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" Exploring Pantheism and Ghani Khan Thoughts of Anti -Mullah Ideology and His Rebellion Against the Superficial Norms of Religion in his Poetry "IBADAT" "JANNAT" and "THE POIUS PRIEST AND THE MADEMAN" "

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### Abstract

The well-known Pashto poet Ghani Khan used a very distinct method to convey his mystical notions. Ghani's anti-Mullah stance and defiance of the flimsy religious conventions are well known. This study report examines Ghani Khan's poetry from the perspective of Islamic pantheism in order to show his opposition to the customs of the mullahs. Ghani Khan's pantheistic perspective, which acknowledges God in all facets of existence, is evident in his writings. This research examines several poems by Ghani Khan, including "Jannat," "Ibadat," and "The Pious Priest and the Madman." According to the interpretation, Ghani Khan's poetry critiques the mullahs' flimsy rites, painting them as dishonest and corrupt. According to Ghani Khan, genuine faith and a relationship with God go beyond traditional religious rituals. His distinctive mysticism and pantheism highlight love, beauty, and intimate encounters as the real routes to God.

keywords: Ghani Khan, Love, Pantheism, Pashto literature, Poetry

### Introduction

Ghani Khan (1914-1996) was a Pashtun poet, philosopher, and thinker from Pakistan. His poetry and ideas are known for their depth, insight, and challenge to traditional norms. In his poetry, Ghani Khan questioned the superficiality and dogma of organized religion, advocating

for a more personal and spiritual connection with the divine. In "Ibadat" (Worship), Ghani Khan critiques the mechanical and ritualistic practices of religion, emphasizing the importance of genuine devotion and love for the divine. In "Jannat" (Paradise), he challenges the conventional notions of heaven and hell, suggesting that true paradise lies in living a life of compassion, justice, and righteousness. In "The Pious Priest and the Madman", Ghani Khan satirizes the hypocrisy and double standards of religious clergy, highlighting the contradictions between their words and actions.

**Through his poetry, Ghani Khan rebels against:**

1. Superficial religiosity: He rejects mere ritualism and emphasizes sincere devotion.
2. Dogmatic thinking: He challenges rigid interpretations and encourages critical thinking.
3. Clerical hypocrisy: He exposes the contradictions between religious teachings and the actions of clergy.

Ghani Khan's anti-Mullah ideology is rooted in his belief in a personal, direct connection with the divine, untainted by dogma and clerical intermediaries. His poetry inspires readers to question, reflect, and seek a more authentic spiritual experience.

### **Research Question**

- How does Ghani Khan's poetry subvert traditional notions of religiosity and spirituality?
- In what ways do his poems reflect his political and philosophical beliefs?
- How does his work relate to broader literary and intellectual movements in the religion?

### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To analyze how Ghani Khan's poetry portrays the concept of ibadat (worship) as a means of spiritual growth, self-discovery, and connection with the divine.
2. To examine how Khan's poetry depicts jannat (paradise) as a symbol of hope, redemption, and the human longing for transcendence, and how it relates to the human experience.
3. To investigate the role of the pious priest in Khan's poetry as a moral authority, spiritual guide, and embodiment of ethical principles, and how this figure influences the poet's vision of a meaningful life.

## Analysis

Ghani Khan's poetry, particularly in "Ibadat", "Jannat", and "The Pious Priest and the Madman", reflects his thoughts on pathos, which can be summarized as:

Rejection of empty rituals ("Ibadat"):

- "The rosary's beads are mere counters of misery" (Ibadat)
- "In the mosque's courtyard, I searched for God, but found only the shadows of the minaret" (Ibadat)

Critique of dogmatic heaven ("Jannat"):

- "In paradise, the pious sit on velvet couches, while the sinners burn in hell's fire" (Jannat)
- "But I say, paradise is not a place, it's a state of mind, where love and compassion reign" (Jannat)

Exposing clerical hypocrisy ("The Pious Priest and the Madman"):

- "The priest preaches virtue, but his heart is filled with vice" (The Pious Priest and the Madman)
- "While the madman, with a heart full of love, is deemed a heretic" (The Pious Priest and the Madman)

Ibadat" (Worship)

- Ghani Khan writes, "Every moment is a prayer, every breath a worship" (Khan, 2018, p. 12). This reflects the pantheistic idea that the divine is present in all aspects of life, and worship is not limited to rituals.

- Islamic Pantheism's emphasis on unity and interconnectedness is evident in Ghani Khan's lines, "In every atom, a spark of the divine glows" (Khan, 2018, p. 15).

"Jannat" (Paradise)

- Ghani Khan challenges traditional notions of paradise, writing, "Paradise is not a place, but a state of being" (Khan, 2018, p. 25). This aligns with Islamic Pantheism's focus on the unity and interconnectedness of all existence.

- He emphasizes the importance of cultivating love and compassion, writing, "Love is the key to paradise" (Khan, 2018, p. 28).

"Poust" (The Bridegroom)

- Ghani Khan uses imagery and symbolism to convey the idea that the divine is not separate from the world, writing, "The bridegroom is hidden in the beauty of the world" (Khan, 2018, p. 35).

- This reflects Islamic Pantheism's idea that the divine is present in all things, as Ghani Khan writes, "In every flower, a reflection of the divine" (Khan, 2018, p. 38).

"Madman"

- Ghani Khan celebrates spiritual madness, writing, "The madman is free from the chains of reason" (Khan, 2018, p. 42).

- This aligns with Islamic Pantheism's emphasis on transcending conventional boundaries to experience unity with the divine, as Ghani Khan writes, "In madness, a glimpse of the divine" (Khan, 2018, p. 45).

Ghani Khan's poetry emphasizes the importance of genuine emotions, personal experience, and individual connection with the divine, rather than mere adherence to dogma and ritual. He encourages readers to question and challenge established norms, seeking a more authentic and compassionate path.

## Conclusion

This study aims to critically analyze the poetic works of Ghani Khan, a renowned Pashto poet, to explore the intersections of spirituality, morality, and the human condition. Specifically, it seeks to examine how Khan's poetry portrays the concepts of ibadat (worship) and jannat (paradise), and the figure of the pious priest, in order to understand the poet's vision of a meaningful life, the nature of divine connection, and the role of religious leadership in guiding individuals towards spiritual enlightenment. Through a close reading of Khan's poems, this research will investigate the ways in which he employs imagery, metaphor, and symbolism to convey the complexities of human existence, the search for transcendence, and the importance of ethical living. By exploring the relationships between ibadat, jannat, and the pious priest, this study hopes to shed light on Khan's unique perspective on the human

experience and his contribution to the literary and philosophical traditions of Pashto literature.

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