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**MOHAMMAD HAFIZ IBRAHIM AND QAZI NAZRUL ISLAM:
TWO OUTSTANDING GENIUSES**

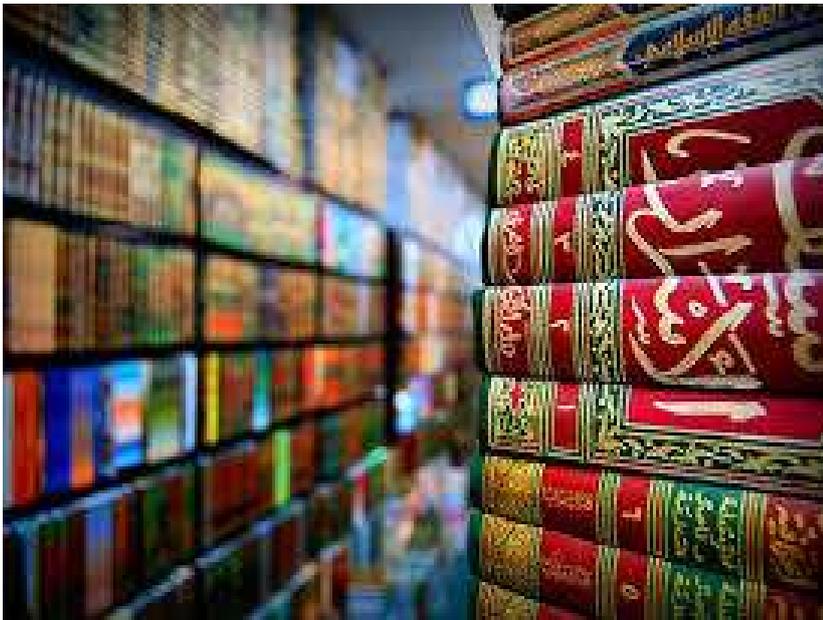


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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

Mohammad Hafiz Ibrahim and Qazi Nazrul Islam's uniqueness and unparalleled success in the field of Arabic and Bengali Literatures has been able to do inconceivable things and bring about variable and qualitative change in languages, themes, forms, techniques in various shades and dimensions and create a new literary courses with national aspirations and freedom movements of their countries against the British-Raj.

They could discover the inherent beauty and symbolic meaning of nature as well as their destructive

power and above all out of deep love and patriotic feelings and social responsibilities solely identified themselves with the whole nation, especially the Muslim – their own community. Both poets were far from each other but their mottos almost same, the common characteristics were poverty and patriotism, championship of weak and downtrodden people, another common characteristics were the revolutionary nature, they had taken part direct or indirect in political and social movements of their time and had similar political views. Both poets were votaries of democracy, a system that allows equality of opportunity to every man whatever his colour or creed or economic status.

KEYWORDS

Arabic Literature , political poetry , Bengali Literature, culture, music .

INTRODUCTION:

Mohammad Hafiz Ibrahim (1870-1932) is widely acclaimed as the epoch-making 'People's Poet' of Arabic Literature and is regarded as the 'National Poet' of Egypt for his spectacular and distinctive contribution in the awakening of the masses. He tried to reinforce Muslim solidarity and rally all Muslims around the sultan's throne. The Islamic writings of the Poet alone constitutes a subject and reaction against the British Occupation is another subject, his writings is one of the most powerful weapons for Arab World, it is hardly surprising that he stuck the widest response, both inside Egypt and to extent whole World, was his satirical attacks upon the British presence in the realm of political poetry in general , turned his highly talented artistic activity against corruption, social injustice and British imperialism ,he remain in ardent patriots until his last breath. "At time he was champion of Turkish sultans, of the 'Caliphate' idea of the whole world of Islam".¹

Qazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976) epoch-making 'Rebel Poet' of Bengali Literature and the 'National Poet' of Bangladesh for his distinctive contribution. The contributions of Nazrul Islam in the fields of sub-continental politics, Bengali Literature, culture, music and also to Muslim renaissance and impact on our national life is wide, varied, deep and unique. A symbol of an uncompromising fighter who would not give up his sword until he attains the final victory. The extent of Nazrul Islam's familiarity with the specifics of the social changes, in colonial empire as within the system of socio-cultural and socio-economic domination were the subjugation of society, it must have affected him rather sensitive being . "When we shall go to the battle field, we shall sing Nazrul Islam's songs on battles. We shall also sing his songs when we shall be put in to jail".² so he became the first to call for complete independence of India and tried to renew India and new World of social justice of joy and peace.

Mohammad Hafiz Ibrahim owes his celebrity to his poems supporting the national causes of Egypt, were mere politically defined, he too largely accounted to unease about the British Occupation and growing western influence on Egyptian society, this is why he interested in Turkey, had his sympathy because a leading Muslim nation, and of course also during first world war it was regarded a bulwark against the advancing western powers.

1. Modern Arabic Literature, by Jhon Haywood, Oxford University press- 1965, page-86.

2. Kazi Nazrul Islam : A Biography, by Karunamaya Goswami, Nazrul Institute, Dhaka- 1996, page-109.

His Muslim feelings turned into solidarity with the 'East' as may be seen from his reaction to the war between Japan and Russia on the other hand glorified the ties with Syria and Egypt including Lebanon. He has written the numbers of patriotic songs and qasidas. "He always accounted the weakness of his countrymen by the revolutionary spirit in politics should have spent all his days securely in Egypt."³ But a severe scrutiny of revolutionary poems as in entire 'Collected Book' would lead to different view, this patriotic poems open with a cordial prelude and end with conciliatory appeal which reduce the vehement of revolutionary spirit.

Qazi Nazrul Islam, a poet of the highest order, was a lyricist, composer and musician of outstanding genius. His several thousand songs and poems on varied themes, forms and moods, manifest the poet's creative power and sensibility are regarded as treasurers of Bengali Literature and music. When we analyzed Nazrul Islam's compositions present a wide variety of themes. We find in them beauty and love, romantic agony spirit of revolt against colonial domination, social injustice,

patriotic inspiration. "Patriotism was the principal inspiration of his creative life. His gospel of rebellion communicated in poems, songs and other forms of writing were all offshoots of the patriotic sensibilities."⁴ Muslim renaissance and creating for the emancipation of distressed humanity. Though primarily and pre-dominantly a poet and lyricist Nazrul Islam was a versatile genius and enriched almost all branches of literature and made his mark as a novelist, short story writer, playwright essayist as well as journalist of a heroic status too. His various prose writings also embodied the same spirit and characteristics of rebellious and romantic writer in various forms and techniques and different facts which are clearly portrayed in the excellence of his poems and songs.

Hafiz Ibrahim and Nazrul Islam had been able to do the inconceivable and splendid things and bring about a variable and qualitative change in languages, themes, forms and techniques in various shades and dimensions and create a new literary courses, because of their unique talents and creative geniuses and their identification with the natural aspiration and freedom movements of their countries against the British-Raj. Their participation in the political and social reawakening movement, ever inspiring and pulsating poems and songs embodying rebellious spirit as well

3. Poetry and the making of modern Egypt 1882-1922, by M.A. Khouri, Leiden- 1971, page-101.

4. Aspects of Nazrul songs, by Karunamaya Goswami, Nazrul Institute, Dhaka-1990, p.p. -80,81.

as their prose writings, and personal sufferings and subjugation under the colonial government, made Hafiz Ibrahim and Nazrul Islam the symbol of freedom and national spirit itself. That eventually became indomitable heroes.

Hafiz Ibrahim and Nazrul Islam's writings had unique success of nature, love, romantic agony, and above all national aspiration and reawaking lays in the unmistakable fact that they had deep personal experience of suffering and anguish. They could discover the inherent beauty and symbolic meaning of nature as well as destructive power and above all out of deep love and patriotic feelings and social responsibilities; they solely identified themselves with the whole nation and especially the Muslim their own community.

The uniqueness and unparalleled success in the field of Literature music and culture not only lays in the subject matter but also language, form, technique, prosody, similes and metaphors used by them. Hafiz Ibrahim was a traditional finally crafted verse with some innovation as a well known, both for the wistful and melancholy, strongly criticism of social injustice as a stylist with full control over his art. The quality of his writing is highly resonant rhymes, strength of style, well chosen diction the description of erotic adventures or depicting the character of the lamented person, pure poetic music and clear image and theme.

Nazrul Islam developed the Bengali language and literature; break-down the customary grammar and make a new Bengali grammar, he choose the perfect word to use conformity with the subject matter, he used many proverbs, rural idioms, turns of phrase in daily use with Persian Arabic word, he used Bengali, Sanskrit, Arabic as well as Parsi, Urdu, Hindi, English and Latin meters' found in his writings follows the conventional meters' but not exactly with some modifying his own way. He himself in the newer perspective and context used them with masterly skill and newer significant meaning in different forms and techniques. His poems and songs on Islamic themes and traditions as well as Hindu themes and traditions are the outstanding examples of his literary success and open minded attempt in delineating the heritage of Bengali literature.

Hafiz Ibrahim and Nazrul Islam were far from each other but their mottos almost same. Poverty is the common characteristics of both poets but Nazrul Islam dire poverty was stronger than Hafiz Ibrahim. Hafiz Ibrahim well acquainted with literary genius from Mohammad Abduhu and Nazrul Islam well acquainted literary genius from Rabindranath Tagore. Nazrul Islam's patriotism would have greatly appreciated with Hafiz Ibrahim's patriotism, love for the common people, championship of weak and down-trodden, religious tolerance and above all their love of life, both were journalistic and armies experiences had developed their personalities and sharpened their writing abilities and widened their outlooks.

The most significant changes brought about by the two poets in the languages, style and content of poetry. Arabic language is stronger than Bengali language. The theme of their poetry were confined to the praise of local deities or of royal or aristocrat patrons, satirical poems, devotional with love and nature, universal brotherhood etc. It was Hafiz Ibrahim who partly released the language from traditional to the modern style. Nazrul Islam also changed the conventional to modern style, he brought a new style in Bengali language and literature with used Arabic, Urdu and Persian words. They made it simple enough to be understood by the common people and they took for their themes the burning problems of life arounded them, such as enslaved conditions of countries, socio-economic inequality or injustice and the inferior status of masses, freedom, upliftment of women, young, student, child and workers in the Egyptian and Indian societies.

The above estimation and evaluation of Hafiz Ibrahim and Nazrul Islam poetic geniuses and their unique contributions are inadequate and poor by any standard of judgment, it is mere pen-picture which corporate the essence of the greatness of the minds of the writers. To deeply understand the poets and their poetic geniuses as well their love for the countrymen in particular.

No doubt, Mohammad Hafiz Ibrahim and Qazi Nazrul Islam inspiring writings will also imbibe us with the spirit of safeguarding our hard-earned independence and in achieving the emancipation of the masses in all fields in the true sense of the term.

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