Sacred Defense literature is an important issue. Waiting plays an important role in other fields as well. As waiting for victory, martyrdom waiting, waiting for release from bondage, etc but what our sacred defense poets rely on them was "waiting for the emergence" that a variety of effects were in sonnets and poems. Waiting with hope that in every form and every moment was considered a great worship, this waiting was green and opened new horizons for them and horizons that broadens small world of people and doubled incentive and ability to fight and epic.

Like a thirsty for pure water close my heart to you / heart to laugh / you are like a sunny day
Salman Harati- collection of door to the house of the Sun

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The realist feature and referential function of resistance poetry caused to be the only flow that has the ability of definition and recognition because titles of poem and literature are obvious and unknown. So resistance poem is a realistic flow that combines with global classicism and its center is with draw action of heroes who are elected from among the general public and the poet thinks positive, reasonable, natural and ancient. Especially in the epic poem of contemporary (New Epic), it cannot be followed the footsteps of the poet and reality because



it has a social nature with impact from objectivity of outside world as the belief of some critics and styles of poetry like Northrop Frye, Robert Frost, Cirrus Hasan and ...is as this. The language of this poetic flow has a stream motion and familiar of mind, as well as other poem streams of contemporary not surprise the reader with rule-reducing and rule-increasing and deviation, but tries to achieve the ultimate cause of poetry, ie the nurturing sense, providing the feel and the creation of music.

The new epic has a religion approach, but with the advantage of national symbols and national adds to contemporary poetry the richness and depth and links true heroes of contemporary as artistic to the ancient battalion. In other words, the epic elements in the works of modern poets is totally related to their intellectual world, and as mentioned in the previous lines, the influence of social environment on poet in new epic poet is visible and recognizable.

Defend Homeland

Homeland that is one of the components of the identity of each nation, in new epic poem has a special manifestation. Especially with the start of the war, Iran was attacked by Iraqi Baathist regime and border towns were equal with the blood and soil. Modern poets by the poems in this area defended their homeland and severely provoked the patriotism sense of audiences.

My Homeland is like a sea / I defend my homeland and this is pleasant for me (Harati, 201: 129) pain at me breaks (Herat, 1380: 129)

Also combat and battle fields, encourage and strengthen combatants and humiliating enemy and drawing elegance and endurance and stability of the warriors in the following quatrain from Gheisar Aminpour is impressive:

Saddle blade crosses of rock and iron
passes Frizzy hair and wool thread the needle
So we wound wearing our enemy
To overcome the enemy
(Aminpour, 2011: 227)

• Prowess of Warriors



Part of the eight years' epic of sacred defense is related to prowess and sacrifice of Islamic homeland warriors. By stating Seyed Hassan Hosseini, warriors are brave men who do not fear death and are from lethargy:

This way those who deny hostile and sleep

Like shooting stars on darkness hanging dagger sharp.

Rolling on the ground and flower grows from the soil

The spirit of spring, rain and sealing glory

(Hussaini, 2008: 84)

But Gheisar speaks in a soft and emotional voice from the most violent events in the war.

"Song for war" expresses the feeling of oppression of the Iranian people and sustainability and preserving them against the enemy:

Although their knees and backs are wounded / but they are strong and winner (Aminpour, 2011: 388).

But in the field of Persian Gulf and the protection of maritime borders of our country should be added that the theme of the epic in many of the poems of contemporary poets has had presence and they raised sense of patriotism in the form of defense of the Persian Gulf, including Ali Moallem Damghani with Arkaeik and ancient language has valued name of the Persian Gulf:

maybe the song is not reminding, but will Gulf remain

Persian Gulf is remained by Iranian jihad

Gulf is safe from attack of enemy

If everybody is vague and confusing

(Moalem Damghani, 2012: 83)

• Hatred of the West

Salman Harati based on revolutionary ideas considers the West and the civilization of the West as stranger that in order to transform the national culture has come to the field;

So on, he did not side with the agitator trappings:

When a free water eliminates my thirst / it is not important for me that Coca taste is better than Pepsi (Herati, 2001: 85).



• **Martyrdom**

Seyed Hassan Hosseini thinks about martyrdom and martyr religiously and spiritually:

Although they are not alive

Although they cannot speak

They are forever alive and not dead (Hosseini, 2008: 112)

Aminpour draws the coffin of martyrs as yacht on ocean from the crowd of mourners. The so-called of cloud height and the infinite ocean has given mystical atmosphere to mourn of the martyrs.

Martyrs are flying in the sky and this event is holy and everybody obeys martyrs for their holy situations (Aminpour, 2011: 319)

• **Ashura**

Salman Harati in the following quatrain, how beautiful mentions the great memory and writes about Hazrat Sayed al-Shuhada:

Your holy head was on the spears, and this was a memorable epic and you are the winner and all people memorize your epic up to date (Harati, 2001: 57)

Moallem in the Masnavi sees the head of Imam Peace be upon him as a "Sun that blossomed on the dried wood of spears":

You came and light everything. All the badness and darkness were eliminated by you (Moalem Damghani, 2012: 63)

• **Waiting**

Advent of Promised Savior

The advent of the Promised Savior is as Deus and human aspirations. Moallem Damghani how beautiful writes:

Where is the life of the world, it is time for you to come back, you are friend of poor people, you are like a sun and warm everywhere, it is time for you to come back (Moalem Damghani, 2012: 89)

• **Imam Khomeini**

Seyed Hassan Hosseini in the poem of "Farewell" has immediately responded to crow of "Hel Men Nasser" Imam Khomeini:



There is no doubt and everything is ready to kill for god (Hosseini, 2008: 33)

Results

In the present study, we investigated and classified the poem of four selected poets: Hosseini, Herati, Moallem Damghani and Aminpour, epic elements extracted generally in seven subjects.

1. **Homeland:** homeland poem in the contemporary period is formed because of war.

Unequal war that followed the bombing of cities and occupying defenseless villages in the country hence, epic poets that their homeland was invaded by alien, were upset and wrote about refugees of war and heroic martyrs of this country.

2. **Fight:** belief to fight to the death for freedom and repel enemy aggression in the epic poem of poet's study has had a significant reflection. In addition, the stability of the people and drawing the chaotic conditions is the common concepts of each poet, and these poems, including themes such as praise fighters and their prowess, call for struggle against the enemy and encourage people to go into battle and describing the spiritual value of Jihad in the way of God.

Martyrdom: Iran-Iraq war in 1980 was one of the major events that affected the language and content of Persian poem in period of contemporary; poets and writers tried to place their art and talent in the service of epic portray of brave men of Iran against invasion of Iraq and the Baathists. The word martyr is one of the sacred words that during the war have doubled and has found its own sanctity.

Ashura: Ashura event has various aspects that epic forms one of the important pillars of it. Over time, social, political and historical conditions of attitude of poets has been influenced the incident of Ashura. By studying the epic effects of Ashura in the poem of four poets, can be said this epic look to Ashura with the size and diversity in Persian literature has been unique.

Waiting: The role of religious themes and ideas in the process of social and political struggles and changes in our land is very bold and important. During the Islamic Revolution of the Iranian people and after it, the imposed war that is recovery period of religious and cultural identity and based on genuine Islamic values, using religious concepts play a key role



in the success of the Iranian people to maintain their dignity and comprehensive independence.

Imam Khomeini: due to the centrality of Imam Khomeini in movement and victory of Revolution, he had a tremendous importance and credit in terms of epic poets. The poets investigated influenced by the character of Imam and were fascinated by spiritual behavior of Imam, as in their poems ordered their views on this issue. Investigated poets consider Imam as Vice- Imam Zaman (AS) and in all poems, this is obvious.

Historical and Mythological Symbols: Hosseini, Herati, Moallem Damghani and Aminpour are capable poets in expressing Sacred Defense poetry. They, as revolutionary committed poets in their poems with poetic emotion well have depicted the reality of the Iran-Iraq war. In all collections of poetry, poems that have the theme of war are visible and can be considered one of the most important their characteristics of poetry their passion to revive the traditions of epic and myths and strength and heavy of lyrics that this interest in Iranian culture and knowledge its myths in the form of poetry of war is well demonstrated.

CONCLUSION

In addition, epic elements in poetry of four poets were more or less studied and included homeland, fight, martyrdom, Ashura, Waiting, Imam Khomeini, and the symbolism of historical and mythological, noting that the amount of their attention to each of them is different. Hosseini focuses on Ashura and martyrdom and Harati to homeland and fight, Moallem Damghani to Ashura and waiting and Aminpour to waiting and Imam Khomeini. The general element of symbolism in other elements is analyzed.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Encourage young and academic people to turn to research topics around the Sacred Defense and resistance literature
2. Resistance literature is such lofty and admirable that is recommended epic elements in each of the works of contemporary epic poets to be examined separately.

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