

## **Aesthetics of Satirical Images of Bidel and Kalim and its Reflection in the Art of the Safavid Era**

### **Abstract**

In the Safavid era, which is one of the most brilliant periods of Iranian-Islamic art, the literary and artistic currents are a complete narration of the culture of the people of that time, which expands the artist's horizons. The close relationship between Iranian poetry and painting in this era and the entanglement of satirical poetry is one of the distinctive features of the art of this period. Among the famous satirical poets of this period, Bidel and Kalim can be mentioned, who brought satirical and critical concepts with their own artistic techniques. The issue that is raised here is the aesthetics of satire in literary works such as Bidel and Kalim and the recognition of this beauty in the art of the Safavid period. The present research is completed via a descriptive and analytical approach, relying on the data of library sources. The findings of the research indicate that the mentioned poets wrote their eloquent words in the structure of their satires with literary-artistic language and by acquiring the secrets of rhetoric, they addressed the people of thought and reflection. Among the famous painters of this era, Kamal- al din Behzad and Reza Abbasi, who created rich paintings with a new attitude can be named. Painters, like satirical poets, have well portrayed the concepts and meanings of the society with a vivid expression that indicates their characteristic recognition. The synchronicity and harmony between poetry and painting can be seen in the social circles of the time, especially in the coffee houses, where different classes of people were present to discuss and critique poetry and its association with painting.

### **Research aims:**

1. Explaining the motivation of poets to design satirical categories in their literary works.
2. Recognizing the reflection of the culture of people of the Safavid era on the poetry and paintings of the period.

### **Research questions:**

1. How did Bidel and Kalim use rhetorical elements in their satires?

2. Have the paintings of the Safavid era been able to reflect the culture of the people of that time?

**Keywords:** Satire, painting, poetry, Safavid era, culture.

## **Introduction**

Literary-artistic works in any period are a full-view mirror of the culture of that period and depicts the cultural horizon of the epoch. For this reason, an artist, a poet or a painter takes inspiration from the currents of the time based on their imagination, thus, they choose visual elements and finds new meaning and horizons, and through this path fulfillment is awaiting. This movement, which can be seen well in the historical evolution of Iranian art, has been influenced by the coffeehouse school of the Safavid era in its historical course. In examining the common features among the arts of the Safavid era, it is important to choose an existing art as the foundation of other arts. Poetry and, by its very nature, satire, due to being formed from language and conveying concepts through it, has provided a suitable platform for the growth and excellence of other arts, particularly painting. The poet of Indian style thinks on the ground and seeks his ideal in the real world. Therefore, the basis of this research is the investigation of the rhetorical features of the Safavid era poets and its explanation and interpretation and its similarities with the paintings of the mentioned period as one of the prominent arts of that time. The main features of this paintings are the joy of technicalism and regarding much attention to recording instant moments from the environment. This feature is more obvious in painting than anything else with the predominance of line over color. In the period before the Safavid period, color was a very decisive role and was considered as the perfection of skill. In Iranian painting before the Safavid period, bright, harmonious, melodious and at times contrasting colors were used, hence, color played an essential role in Iranian painting.

Regarding the background of the current research, it should be said that so far no independent work with this title has been published so far. However, several works have analyzed the works of Bidel Dehlavi and Kalim Kashani. Kariminia et al. (2018) in an article titled "Natural and visual elements in Bidel Dehlavi's sonnets" investigated aesthetics in Bidel Dehlavi's sonnets. In their work, the authors have mentioned the use of folkloric elements in Bidel's sonnets. Abbasi and Khosh Bayan (2009) in an article entitled "Aesthetics of Ezl Kalim Kashani" have studied the factors that create

beauty in his poetry. Since understanding the themes of Bidel Dehlavi and Kalim Kashani's poems and humor is the key to entering the world of their thought and the existence of critical themes that express the type of culture and art in the society of the Safavid era, it is clear that the study of the art of the Safavid era; whether in poetry or painting, brings us closer to the common goal of these arts and reveals the effect of the connection between poetry and painting on the Safavid era society.

## **Conclusion**

Bidel and Kalim's efforts in the field of creating artistic satires and promoting creative themes, paying too much attention to the element of imagination and seeking help from rhetorical elements and descriptions of imagination to compose satirical poems, have been more common in the Indian style than in other periods of Persian poetry, moreover, under the effect of various social factors, they have put forward critical concepts in the language of humor and criticized the chaotic situation of their era. There are many satires in the poems of these two famous poets of the Indian style, which the imagery and rhetorical concepts played a special role in highlighting its features. By using these literary tricks, poets have given credibility to their satires and doubled their effect on the thoughts of the audience. The conditions of the society of the Safavid era took away the possibility of frank and transparent expression from the critics and the indication of informalities and inequalities was considered as distasteful, thus, satirists used the art of humor and covered rhetorical elements with expression. Also, the rhetorical poets raised criticism in order to not only express their content more delicately, but also to avoid suspicion and criticism. In the text, we have mentioned the rhetorical elements used by these two poets in processing their satires. The social developments of the Safavid era opened a way for popular culture to penetrate into poetry and painting. The transformation of the urban landscape and the improvement of the economic situation created concerns for the people. The comparison of poetry and painting of this period are a reflection of the social conditions and the prevailing situation, which is expressed in the most perfect manner in regard to poetry and painting, is source of innovation that can be found in the social conditions of that period. This transformation in people's vision and life also affects artists and poets and conveys innovation and modernity, thus the ideal world of Iranian painting undergoes change and transformation. As a result of collaboration with everyday life, mystical poetry becomes less and gradually marginalizes in the face of new sonnets and themes.

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