

Thar and Aesthetic touch of Shaikh Ayaz

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Different dynasties and clans like The Sama, The Sumra, Rathod, Sodha, Rai dynasity, Brahmins, Makwanas, Kalhoras, Talpurs and the British have ruled the area called Thar. It has rich cultural heritage having diversified traditions, customs, norms, reflecting the aesthetic intellectual in-depth of Thari people and it has provided the substance to folk literature as well as classical literature. Main languages spoken in Thar are; Dhatki, Parkri, Gujrati and Sindhi and there are several folk dances with a surrealistic touch with charming melodies. People celebrate several festivals reflecting the seasonal transition and change. These festivals have special folk songs and an important cultural phenomenon is religious harmony, people have common names, common traditions and common festivals irrespective of their caste, creed and religion, providing a secular and liberal basis for the development of literature.

Thar is the richest in this sphere of literature having folk tales, folksongs, folk riddles that are treasure trove of culture, knowledge and folk wisdom and the wisdom caught from it could be utilized for even according to modern requirements because these are the good management theories of those times established on centuries' long experiences. Classical Sindhi poets have also preserved cultural glamour of Thar in their poetic works; Shah Abdul Latif, Sachal Sarmast and Khalifo Nabi Bux are the famous poets of Sindhi poetry who have made Thar an important part of their poetry.

Shaikh Ayaz visited Thar in sixties and that visit left indelible imprints on his memories and wherever he discussed Thar, discussed it with a true love and commitment. About that visit Ayaz himself has written that: once upon a time the famous French poet Baudelaire left for from France to see a French colony in Pondichry in India, but he could not reach there and returned back after some days stay in Mediterranean Sea. During that sea stay what he observed at the dusk time, when waves seemed golden and the stars at night felt that fishes were there in the sky. These all the sightseeing impressed him whole life and he expressed all these feelings in his poetry time and again. So is remained Thar in my poetry, he says. He says that he saw the women in Mithi to fetch water from the wells at dawn and that scenic beauty is peeping out from my poetry in various forms, Bait, wais are seemed as the mosaic like colorful flowery plants after rainy season. In this paper an overview of the depiction of the beauty of Thar in the verses of Shaikh Ayaz has been given.
