

Question Of Life And Death In Rumi's *The Chance Of Humming*

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Abstract

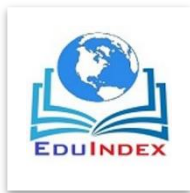
Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi became a thirteenth-century Persian poet whose poems have attained cult status internationally. His Masnavi is considered to be a magnum opus in the Persian language. Rumi's poems are at the beginning written normally in Persian, but also on occasion in Turkish, Arabic and Greek. Rumi's poems are also known for their romantic and religious snapshots and motifs, ironical comparisons, rhetorical questions, lighter, but idea-provoking, stories infused into verse, mystical perspectives on existence and after-existence and the subject matters of love, religion and time. The Chance of Humming is an inspiring, thrilling and interesting poem that talks about the journey of a person (which is an allegory for the adventure of existence itself) on two wooden logs flowing along a river. The logs may represent two truths- existence and loss of life, body, and soul, past and present journey into destiny- to be wielded in tandem to embrace a jovial existence. If someone travels on logs flowing with the currents downstream, he could be happy. He argues that it is alright while floating with the water for a man. And he is humming and singing without opening his mouth and enjoying his ride. Rumi says that if the log is tied to a camel, it would still be great, however, if all of a sudden the camel recalls something which it has overlooked taking up the journey, then it would determine to journey back, upstream. This can be within the opposite course of the drift of the river (here, a metaphor for existence) and the satisfied path of the vacationer or the traveler could be disrupted.

Key Words: Humming, Symbolism, Optimism, Reason and Passion and Sufism

1. Introduction

Rumiⁱ was born either in Wakhsh placed on the banks of the river Vakhsh or within the metropolis of Balkh, in present-day Afghanistan, to Persian-speaking dad and mom. His father changed into a top-notch has an impact on him. The Sufism of the Balkh location, a center of Persian culture of the duration, also encouraged him to an incredible quantity for the duration of his childhood. Rumi's family fled westwards while the Mongols invaded Central Asia, and got here to settle in Konya (Present-day Turkey), where his father worked as a teacher. Rumi's writings were inspired by means of Persian poets Attar and Sanai. It is stated that whilst migrating, Rumi, along with his father, had met Attar, one of the well-known Persian mystic poets of the period at Nishapur, an Iranian city. Attar presented him with a book detailing the entanglement of the soul in the material world. The assembly had a long-lasting effect on Rumi and inspired his later poetic ruminations. Rumi wrote spontaneous ghazals (Persian poems, normally on pain or loss). For Rumi, knowledge was like a torchlight helping to search for the first-rate and the best inside the soul. He says in *Masnavi* that if words begin to drift from a supply inside, simplest then can one start flying with one's very own wings. Rumi writes in *The Chance of Humming*:

A Man



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standing on two logs in a river

might do all right floating with the current

while humming in the

now. (1-5)

The man begins his journey on two logs at the pace of the river. He flows along with the current, humming. It is an interesting description in the poem and it is presented as an abrupt beginning. One of the logs is presumed to be tied to his camel. The camel also walks at the pace of the river. So the river, the man and the camel are all going to the same place. Rumi, as a poet has a vision about life and life after death. For him, our present life is compared to a journey or an exodus. This journey continues until the camel forgets something.

A Man

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2. Role of Present Life and the Eschatological notions

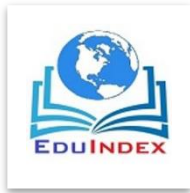
The man is alright while floating with the water. He is humming a song without opening the mouth. This represents the happiness and mental peace of the traveler. The logs can also constitute two truths- life and lack of existence, physical existence and soul, beyond and gift adventure into future- to be wielded in tandem to embrace a jovial life. If someone travels on logs flowing with the currents downstream, he may be satisfied. He argues that it's alright for him that time and at the same time as floating with the water for a man. A man can lose his chance of humming if he is obsessed with thoughts of the future and the past. This can cause a disruption in the flow of life. Most minds can gain chances for humming if they decide to experience the present. If they focus on the future or review the past, they lose their chances of humming. Rumi explains that it is necessary to experience the current movement if one is to gain the chance of humming. As a philosopher, Rumi tries to explore the possibilities of our life and he inspires all of us to live in the present and do our best as much as we can. The following lines give us an inspiration to face the life with courage and optimistic note.

Most minds

do not live in the present

and can stick to a reasonable plan; most minds abruptly turn

and undermine the



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chance

of

humming. (17-23)

Rumi is considered to be one of the finest Sufi mystical poets that have ever graced this world. Rumi's poems are recognized for their first-class, lyrical first-class similarly to being deeply non secular. His love poems are extraordinarily popular and he is taken into consideration to be the best-selling poet in the USA. There is obviously an optimistic note running all through the poem. As a poet, Rumi has a vision and viewpoint. His vision is to enlighten and enliven the society. Moreover, he has a mission too. His missionary task is to empower readers with optimism and creativity. As a poet he dreams about a world where energy and enthusiasm dominate.

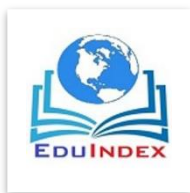
*The Chance of Humming*ⁱⁱ is a short poem of twenty-three lines composed in the form of the Shakespearean sonnet. The poem presents the case of a man who is floating along the river on two logs. One of the logs is tied to a camel, moving at the same pace and the same direction as the river. So all is well. The poet wonders what would happen if the camel suddenly remembers it forgot something and decides to turn back abruptly. Then there would be a problem because the man's log is tied to the camel. Any number of things could happen and the man could end up getting dunked in the river. Rumi suggests we should take the chance to hum into now. Everyone is presented with a certain number of moments to enjoy. Rumi's perspective is that each moment of our life is to be treasured as once gone it will not come back. Most minds are too busy being engrossed in thoughts of the future or past to cherish the present. So Rumi promotes the present moment through the idea of humming. Humming is an activity done when we are happy. Rumi advocates that we hum and enjoy the moment before it passes. In that way we can enjoy life and all its precious moments. Because life that we live is so precious and valuable. So live in the present. Do our best and Gift the best.

Conclusion

Rumi, through this poem, advises his readers to go with the flow freely without any remorse for the past and anxiety for the future if they want to be glad. The poem is a comment by Rumi on life. Here he comments on the transient nature of life and the hurdles in life. For him, we are too busy engrossed in the future or past to relish the present. They are so caught up in such thoughts that they fail to notice the present movement. The present moment is fleeting and cannot be recovered once it is passed. The aim of the paper is to explain the philosophical notion of life from the viewpoint of the poet.

ⁱ Jalāl ad-Dīn Muḥammad Balkhī

ⁱⁱ It is written in Iambic Trimeter modeled on Shakespearean sonnet



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