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Poetic Emotions in Imagery: Illustrations from Dewan- E- Ghalib

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Abstract

This paper aims to investigate how Ghalib's classical approach to using imagery and metaphorical language evokes powerful emotions. The study calls on a thorough reading of selected poems from Dewan-e-Ghalib and analyses the imagery used by Ghalib to express emotions like love, longing, sorrow, and agony. This study highlights how Ghalib's imagery is often layered with multiple meanings and dimensions, creating a rich tapestry of emotions that captivates the eyes and mind of the reader. The study also explores how Ghalib's use of imagery reflects the cultural and literary norms and traditions of the time, as well as his own unique style and voice and his contributions to Urdu literature. Moreover, study contributes to our understanding of the power of poetic imagery to convey emotions and create a deep emotional connection with the reader through painting, which is a source of preserving and transmitting knowledge. An effort is made to strengthen the meaning and expand the horizons of two arts through mutual sustainability and illumination based on Dewan-e-Ghalib.

Keywords: Ghalib, Poetic Emotions, Illustration

Introduction

Imagery is the symbolic reflection of emotions expressed by the poet in language. Literature is an aesthetic form of verbal text that creates images of the emotions expressed in the poetic form which is presented in another art form called imagery or painting. Poetic emotion in imagery is the emotional response stirred by the catching words used in poetry. It is a complex and subjective experience that can be influenced by various factors, like the poet's selection of words, observation,

imaginative force, the reader's personal experiences, and the most striking aesthetic of the poem. A poet rearranges words for inner reflection of emotions and those emotions create imagery that makes them sister arts. Thus, a linkage is developed between the human mind and the external environment. *Imagery refers to images produced in the mind by language, whose words may refer either to experiences that could produce physical perceptions, were the reader actually to have those experiences, or to the sense impressions themselves* (Llorens, 2003).

This suggests a relationship between poetry and painting. These forms of art become a source of information and expansion of knowledge. Textual representation in the form of painting increases its beauty. The poet evokes sentiments, feelings, and thoughts in readers' minds through the rhythmic words and their expression becomes touchier due to symbols and images. Mental imagery is a cognitive process of creating images of the words that help well in understanding and interpretation of the poetry, particularly for those readers who have a different background. This would create an aesthetic interest in the reader's mind. Here the verbal and non-verbal (imagery) narrations play a significant role for better insight into the words used in poetry (Yuan & Guoyuan, 2022).

A poet expresses his feelings and experiences through poetry, and it is the imagery that is the best source of communicating and expressing those emotions. Poets generate images in the words and if the reader observes them, he can better understand the aesthetic sense and depth of the poetry. That word flows in the mind in the form of pictures and images (Paudel, 2021). When these aesthetic words are painted on canvas, this makes the poetic word vaster and eternal for the next generations.

Ghalib's poetry is known for its beauty, depth, and philosophical undertones representing emotions of love, agony, and sorrow and has been a source of inspiration for artists to imagine them and visualize them on paper in the form of painting. These paintings seek to capture the essence and emotion of Ghalib's poetry, as well as the socio-cultural, historical, and psychological context in which it was written. The themes of Ghalib's poetry are diverse and range from love and loss to spirituality and mortality. The way Ghalib used lyrical beauty with metaphors and symbolism inspired the artist to paint them with watercolors to express the rhythmic essence that flows through and captures readers. His poetry offers a rich tapestry of imagery and emotion to work with. The artist used watercolors as it has the diversity to express the multipolarity in Ghalib's poetic emotions.

The transparent and watery effects of watercolors distinguish it from the other color mediums to portray the true and deep emotions of Ghalib's poetry.

This paper illustrates the imagery in the selective poetry from Dewan-e- Ghalib. Dewan-e- Ghalib is a collection of Urdu poetry by the renowned poet Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib. Ghalib's poetry is rich in imagery and emotional depth, making it an excellent source of inspiration for visual artists. Here Artist tries to illustrate the poetic emotion in Ghalib's poetry by focusing on the vivid imagery and sensory responses through painting using watercolor and sketching on canvas by applying the psychological approach to investigate and express the underlying essences and emotions in his poetry. Ghalib's poetry reflects the emotions of love, agony, and remorse. For instance, Ghalib's these couplets are a beautiful reflection of his philosophical depth:

آہ کو چاہیے اک عُمر آثر ہونے تک
کون جیتا ہے تیری زُلف کے سر ہونے تک
دام ہر موج میں ہے حلقہٴ صدّ کام نہنگ
دیکھیں کیا گزرے ہے قطرے پہ گہر ہونے تک

These couplets express a deep yearning for an impact that is long-lasting, indicating a longing for something significant in life. The second line is a rhetorical question that signifies the ephemeral nature of beauty and youth. The notion in the couplets refers that one can only live until the peak of one's beauty, it is a reminder of the transience of life and the inevitability of mortality. These couplets express a sense of melancholy and a bittersweet longing for something that cannot be attained forever. The use of powerful imagery and metaphor creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind, evoking a strong emotional response.

Poetry and visual arts have common features to evoke emotions and communicate underlying ideas through creative expression. Poets produce emotions through the masterly selection of words and make them vivid using literary techniques such as metaphors, paradoxes, similes, and symbolism. The same is the case in visual arts, where emotions can be portrayed through imagery, composition, and color. In this work, the Artist has selected watercolor painting and sketching: more relevant and well-suited for expressing poetic emotions due to their fluidity and transparency, and simplicity. The multipolarity, unpredictability, and light nature of watercolor can create a sense of movement and spontaneity: it can evoke feelings of freedom and expression.

The artist has selected poems from Dewan-e- Ghalib reflecting the emotions of agony and sorrows and painted them on canvas through painting using watercolors and sketching. Watercolors are particularly selected for expressing the sense of melancholy and sadness in the imagination of the words of poets. The artist has excellently applied the watercolor pallets keeping in mind the principles of color theory, composition, and perspective to convey the emotion of sadness depicted in Ghalib's poetry. The artist used watercolor paintings and sketches to create a visual representation of imagery, using a muted color palette to express the melancholy mood in representing the passage of time and the impermanence of life expressed by Ghalib.

The artist focused on the emotional depth and complexity of Ghalib's poetry in transforming it into a painting. For instance, in the following couplet, Ghalib uses metaphor and imagery to express his feelings of alienation and existential despair:

ہر ایک بات پہ کہتے ہو تم کہ تو کیا ہے
تم ہی کہو کہ یہ اندازِ گفتگو کیا ہے

The artist used watercolor paintings and sketches to create a visual and imaginative representation of such emotions, using bold, expressive brushstrokes to convey the intensity of the poet's feelings and cool, muted tones to convey moments of sadness, agony, and introspection through her work.

The rich emotional element and sensory response to words used in Ghalib's poetry inspired the Artist to illustrate them in a new medium using pencil sketches and a watercolor pallet to create a visual representation of these elements. The artist created a powerful and evocative work of art that captures the essence of Ghalib's poetry through paintings. The current paper is focused on the emotions of love, agony, and remorse in poetry in general and particularly selecting couplets from Dewan-e- Ghalib expressed in painting. This paper is unique in the sense that imagery has mostly been discussed according to the words used by poets but in the current study, those words and couplets have been illustrated through the medium of paintings, which makes it more interesting to readers for deep insight and communicating those imageries.

The main argument of the article is that Mirza Ghalib's couplets are enriched with vivid imagery and metaphors to express complex and diverse emotions. The article delves into Ghalib's literary styles and explores how his poetry evokes a variety of emotions in the reader. The artist, through her paintings, seeks to present Ghalib's use of imagery and creates a rich tapestry of emotions so that contemporary readers can relate them to his poetry.

Literature Review

Yeh & Lin, (2014) explains that in modern time practice of presenting culture through painting is in vogue where poets as in China converts poetry into design for transmitting knowledge to the new generation.

In “Study of Communication in Turning Poetry into Painting” (Gao, Chen, Lee, Lin , & Jin , 2017) say that ideas hidden in poetry can best be communicated to others by converting poetry into the painting by developing a framework.

(Akhtar, Shah, & Qureshi, Manifestations of Social Realism Across Diverse Forms of Pakistani Art, 2020) have enumerated various aspects of social realism based on inequality like gender discrimination or injustices against women and marginalise. people discussed the various aspects of the social realism movement that focused on various themes like poverty, anti-state demonstration, anti-imperialism, class inequality, social injustice, and gender oppression. He has elaborated the contemporary art and its diverse effects in Pakistan. They referred to two poems namely “Meray Daer ko jo Zuban Milay” by Faiz Ahmad and digital art series (The Veil) by Rashid Rana to depict the social injustice in the society of Pakistan.

has described Sadequain as a painter and poet with artistic skills and determination in styles of work. He was a wonderful calligrapher who worked on verses from the Quran. He picked the Poetry of Ghalib and Iqbal and molded them into paintings admired by viewers.

(Chughtai, 1928) collected couplets from Dewan -e- Ghalib and converted them on canvas. This was the first-ever effort to transform Ghalib’s poetry into a new medium. He had mixed Mughal and graphic styles and borrowed from Tagore’s Japanese wash technique. Paintings represent themes of love, mysteries, and the philosophy of life in a lucid way.

Sadequain is a painter of high stature in art manifestation whose work has insight or the worldly and spiritual contours. He brushed the truth of society on canvas and let others ton feel its grotesque from his perspective. His work evolved in finding the self, nude representation, stories of human sufferings, and salvation. He chose the poetry of Ghalib, Faiz, and other poets and illustrated them with his perception of self-realization and consciousness, enlightenment, and mysticism. He expressed his feelings about the complexities through his experience, and observation to seek the truth (Usman & Mahmood, 2018).

Apart from the said literature work, there were numerous works done on the same theme highlighting the conversion of Ghalib and other poets' couplets. These projects include the "Kalam-i-Iqbal, Naqsh-i- Kamal" by Aslam Kamal, A Labour of Love: Review of "Sadequain: Artist and Poet- A Memoir by Syed Ali Naqvi, article by Sonia Malik "Cultural heritage: Faiz's poetry on canvas, Dr, Salman Ahmad in "Sadequain and Ghalib: Hindi Version, works of Shahid Rasam and Russel reveal the significance of artwork on Ghalib's poetry. The present work is the imagery reflection of Ghalib's poetry in modern painting to further advance the painting of poetry.

Life of Ghalib.

Ghalib, the Dabirul Mulk Turk, a descendent of the House of Turan was born in 1797 at Agra. His forefathers migrated from Transoxiana to India in the unstable realm of Shah Alam. Mirza Abdullah Bag, the father of Asadulla was born in Dehli. Abdullah Bag along with his brother Nasrullah Bag started military services. Abdullah Bag was killed in a fight against a rebel farmer when Ghalib was five only. Ghalib was familiar with all the important subjects prevalent, which included astronomy, medicine, philosophy, and theology. He excelled in all of them, but he was longing for language, especially Persian literature. He wrote poems in Persian, and later in Urdu, right from the age of 8 years. Raja Bakhtawar Singh fixed some grants for the children of Baig. Ghalib went under the supervision of his uncle Nasrullah who died when he (Ghalib)was nine. Then, he was brought up by his mother's family. He compiled Masnavi when he was 10. Mirza got married to the daughter of Nawab Ilahi Bakhsh at the age of thirteen and settled in Delhi for the rest of his life at the age of 19, he became a complete poet (Verma, 2008).

Mirza Ghalib remained the student of a Persian teacher Harmuzd later converted to Islam and named Abdul Samad who taught him Persian for two years. This was the time that developed his taste for Persian and got a prominent name in Persian literature. After that he turned to Urdu and produced a bulk collection of Urdu ghazals which earned popularity not only in India but throughout the world, however, he praised his Persian Diwan more than the Urdu one. As Persian became a secondary language in India and was replaced by Urdu, hence Ghalib got public attention because of his Urdu work. The Mughal empire was heading to its twilight period as Marathas were gaining currency and by 1803, Britishers were approaching the capital. (Beg, 1941).

War of Independence brought misery for Mirza as he lost his close family members including Mirza Yousaf, (Ghalib's younger brother). Financial problems remained as such for two years after the war,

Nawab Yousaf Ali Khan of Rampur allocated hundred rupees per month and one year later, the British government resumed his pension. Although Mirza's income was not stable, he was very generous to others, spent money on colleagues, and helped the needy. These all events and upheavals in Ghalib's life created the guts and qualities of observation, insights that hurt his emotions which have been expressed by him through his poetry (Hali, 1897).

Ghalib as a Poet

Ghalib has the same status in Urdu poetry as Shakespeare in English: expressing thoughts and dictions is a philosopher-poet of the highest order, the world has ever seen. Ghalib's poetry encapsulates the wide range of styles and artistic dimensions in Urdu literature and is disseminated to the European continent. None of his contemporaries or modern poets has got such popularity as him. Ghalib's analytical thinking, perceptions, visions, dictions, and philosophy were progressive portraying the emotions, circumstances, and challenges he faced during his life. (Niazi, 2009). Ghalib was a great poet of the nineteenth century with distinct styles and colors of poetry. He contributed to Urdu literature through his unique style as,

ہیں اور بھی دنیا میں سخن ور بہت اچھے
کہتے ہیں کہ غالب کا بے انداز بیباں اور

The people say there are other good poets too, yet Ghalib's style is unique.

Russel further describes the distinctive features of Mirza's poetry that reflect a keen and unsentimental observation of man, God, the universe, self-respect, value of mankind, originality, and unabashed expression on various themes loved by generations to come. He wrote about various aspects of life including love, arrogance, sorrow, remorse, and happiness like

نیند اُس کی ہے، دماغ اُس کا ہے، راتیں اُس کی ہیں
تیری زلفیں جس کے بازو پر پریشاں ہو گئیں

(Gillani & Babar, 2021) Mirza Ghalib was a true representation of the values that exist in society. He expressed those truths and values through his poetry. His orchestration of feelings and ideas reached the apex in portraying beauty, love, sorrow, and agony. His themes present the whims and wish in an artistic style of diverse sections of society. He excellently used paradox, irony, and metaphor in expressing these ideas and emotions. His poetry reflects various colors and shades of life, colorful in one situation and sad in the other, and humorous in the next enriched his poetry with different tastes (Mahmud, 1993).

Ghalib's poetry not only shows the elements of love, pain, agony, and sorrow but at the same time, we found dialectical aspects as well as his critics like Altaf Hussain Hali and other contemporaries observed in his ideas. A logical expression is the hallmark of his poetry in different connotations. His life is a bundle of joy, sorrow, and other likely forces which haunted him throughout his life are reflected using the devices such as paradoxes, irony, and metaphors as (War, 2021).

ہر ایک بات پہ کہتے ہو کہ تو کیا ہے
تم ہی کہو کہ یہ انداز گفتگو کیا ہے

Ghalib is a renowned poet in Urdu, because of his diverse themes and style as his work was epoch-making. Ghalib was a master of Persian and Urdu ghazals, and no one could compete with him as his ghazals follow thoughts expressing a range of emotions reflecting the complexities of life with originality. He has also written Qasidas (eulogies of kings), and Marsiyas (elegies), and Masnavis. Ghalib's poetry is best regarded for its complexity, depth, and versatility with a wide range of topics, from love and spirituality to philosophy and politics, and his style of poetry was known for its wit, humor, and subtlety (Silver, 2015).

Dewan-e- Ghalib

Dewan-e-Ghalib is a collection of Urdu poetry, a masterpiece celebrated for its unparalleled literary style, depth of thought, and philosophical insight into literature written by Mirza Ghalib. Poetry in Dewan-e-Ghalib is a unique combination of intellectual depth, poetic virtuosity, and emotional resonance that attract readers. Ghalib's ghazals are famous for their delicate wordplay, subtle irony, symbolism, and intellectual and complex metaphors, which challenge the reader's intellect and create multiple interpretations and inspirations. Shamsur Rahman Faruqi in his work "The Mirror of Beauty," argues that Ghalib's poetry is enriched with a multiplicity of meaning, thoughts, tonal variations, and an intellectual density that the other poets wanted (Faruqi, 2013).

Dewan-e-Ghalib delves into a wide range of themes, including spirituality, nihilism, philosophy, and social commentary reflecting the observation and experiences, inner turmoil, and the struggles Ghalib faced in his life. In her book "Ghalib: Epistemologies of Elegance," Azra Raza points out that Ghalib's poetry is the combination of a rich tapestry of literary techniques and philosophical ideas, which embody the contradictions and complexities of his period. Ghalib's poetry is a benchmark for Urdu poetry and has set the standard for literary excellence that influences

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generations (Raza, 2009) Dewan-e-Ghalib is not a mere collection of Urdu poetry, but it has played a significant role in shaping and promoting Urdu literature. Its themes, literary styles, and techniques continue to inspire and challenge readers and poets around the world.

Artist's Work on Ghalib

The artist has selected the couplets from Dewan e Ghalib and keeping in view the imagery reflection of poetry converted them on canvas to transform poetry into another art form. This is predominantly creative analytical research based on Ghalib's poetry extracted from *Dewan Ghalib* developed from various books, journal articles, and experts' opinions. For this purpose, artists met with other artists like Shahid Rasam who helped her in developing the idea of poetic emotions in imagery through the couplets of Ghalib This research is the amalgamation of mentioned techniques with the modern patterns in illustrating Ghalib's poetry through painting. This research is the outcome of practice art done in a studio at home. Dewan e Ghalib studied and selected some couplets. Various sketches were drawn and after deep observation of the underlying insight of the couplet was reflected through painting. The couplets are written on the painting, illustrated, and last the description of the painting is given through the colors and images of the artist. Some of the couplets were portrayed as below. (Abid & Yusafzai, 2016)



Poetic Emotions in Imagery: Illustrations from Dewan- E- Ghalib

Artist: Hajira Anwar

Medium: Watercolor on paper

Size: Width: 13 ", Length: 20 "

Color Pallet: Blue, brown, red, yellow, and gray.

Selected Couplet

“Neither arrow in the bow nor hunter in waiting

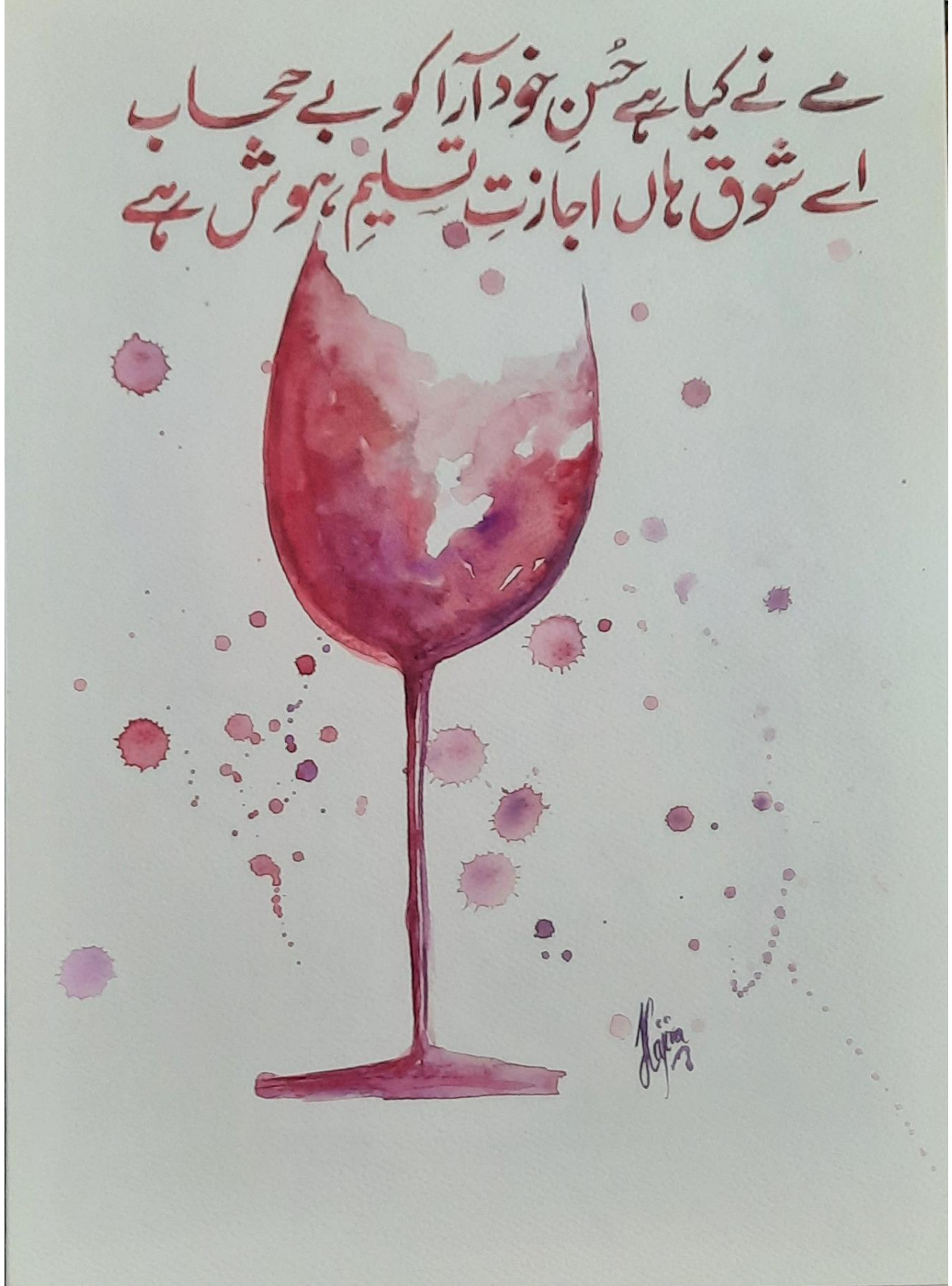
I am happy with this riskless life of slavery” (trns.)

Explanation

This couplet expresses a deep feeling of disappointment, pessimism, and vulnerability. Ghalib prefers to surrender over liberty. He submits to a life of slavery because it is risk-free. The bird in the cage is a metaphor for this submission. Such submission reflects the deep-rooted agony in his poetry. The social and political context needs to be considered to develop a better understanding of Ghalib’s poetry. The couplet seemed to be inspired by the chaos in the post-1857 War of Independence. The uncertainty might have compelled Ghalib to urge for peace and risk-free surrender to what befalls his society.

Painting Description

The color pallet chosen is bold and violent depicting the peace and inner satisfaction of the caged bird, the gray color for the bar is used to reflect disappointment. Red, blue, and yellow colors show the state of joy and happiness which represents a soothing connection between couplets and the paintings by the colors and composition of the painting. Bird is sitting with calm and tranquility without any fear of being hunted and uninterested to be free. The bird is shown composed, healthy, colorful in a satisfactory mood in its abode. The painting reflects the emotions of inner satisfaction in a scary condition where it prefers slavery over risk.



Poetic Emotions in Imagery: Illustrations from Dewan- E- Ghalib

Artist: Hajira Anwar

Medium: Watercolors on paper

Size: Width: 12 ", Length: 16 "

Color Pallet: Red, purple, and pink

Selected Couplet:

“The wine has exposed the self-adorning beauty.

The time has ripened to regain the senses now.”

Explanation:

Ghalib expresses a state of ecstasy in this couplet. As a habitual drinker, he knows that wine has the quality to carry away a person from conscious fears and defeat the socially constructed walls of fear. Modesty is the traditional value associated with the classical concept of beauty. An intoxicated person expresses the purest of their inner self. A lover always desires to know the purest being of their beloved and only wine can serve their purpose. There lies a great paradox here too. Exposure to beauty is always at the expense of a loss of curiosity. Ghalib shows a sense of displeasure for this loss of curiosity, and he wishes to see her again covered with the classical notions of modesty. Therefore, he suggests she come into her consciousness to keep her curiosity alive.

Painting Description:

The red, purple, and pink color pallet is selected to present the wine glass. The red drops outside the glass reflect the overflow. This overflow is representative of the quality of the wine to expose the inner self or subconscious mind of the person. The defective shape of glass reflects the imperfect being of the beloved camouflaged under the notions of modesty. It further ignites a sense of curiosity among the observers. This imperfection allows for an inner association with this piece of art.

Conclusion

Sensing the poetic emotions in the imagery of Mirza Ghalib's poetry reveals the profound impact of his words on readers. Ghalib's unmatched artistry conjures vivid imagery and uses poetic techniques to evoke emotions attracts audiences of all ages and periods. Through his verses, readers are transported to a point where love and longing interweave, where despair flows along with resilience, and where agony transcends over other emotions, the human experiences. Ghalib's poetry inculcates multifarious emotions where one moves through the evergreen landscape of love, a deep sea of sorrows and volcano of anger and agony, and a whirl of remorse that dances before the eye of the

beholder. His poetry reflects the social fabric, political turmoil, and personal struggles that shaped his own life, and resonates with universal human experiences.

Ghalib's poetry reflects an interplay between words, emotion, and imagery in the human mind. He artistically employs metaphors, symbols, and motifs in his poetry that give an insight into the complexities and resonate across time and space. The metaphors like moonlit gardens, turbulent seas, and desolate landscapes depict the inner self, evoking a profound sense of connection and understanding of the physical and metaphysical objects. The dexterity of Ghalib in employing imagery produces a mysterious and majestic aura that captured the attention of the readers.

The artist selected the couplets from Dewan e Ghalib and tried to converge art and literature. The captivating poetry of Mirza Ghalib has ignited the creative spirit of the Artist to embark on a visionary endeavor to portray the imagery. Harnessing the poetic emotion and sensory allure woven into Ghalib's couplets, the Artist has ventured beyond the realm of words, embracing a new medium that breathes life into the poet's imagery through painting employing pencil sketches and watercolor palettes. With agile strokes and a vibrant array of watercolors, the Artist has scrupulously crafted a tapestry of visual representation, ingraining Ghalib's verses with a deep and evocative resonance. Each stroke of the pencil and every wash of color presents a conduit, channeling the raw essence of love, agony, and remorse that saturate the poet's words. This artwork is a testament to the transformative power of creativity, as it encompasses the essence of Ghalib's poetry and brings it to life in a fresh and captivating manner. This project is unique and transcends the horizons of traditional literary analysis of Ghalib's poetry where linguistic elements were employed. Here the realm of imagery is investigated through word and the vivid strokes of the Artist's brush intertwining Ghalib's words with the language of colors that beckon the reader to plunge into the deep ocean of emotions and navigate the corridors of love, agony, remorse, and optimism.

This paper is significant not only in its daring and innovative approach but also encapsulates the essence of Ghalib's poetry portraying it in a visual form. It opens new vistas of investigation and interpretation that allure the readers to perceive the underlying emotions of his verses through paintings. This work would lead not only to insight into Ghalib's poetry but also serve as the medium of preserving literature and transmitting knowledge to the next progeny. This would also make it easy for laymen to understand the concept and essence of poetry who are unable to grab the artistic techniques employed by Ghalib. This artwork would take the

readers to the juxtaposition where words are not only read but imagined feeling waves of emotions dissolving the boundaries between written and visuals.

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