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The Romantic Impuls A Study of Nazik Al-Mala'ika Early Poems

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Abstract: sad feeling and emotion in Nazik al Malika did not come from nothing but there are many reason for her sadness .We can say that her sensitive nature is the main one as well as the circumstances which happen around her (the political and social one) For her long poem which its name gives us a clear idea about content (Misreable of life) in which she connect the shapes and in which she search about happiness and at last she satisfied that the death is the last chance of happiness . "Deat" some young girl satisfied with such fact. youg whom she suppose to be , active . immtur , happy , joyful but she thought only about death and many other thing we will talk about briefly in this research paper . Also the good well educated family and and the level she live in , studying abroed , getting the outside information about westen literature , gives he big push to be some one so special and so sensitive poetess.

I. WAR INFLUANCE ON THE POETRY AND POET

The second World War had a huge influence on the life of millions of people , particularly on the poet and writers who had to try and make sense of the violence and destruction and put it into words .Like every one else poet had to try and figure out how to copy with a new and different life in the world. Many poets notice that there was a real need to break with the old traditions and invent new styles of writing that reflected the new post-War-World. The changes were noticed mostly in Western poets and writers whose countries had lost millions of people in the War , but Arab writers, who were influenced directly by both the war and the western authors changed their writing also. In Iraq , poets like(Nazik al-Malaika , Bader Shaker ak Sayaab , Shathel Taka, Abdul Wahab al- Bayyati , Saffa al-Haderi , Akram aal-Witri and Abdul Razak Abdul Wahid)Were very interested in English literature in general and English poetry in particular. The Iraqi poets read for many great English authors, like John Donne, T.S Elliot , Lord Dryan and John Keats ,they read to the English authors both as a way to understand English culture, and as away of understanding influential western literature movements like Romanticism .As they read more and more English works the Iraqi author themselves would greely admit how much English of an effect their peers had on them. For example Al-Sayaab confessed that he was moved not only by the works of T.S.Elliot but also by what he learened about the Englishman as a person. In short, many ideas were passed from the English writer to their Iraqi countryparts.

II. SHAKESPEARE EARLY IMPULS TO NAZIK AL-MALA'KA'S

Poetess Nazik al-Mala'ka was born in baghdad in 1923to a very educated family who was also very fond of poetry. her father(Sadik al -Malaika) mother , uncles were all in fact poet themselves. Of course, this meant that al Malika was influenced greatly by all the poet around her whil growing up . From early childhood she read arabic poetry , influencing the work of Ali Mahmud Taha al mouhandas , whom she admitted being very influenced by her early years of life In particular , she lovedhis opinion of nature of whic she said that (1) " nature is the main source of soft feeling and the spring which never ended from beauty" other Arab writers she was influenced by Ibraheem Naji and Mahommd Hassan .it was during her years as a student that nazik al Malika discovered werstrn authors , especially English ones. One of her first English influences or we can say the most influential eastern writer of all time was Shakespeare. In one of his essays she writes about her introduction into English literature, saying that (2) "I began with shakespeare and his dramas ,sonnets and long poems . I loved them so much .I still find ecstasy when I read his poetry because he is the poet's poet she read shakespeare and eventually translated one of his sonnet into Arabic. That led to translations of Lord Byron's (The sea and Thomas) Elegy written in country charchyard. Nazik al Malika's western influences were not limited to just shakespeare she had long list of wertern authors that she read from anf try to learn from.

She realized that there were many masters to read and to study In one essay she summarize her other influencees such as " John keats I studied him widely , learned so many of his poems by heart as well as Frank Thomasin , Robert Blake , T.S.Elliot and Dylan ThomS " Perhas her favourit thought was John Donne about whom she writes , (3) " the one who I liked best was Donne , because his poetry seems to me magnificent in its idea , which were very interesting to me " with so many western wroters to reas Nazik al-Malaika realized that she could not read them all and even thought Edgar Allen Poe , Oscar Wilde , William Wordsworth and others made up most of her educational reading , she still found time to appreciate the great "Anon " writers in western literature.

III. NAZIK AL-MALA'KA'S SAD FELLING

In the year of 1944 Nazik started to read more and more English long poems and admire them so much this led her decided to write her own long poem in Arabic She wrote her

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first long poem (The Misrable Of Life) so, after and said about it that " it was a clear picture of the Romantic view which covered me early on my life with sad feeling and a fear of death . As the title reflects the poem talks about the suffering of life and the perfect pessimism effected by (Schopenhauer) (4) the philosopher of sadness and his affect on al -Malaika early on the life .Its sad to think that our poetess wrote her pessimistic long poem when she was 22 years old an age that supposed to be one of the activity ,hope and optimism about life. We need to remember that she was living in was one of war and destruction and just like her fellow English ,French ,American and Arab writers there was little to be hopeful about in the year 1944 just like her favourite writer John Donne. Once had to remind his reader in English that "No man is an Island , every one a part of the main " al -Malaika must have felt alone like an "Island " in those difficult time.

- **Yasie Suleiman:** British Journal Of Middle Eastern studies .Vol.22 No1 /2(1995 pp9.

**IV. WORDSWORTH , KEATS ,, BARON TO NAZIK
AL-MALA'KA'S**

William Wordsworth is perhaps unique among Romantic poets in his ability not only as a poet but as a fine moralist, philosopher and love of nature throughout Wordsworth's work , he provides examples of nature's good influence on the human mind. All manifestation of the natural world from the highest mountain to the simplest flowers elicit noble, elevated, thoughts and passionate emotions in the people who observe them, he argues Wordsworth repeatedly (1) emphasize the importance of nature to an individual's intellectual and spiritual development. He believes that a good relationship with nature helps individuals connect to both the spiritual and social world. He also argues that people who spend a lot of time in nature, such as labourers and farmers retain the purity and nobility of their soul. Interestingly, William Wordsworth considers nature a source of both his greatest strengths and greatest weakness .He has described natural scenes better than perhaps any poet who ever lived . his praise of the human mind and specifically the human imagination stresses that humans can overcome much difficulty and pain and that the transformative powers of the mind are valuable to all of us regardless of class and background. In this way, Wordsworth reflects his strong support of political , religious and artistic right. In 1802 he produced "Lyrical Ballad" in which he explains the relationship between poetry and mind , poetry he says (2)is " emotion recollected in tranquility " that is the mind transforms the raw experience of emotion into poetry .Later in(Ode: Intimation of morality)he imagines nature as a source of inspiring material that comes from a nourished active mind. Another theme of William Wordsworth's poetry childhood; specifically that childhood is a magical and magnificent time of innocent. Integrating the two themes he feels that children from some of the most intense bonds with nature more so even than adults .This is evident in his poem about "Lucy " (3)

She dwelt among th' untrod ways

Beside the springs of Dove,
A Maid whom there were none to praise
And very few to love.

A Violet by a mossy stone
Half-hidden from the Eye!
—Fair, as a star when only one
Is shining in the sky!

She liv'd unknown, and few could know
When Lucy ceas'd to be;
But she is in her Grave, and Oh!
the difference to me.

A slumber did my spirit seal;
I had no human fears:
She seemed a thing that could not feel
The touch of earthly years.

No motion has she now, no force;
She neither hears nor sees;
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course,
With rocks, and stones, and trees.

In these lines we see Wordsworth praise this young girl's beauty and lament her untimely death. In death "Lucy" unlike the living children who must eventually grow up. In "Ode" Wordsworth's voice shines through in his conviction that children delight in nature because they have access to a divine , imaginary world as children and that as they mature they lose that connection , even as they gain the ability to feel deeper emotion. Like William Wordsworth, John Keats also wrote beautiful English language poetry . Among John Keats' greatest achievements of the sequence of six lyric Odes , an achievement that is made all the more miraculous by the short time in which he has to achieve it before his untimely death. Keats was one of the most important figures in the early 19th century Romantic Movement that espoused the sanctity of emotion and imagination as well as praising the beauty of nature. Keats's great Odes are quintessentially concerned with Romantic themes; the beauty of nature , the relationship between imagination and creativity , the response of the passions to beauty and suffering , and the transience of human life in time. The sumptuous sensory language in which the Odes are written, and their idealistic concern with beauty , truth and their expressive agony in the face of death , are all Romantic preoccupations though at the same time they are all uniquely Keats. Keats' ode explores and develops the same themes partake of many of the same approaches and images and order themselves in such a way as many other Romantic works.

This is not to say that they do not stand on their own because they do magnificently , one of the best things about the sequence he developed and perfected is that it can be entered at any point , view wholly or partially and still prove moving and rewarding to read ,the same cannot be said of many other forms. John Keats was not a lover of nature to the degree of someone like Wordsworth but he does let his

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appreciation for beauty and nature things shine through in his writing. His more subdued tone and deeply affected writing compare nicely with the writing of Nazik al-Malaika, which makes sense since, as we will see they both embraced their fair share of suffering and sorrow.

- Judith Oneil Critic On Keats (New Delhi Universal Book Stall, N.D) PP142.144.
- Robert Gitting :John Keats , The Living Year(London :Heinemann)PP142.144.
- George K.Anderson :The Literature of England (Scott, Foresman and Company .N.D) PP50 .55.

Nazik al- Malaika Poems: Nazik al- Malaika like her fellow poet, drew much from the influence of foreign literature .The first thing which she picked up on as a young writer was some of the ideas and themes of German pessimistic philosopher. Schopenhauer , sadness indeed was a central theme for both writer and of the most important emotions Nazik al-Malaika allowed to guide her pen .We can judge that ,through it helps her writing , she is made sick by the great feelings of sadness that overcome her at different points in her life . For instance , she writes in the "Shadia Wa Ramad" (poem to her dead aunt) That :

Tear is shed and shed me
My heart tear to a piece
Its drop tear me to pieces
Still found in my blood
My eyes burned from sad
Blinded in the bad picture for her

When sadness possess Nazik al_Malaika and when she cannot tolerate it any longer , she takes refuge in nature , just as Wordsworth and other Romantics did .We can see this trend in the following passage of hers (1)
Even the cloud still in the weather a symbol
To a continuous black life
While the wind is yellow in its tone
Its the mockery of life to us
Look,
Everything on earth cry
So, just wake up dreamer

Nazik al-Malaika didn't live always in sadness, but she did try to use the sadness and melancholy she often felt to strengthen her spirit .We can clearly see that psychological problems affected her life and made her battle with despair often. Indeed, the sad themes of her poems are often heartbreaking for the reader and allow him /her to feel what Al- Malaika had to deal with. Often we are controlled with the use of night by Al-Malika as a way to visually express the melancholy she feels .Nazik al_Malaika used night as other poets have to turn a mirror to her feelings and emotions. The absence of light is a powerful reflection of her philosophical attitude at many stages of her life . The night is a symbol of suffering and discomfort as she says in (Misrable of life /21)

On vein , dream my poetess

There is no morning to this long night
On vein , you ask to your secret not to reveal
You will not be blessed in freedom

So, night according to Nazik often comes with the miseries of life suffering and grief , she also describes it as (misrable of life 24)

How long this sad night around
And how they surrounded to it
Night witness to it
So, where the other from past?
And
I'm as night, silent, deep, awakeup
As a star, odd, far, shining

Nazik wasn't just preoccupied with sadness though and she also understands the power of love in her writing and of human relationships in giving people hope .Both as person and as poetess as she says in (Sadaia Wa Ramad /98)(translation for her poem)

I love, I love my heart is loved in crazy
In so deep love
I love , in my soul so odd feeling
In it my feeling spread

From this line we can feel the Romantic spirit of Nazik al_Malaika. She is looking for love and when she does not find it . She again feels the sadness .Here, light is love and night is love rejected. so, Nazik al-Malika experience with romance is a sad one This is not unlike the sadness and endless night John Keats felt in losing his mother and father , the last significant theme we deal with is death , which has a very special place in Nazik al Malika's work as in many other poets. The presence of death is specially felt in al_Malika's long poem (The misrable of life) where she writes that " quickly I began my long poem and named it the Misrable of life and it's a title that refers to my perfect pessimism and my feeling that is nothing but complications and pain and I depend on a motto to my poem which comes from the German philosopher (Schopenhauer) he says (I don't know why we open the curtain about a new life whatever it is closed about a dead defeated'when can be courage enough to confess that love of life is a big mistake and the great blessing for human beings is death itself " the last quote may be sad , but it is the true Nazik al-Malaika and in its own special way it reflects a certain kind of hope , the same hope that drives people like Keats and Wordsworth to write poetry and people like us to read it.

V. CONCLUSION

At last we can conclude that the sad feeling and emotion in Nazik al Malika did not come from nothing but there are many reasons for her sadness .We can say that her sensitive nature is the main one as well as the circumstances which happen around her (the political and social one). For her long poem which its name gives us a clear idea about content (Misrable of life) in which she connects the shapes and in

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