

# Female Personality in Nezami's Intellectual Style Based on the Views of Simone de Beauvoir (Case study: Khamseh Nezami Tahmasebi)

## **Abstract**

Women, members of human society who have played a significant role in the survival of societies, have vital roles in various literary and artistic works. One of the poets who has dealt with this subject is Nezami Ganjavi in which his artistic poetry was later illustrated by artists of the Safavid period. The study and recognition of female personality in this literary and artistic work can clarify the role and position of women in this historical period. The research method is based on library research with an analytical-descriptive approach. The results of the research show that in comparison with contemporaries and the requirements of the time, women have a relatively sublime and respectable position in the intellectual style of Nezami; moreover, this is both comparable and in some respects quite different from De Beauvoir outlook. Nezami and De Beauvoir share intellectual differences in that they regard women as independent and free personalities, nonetheless, in some areas, including the discussion of the emphasis on gender and the physical dimension, as well as the spiritual dimension of female personality, there are significant differences between their thinking styles. In the point of view of Simone de Beauvoir; he gives women absolute freedom in all areas and at the same time limits their needs to sexual and physical dimensions, but in the Nezami's style of thinking, women have a high status and dignity that has the potentiality to become a developed personality and be promoted to the highest social and mystical levels. Thus, in general, Nezami, as a result of benefiting from the teachings of Islam and Islamic mysticism, considers women to have a higher status than the view of de Beauvoir and has considered almost all aspects of female personality, but then again, Simone de Beauvoir, due to his emphasis on the mere presence of a woman in society and the attention to her physical and sexual dimension has merely considered her material and worldly needs.

# Research aims:

1. An analysis of female personality in viewpoint of Nezami and Simone de Beauvoir.

2. A study of female personality in Khamseh Nezami Tahmasebi.

# **Research questions:**

1. What are the most important characteristics of a woman from Nezami and Simone de Beauvoir

point of view?

2 What are the most important characteristics of a woman in Khamseh Nezami?

**Keywords:** Nezami, Simone de Beauvoir, female character, Khamseh Nezami Tahmasebi.

## Introduction

The position of women in society has always been one of the most controversial issues in literature, philosophy, psychology, social sciences and other fields of study. This is due to the fact that researchers have always commented on this issue and have assigned positions and responsibilities to women. The common denominator of most theories about women is the extent of women's presence in society, hence in the viewpoint of some scholars such as Simone de Beauvoir, do not set boundaries for women's presence in society and their social activities. The needs and emotional functions of women have been neglected, and some, under the influence of ideological teachings and cortical interpretations of religion, have restricted the presence of women at home and barred her from society; unquestionably, theories that followed the middle ground also existed. Personality is the sum of a person's esoteric characteristics and social behaviors and also the overall characteristics of a human being. The composition of "female personality", which is synonymous with "female identity", is explicitly mentioned in the works of literary scholars and cultures. The identity view of women causes women to be out of the state of being an object or a tool of work in the service of spreading consumption and exploitation, and while regaining their individual duty, can be a pioneer in the social arena and a companion of men in active fields. Hence, they can be flourishing and as a result accept a more serious responsibility and have a higher dignity in the Islamic view. Therefore, the meaning of female personality in individual and social fields is the characteristics and activities that cause her to rise or fall. In fact, female personality is a category that is inevitable in the works of classical poets such as Saadi, Khaghani, Ferdowsi, Attar and other

renowned figures as they all consider the presence of various types of women while offering a clear view.

Modern man, in today's world, has transformed greatly to the extent that whilst being an advent of the Industrial Revolution, he demanded equal rights for men and women, and this idea gradually gained many supporters globally. The French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir, known to feminists, in a famous book called "The Second Sex", while presenting ideas close to feminism in the second volume of the book, divides women's personality into four categories: narcissistic woman, woman in love, mystic woman and independent woman. The philosophical foundations of Simone's doctrine can also be seen in Khamseh Nezami. Khamseh or Panj Ganj is full of evidence of these characters and it seems that the approach of Nezami and Simone de Beauvoir in presenting female characters are similar. This paper seeks to answer the question of the importance and position of women in the intellectual style of Nezami. In this paper, it is sought to answer the following question that what is the position and stance of women from the outlook of Nezami; also, how are the thoughts of Nezami in presenting the female character compared to that of Simone de Beauvoir; moreover, how is this likeness of attitude manifested in the Khamseh of Nezami and its illustration version, the Khamseh Nezami of Tahmasebi?

A search of libraries and databases for indexing research data shows that no independent research has been written on the subject of this research. Farkhonia (2014) in an article entitled "The basics of Gnostic mysticism in a story of seven military bodies" traces Gnostic ideas such as the duality of matter and soul, descent, captivity, forgetfulness and homelessness, pessimism, hence the author has examined cognition and other features in the fifth story of the Haft-Peykar story known as the story of Mahan. What corresponds to this article is the image of witch who entered Mahan in the form of a beautiful and seductive woman whereas in fact she was a demon. This conforms to the theory of narcissism, and this character in this story is a demonic character from Nezami's point of view.

Naseri (2015) in an article entitled "Educational concepts in the Haft Peykar" has examined the teachings and guidance ideas in the Haft Peykar. The women, with their charms, teach Bahram lessons such as theology and God-seeking, justice and oppression, rationality and rationalism, science and art; and teaching morality is a prominent feature of women in love in the Haft Peykar. Dasht-e Arjeneh (2015) in an article entitled "Study of the reflection of Greek mythology in the

military works of Ganjavi" has studied the masculine and feminine personalities that correspond to Greek mythology.

Hosseini (2006) in an article entitled "Women's utopia, a comparative comparison of the story of the city of women in Eskandar Nameh of the Shahnameh and the Eskandar Nameh of Nezami with ancient Greek myths and irony tales". In this paper, Hosseini deals with the story of the city of women in Ferdowsi and Nezami. In the mentioned works, a comparative study of Nezami and Beauvoir views has not been considered. The discourse of this paper is based on a descriptive and analytical method and the use of library sources.

### Conclusion

An examination of the position of women in the Nezami's intellectual style and Simone de Beauvoir shows that there are significant similarities in terms of the classification of women and some of their personality traits in Nezami's intellectual style and views of Simone de Beauvoir; Of course, this does not mean that the Nezami and Beauvoir views are completely similar, and in some respects they have completely diverse opinions. In general, the results of the research show that the female characters of De Beauvoir, the woman of Narcissism, with her pride and rebelliousness, hated manifestations, likewise, Nezami also points out such inappropriate traits in introducing this character. For the concept of the woman in love, Nezami, unlike Simone de Beauvoir, introduces this character with chastity and profession in lovemaking; Wisdom is a prominent feature of women in love in Nezami's literary works; a worthy trait that women in love of Simone de Beauvoir are miles away from. In introducing mystical women, Nezami considers women so transcendent that they take on divine faces and do not enjoy any physical pleasure in spite of Simone de Beauvoir's mystical women. In introducing such women, Nezmai shows an ideal image of a female character. A positive and realistic military view of women can be found in the character of an independent woman, a free woman who is present in the community alongside men and refutes the perversions and misogyny of women in this scene. Despite the closeness of the Nezami and Simone de Beauvoir views in other characters, the independent female character is the intersection of Nezami's style of thinking with Simone Dubois, both of whom think that women can and should in every age, both in the family and society have an active role; however, in this regard, Nezami also grants a spiritual and superior position to women. The

independent woman in Nezami's thought is no stranger to today's society, and she is present in every age.

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