THE IMPRISONED BIRD ANALYSIS OF THE ORIGINS OF SOUL IMPRISONMENT IN THE WORKS OF MOWLANA

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از پای این زندانیان بیرون کنم بند گران بر چرخ بنهم نردبان تا جان برآید بر علا (دیوان شمس)

Introduction:

The idea of the imprisonment of the soul in this material world is an ancient and mystical thought which has an important place in the works of famous intellectuals and mystics. According to these mystics, the soul is trapped like a bird in a cage and that cage is the material body.

Being an expert in employing the poetic visions, Molana pays especial attention to this concept. In his Masnavi, and other famous works he constantly talks about this issue saying that the human soul is like a bird which has come down to earth from heaven and is far away from his origin. The soul has been imprisoned in the material word.

Following this point of view, Molana regards this material world as a dreadful cage in which the bird of human soul is a wonderer.

Only the soul is from the spiritual world and does not need any material tool. He is happy in the spiritual world and experiences joy from spiritual pleasures. Just as he enters the body and comes down to this material world, his happiness is taken away from him. There is one exception and that is in the case where the person forgets the material world and leaves any material attachments jus as the old harp player who "made the harp his only acquaintance and lied on a gravestone."

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جان او آنجا سرایان ماجرا کاندر این جا گر بماندندی مرا خوش بدی جانم در این باغ و بهار مست این صحرا و غیبی لاله زار بی پر و بی پا سفر می کردمی بی لب و دندان شکر می خوردمی (مثنوي)

It should be pointed that the idea of the Imprisonment of the soul in the material body has been represented in the works of other poets such as Hafez:

The aim of this article is to find the origin of the thought that soul is imprisoned in the material body and also what sources has Molana used to picture his thought about this issue.

Picture of the material world in Molana's thought:

It seems that the thought of the imprisonment of the soul has an important place in the Iranian-Islamic thought. According to this thought....

This view of the world is shown several times in Molana's poems. The poet shows this view by many different examples and forms so that all the social and cultural classes would understand it. The material world has been pictured in Molana's poems as follows:

prison:

Molana sees this world like a cage or prison in which we are kept and advises that we should tear a part of this world and save ourselves from it.

(دفتر اول: بيت 986)

The bird is imprisoned in the claws of this material world and the key to this prison is in the hands of men.

(دفتر چهارم، بیت 2035)

In another poem he says that it is important for us to break the walls of the towers and castles of this material world. O how painful it is to see the bird of the human soul is imprisoned in the cage of material body and both the soul and the body are imprisoned in the prison of life. Therefore, for the mystic death is a pleasant thing by which both the body and soul are liberated and reach the garden of spirituality.

To imply this meaning, Molana uses other terms such as "sajn" meaning a prison and " sajn e kharab" meaning the ruined prison and thus the ruined world. In the following verse, he uses an allusion to a verse of Koran which says: bow to God and get close to him so that you can find a way out of this ruined prison.

Poem...

"Habs"

Molana makes different combinations using the word "habs".

eg:

ور ر هي خواهي از اين سجن خرب سر مكش از دوست، واسجد واقترب (دفتر اول، بيت 3621)

"Habs e Hasti" :

"Habs e char o panj o shash"

قرب، نه بالا، نه پستی رفتن است قرب حق از حبس هستی رستن است. (دفتر سوم، بیت 4517)

"Habs e jan":

It is evident that the body compared to this world is like the small world to the great world. Therefore the poet calls the body "a small prison"

"abgir" or a lake:

The poet sees the world as a lake which prevents the water to reach the sea of divine love.

سوی دریا عزم کن زین آبگیر بحر جو و ترک این گرداب گیر (دفتر چهارم، بیت 2235)

"Golkhan" or a bath stove:

Another simile for representing the blackness and usefulness of this material world is the word "golkhan". Molana has compared this world to a bath stove and man is a wood carrier of this stove. The poet asks man to leave this bath stove and go to the bath itself which is the holy virtue.

In the following verse, he likens the spiritual world to a garden and the material world to bath stove: هر که را گلشن بود بزم و وطن کی خورد او باده اندر گولخن؟

1(دفتر پنجم، بيت 3595)

"sargin" or cow dung:

Molana sees the spiritual world as a world of flowers whereas the person who is attached to the material world is plunged into dung.

"ab o gol" water and flower:

"Jife/corpse"

Molana frequently compares this material world to a corpse and the person attached to the material world seeks this corpse. On one hand, comparing athe material world to a corpse has an allusion to this verse of Koran which reads as: "الدنيا جيفت و طلابها كلاب". In the following verses, addressing Belgheys, he says:

In another poem, regarding this verse of Koran, he explains that Prophet Mohammad did not conquer Mecca for the sake of the love of material world.

"chah" or a well

In some instances Molana compares this world to a well.

(دفتر پنجم، ابيات1767-1769)

"ab e siya" black water:

چون؟ ای که صبرت نیست از دنیای دون چونت صبر است از خدا؟ ای دوست چون که صبرت نیست زین آب سیاه چون صبوری داری از چشمه اله؟ (دفتر چهارم، ابیات 3213-3214)

Poets before Molana had the same idea of the material world. For example Attar e Neyshabouri in

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his Ellahi name says:

(المهي نامه، بيت 306)

Also in Tazkeratololia he frequently pays attention to this concept. For example in Mohammad Havari's story he says: "...whoever looks upon this world with friendship and sincerity, God will take out the light of poverty from his heart.." He also says "This world is like a

The Gnostic thought and it's influence on the thoughts of Iranian intellectuals:

The teachings of Gnosticisms is ancient which has been practiced since the first and second centuries before christen. In the first centuries after the Christ it was popular in Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine and Egypt. Even Christianity had some connection to this thought. This teaching which can be called the illumination of the soul, aimed at liberating the soul from the material world and tacking it to the land of light and heaven to where the soul belongs.

Mani was very much influenced by the Gnostic teachings. His thoughts which were taken from ancient Iranian teachings, Mesopotamian thoughts and other ancient schools had a great influence on the intellectuals after him.

Therefore the teachings of Iranian mystics are very much similar to those of Mani's. This will be shown by comparing the following fragments:

According to Mani's teachings and his followers, the myth for creation was as follows:

In the beginning the Paradise of Light stretched unbounded. Below, or southwards, lay the Hell of Darkness. The Paradise is ruled by The Father of Greatness and the ruler of Hell of Darkness was the Devil. By chance the Devil came to the boundary between hell and heaven, and saw, desired and invaded the Light. In order to protect his realm, the Father of Greatness evoked by word the Mother of Light from himself. The Mother of Light evokes her "son", the First Man, and he evokes as his "sons" the Five Light Elements, from the substance of the Paradise of Light. However these Gods are defeated in the battle with the Devil of Darkness. The First Man, overwhelmed in the depth of hell, remains unconscious on the battlefield. Recovering his senses, he cries out for help, and his mother, hearing him, pleads with the Father of Greatness who evokes the Second creation of Gods for his aid. The Living spirit (god of the second creation) goes to the edge of the abyss and utters a call and the First Man answers from the depths. Call and Answer themselves are made gods.

The creation of the world:

The Living Spirit attacks and defeats the power of Darkness. From the bodies of the demons he has killed he makes 8 earths, from their skins 10 skies. From a portion of the swallowed Light that is still undefiled he makes sun and moon.

The creation of man:

In order to create man, a pair of demon-animal creatures mate, and produce Adam and Eve in the

forms of the Gods. The accumulated Light in their bodies is transmitted to the first human pair, and forms their souls.

Regarding the creation of man from Mani's point of view, it can be said that man without knowing it, is the prison of Light and the reproduction of human beings only makes more lights to be imprisoned. This is exactly what Molana says in this verse:

دمیده هرکس به چشم صورت ما را کجا شناسد ما نور کردگاریم در آب و گل

Therefore it is everyone's duty to try to return the imprisoned light to its origin which is the heaven. It seems that this has been the purpose of creating man. It is clear that in doing this mission, Gods and Angles will assist man. This is similar to the thoughts of mystics who think that Love can be reached only by individual salvation. If during life man has done good deeds, he will reach salvation without any reincarnation.

Conclusion:

There is no doubt that Molana has been influenced by Islam in framing his thought about the soul being imprisoned in the corps. Many attribute the famous narration "الدنيا سجن المومن" to Prophet Ali and others to Prophet Sajad. However we must take into account that it is usual for the intellectuals of our country to choose what is thought valuable thoughts. They concentrate on the views of other religions and take what is thought legitimate. Therefore in my opinion Molana being informed of the thoughts of his predecessors, has been very much influenced by them.

ابیات: 268، 407، 2457 از دفتر دوم؛ 1045، 1978 از دفتر چهارم؛ 1740 از دفتر پنجم و همچنین بنگرید به ـ ۱ از دفتر ششم 2977. 110

² - Boyce, p. 110.

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- .55 **آلبری، ص** ۔ ³
- ⁴- Boyce, p. 106.
- ⁵ Boyce, p. 96.
- به بعد نک وامقی، ص 95 ـ ٥
- به بعد نک وامقی، ص 107 ـ7