

“S.L.Peeran: His Poetry and Spiritual writings.”

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Abstract

Dr. S.L. Peeran Shah Qadri hails from an illustrious family of erstwhile Mysore State. His great grandfather was a renowned Arabic, Persian & Urdu scholar & poet and was bestowed with a title of 'Siraj-ul Ulma' (Sun Among Scholars). His grandfather received the title of 'Moin-ul-vizarath (Pillar of Ministry) from late Maharaja of Mysore for his services to the State.

Dr. Peeran has been deeply interested in Sufism, in study of human growth & development, Urdu & English Poetry. He published his first book "The Essence of Islam & Sufism & its impact on India" from New Delhi in 1998. Peeran started penning his experiences initially in Urdu poems in 1997 and from Dec. 1997; he started writing poems in English as well. He has completed thirteen volumes of poems in English: 'In Golden Times', 'In Golden Moments', 'A Search From Within', 'In Silent Moments', 'A Ray of Light', 'A Call From The Unknown', 'New Frontiers', 'Fountains of Hope', 'In Rare Moments', 'In Sacred Moments', 'Glittering Love', 'Garden of Bliss ' and 'Eternal Quest'

He has also composed one book of poems in Urdu - Souz O Suroor. He has authored the book Islam and Sufism.

My paper deals in the life events, poetry and spiritual writing of S.L.Peeran

KEYWORDS: Sufism, Spirituality, Sufi Masters.

Dr. S.L. Peeran Shah Qadri hails from an illustrious family of erstwhile Mysore State. His great grandfather was a renowned Arabic, Persian & Urdu scholar & poet and was bestowed with a title of 'Siraj-ul Ulma' (Sun Among Scholars). His grandfather received the title of 'Moin-ul-vizarath (Pillar of Ministry) from late Maharaja of Mysore for his services to the State.

S.L.Peeran as a contemporary writer in Indian English Poetry stands amidst among other poets mainly because of his Sufi and spiritual writings. In recent time he has ignited the light of classic writing which has been evaporating from our writing, Indian writing in English is always known for its classic and rich culture but in recent time it has been mushrooming by new plastic culture. Peeran is one such poet who has not only regained us from this plastic or virtual cultural but also showed us right path by his simple poetry of day today life. According to Dr. N.P.Singh, “Peeran is celebrated for his poetic imagery; his social, political, moral alertness; his uncanny ability to make his ordinary extraordinary; and not least a humor of his own. Gathering much of his material from minutiae of Indian philosophy, religion and culture. Peeran matches meditation on spiritual concern and weight of history with a nimble wit, shifting of moments of clear vision and intense poetic revelation.”¹ Peeran has a background of Sufism as he belong to a illustrious family practicing the values of Sufism since centuries, he is initially imbibed

in that culture and is the reason behind that one could glance Sufism and spiritualism in his writing. Peeran writing's show how he is aware of his surroundings and spirituality is nothing without the skill of awareness and survival. Without these skills, the journey toward spirituality would be frustrating, incomplete, and mediocre at best. There were no substitute for these skills, no shortcut until these skills were perfected, any search into the spiritual realm would be fruitless and according to Peeran and his poetry one should learn to live everyday with intensity, rapture and adventure creating a fuller life, one with mere meaning than just the senseless rush of society. If it happens, one will start learning from wilderness to purity, will learn to listen the voice that could be heard with the heart and not with the ears, understand things that were beyond normal human comprehension. Slowly and effectively one could be led from the physical skills to more dynamic philosophy of life and nature. Here some of the poems of Peeran which deals with sufi perspective and sufi way of life.

Love's Many Facets

As a seed seeks a safe place to hide
Till it gains the strength to sprout and grow
Hearts that are weak or marred by frailties
Need LOVE to make them
Strong and pure.

Love lives in souls lofty and true
And shuns the mighty and haughty,
Love can never find a place
In hearts that are hard and stony.

Love shines and sparkles in speech
Never adopting a harsh tone.
In songs sung with a melodious voice,
It reflects itself and is amply shown.
Though Love spells special passion for youth,
Its magic hold entranced, in its spell,
People of all ages – young and old,
Neither age nor customs its glory can dim,

In Love, sympathy flows like a stream
Gushing and flowing with ecstasy,
Like magical springs emitting milk and honey,
Love oozes from hearts that are kindly.

Though sad and painful the pangs of love,

We are told that sweet they are,
And that, not to have loved at all,
To love and lose, it's better far! ²

The poem 'Love's Many Facets' starts with "seed "nature smallest thing which create further wonder in this world. Through this poem poet wanted to say that God, or whatever we take to be the divine, comes to us not through what is above and outside, but through our innards-through our spiritual interiors; through what is highest and most holy in ourselves. Divinity lies all around us, but society remains too hidebound to accept the facts. In other words Peeran wanted to say that God speaks to man through nature, if are to see Divinity shines clearly within, we must protect and nurture our natural surroundings. By taking words from nature like 'magical spring, milk and honey' Peeran wanted to say that why men are wondering here and there to understand the complexity of life the solution is here only in God's creation that is nature itself.

Sufism is all about the Love for the Beloved and His Prophet [peace be upon him]. It is the deeplove and test of love which brings Lord nearer than Jugular Vein. "Love is God, God is Love" is a famous adage and idiom. Love emits from heart and mind and is not propelled by a brute mechanical force but by a feeling of willingness, which brings joy and happiness rather than pain of suffering. Pain and suffering accepted voluntarily due to a strong feeling of likeness to a person to whom it is directed in the form of "Love", does not cause destruction but it propels a person towards a "Life Force" or magnetic force, which is everlasting. Love should be for love's sake. It is a silent cool stream and its water is pure and sweet. It should neither be poisonous nor be bitter. Love should remove the feeling of bitterness, moroseness, self-possessiveness, hatred and jealousy. Love should bring in us magnanimity and generosity of Sun, truthfulness, simplicity, beauty and grace of Moon, contentment and tranquility of an Ocean, love should make us forgiving, merciful and compromising in all seasons, purity and shine of white snow of Himalayas, vastness of desert and enormous goodwill and everlasting goodness.

Love

Doubtless mind
Soul serene
With Thee (God Allah) beside me
Life is a trifle
Rudder of faith
Cuts off turbulence
Meandering thoughts
Dampens the spirit
Shackles of Iron
Or wall of bricks
Cannot curb or
Prevent Love
Pure and sublime³

In the above poem poet says that love cannot be restricted by any physical obstacle. It is a feeling, and cannot be stopped, it merges with its only solace almighty, which is also the only aim of any Sufi that is complete surrender as only complete surrender to almighty will surely bring wisdom, enlightenment and attainment both in this world and hereafter.

Sharing Love

Love is a divine spark, hidden in depths of heart
For man to cherish until death doth him apart
To give meaning to life and life after
A binder and a coagulator
Love is sacrifice and sacrifice is to die
A sincere attempt to give up every lie
The inner being gets effaced for the Beloved
Immersed in thought and, drunk in His breath
Where love lets lovely springs to flow
In its bottom lies dormant sorrow
To creep up and let streams of tears
On sad thoughts for love to share
A bleeding heart bears gems within
To emit rays of hopes to wash of sin ⁴

In all his poems Peeran talks on love for the creator. Poet talks on prosperity, by prosperity he don't mean material wealth, in possessions of goods and things of comforts but prosperity is in all round spiritual advancements, in acquisition of knowledge, in progress of culture and in all good thingd of life. The prosperity brings in joy, happiness and bliss both in this world and in the world hereafter . thus love for creator is a must for advancement in life. Love for love's sake will bring in dedication which is a requirement to achieve patience, fortitude, constancy and victory in all the efforts put in sincerity by the believers.

Peeran focus on inner peace rather than outwardly, he speaks of being mentally and spiritually calm, with enough knowledge and understanding to keep oneself strong in the face of discord or stress. Inner peace is like when find it within oneself. It is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it. Inner peace is only achieved when we actively pursue it. It's a life long journey that we should look forward to, not something to avoid. Some people grow rapidly, some slowly but as long as there is growth rather than not growing spirituality at all, then one is on the right path. When knowledge is increased, it decreases the negativity around and within. If faith and trust is increased and one will realize that one have a purpose in this world then serenity is sure to achieve.

An illumined soul is an enlightened one to guide the humanity. A poem on 'an illumined soul'

An Illuminated Soul

Every moment is becoming past
Mingling with times and history
Bygones be bygones, past is past
Words slipping from lips can't come back
Deep down in yourself, a feeling
Of remorse, repulsions regrets
Of acts disapproved and shunned
A beginning of change in you

A new experience of fresh breath
A new life, a new lease
A change of mind, a change of heart
A new discovery for better living
A new learning, a new growing
An expansion of vision, a new light
A glow within, a new consciousness
Ever forgiving and illumined soul⁸

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