

Assignment

World Literatures in Translation

"He Who Is Stricken by Love"

Submitted to:

Mam Samina Rana

Submitted by:

Lubna Sikander 39

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Govt. Post Graduate College (W) Satellite Town,
Gujranwala

He who is Stricken by Love

Bulleh Shah's real name was **Abdullah Shah**, was a Punjabi Muslim Sufi poet, a humanist and philosopher. Bulleh Shah's poetry and philosophy strongly criticizes **Islamic religious orthodoxy of his day**. Bulleh Shah's writings represent him as a humanist, someone providing solutions to the sociological problems of the world around him as he lives through it, describing the turbulence his motherland of Punjab is passing through, while concurrently searching for God. His poetry highlights his mystical spiritual voyage through the four stages of Sufism: Shariat (Path), Tariqat (Observance), Haqiqat (Truth) and Marfat (Union). Bulleh Shah's life and writings are replete with subtle secrets of the path. They do not only strengthen the love of a true lover, but also encourage him to undergo several hardships for reaching the spiritual goal. He wrote many poems some of them are **Bulleh Kijana me inkoun, He who is Stricken by Love, This Love-O Bulleh tormenting, unique**. One of his poem "**He who is stricken by Love**" is discussed below.

(This poem gives us the theme of **Spiritual love** that a person who is chiseled by spiritual love is different. That person can dance without any tune or music because rhythm lies not outside but inside that person. Love is the only thing that bring revolution. True love is not self-satisfaction or sensual gratification. Philosophy of love surpasses over all philosophies of life. He also gives comparison between love and reason.

"Soon as he drinks from this cup

No questions and no answers remain."

And

"Reason is powerless in the expression of love"

True love is a fire that obliterates all but the image of the Beloved. God is love and Man is the product of His Longings, His Ishq. It is Love that

has given us being. So when flint is struck against flint there is a spark. When Ishq meets Ishq how can we there not be a total consummation, it is the annihilation of Love that makes the Lover and Beloved one. Therefore, the ultimate crescendo in the saga of Love is the discovery of Love, Lover and Beloved as one. The worldly challenges and materialism cause no harm and displeasure to him because these worldly pursuits are of no importance to him. Rumi says:

"He is not the prisoner of the world"

And

"The more awake one is to the material world, the more one is asleep to spirit."

(His whole life become different from the life of an ordinary person as he is in a state of Fana or Assimilation.

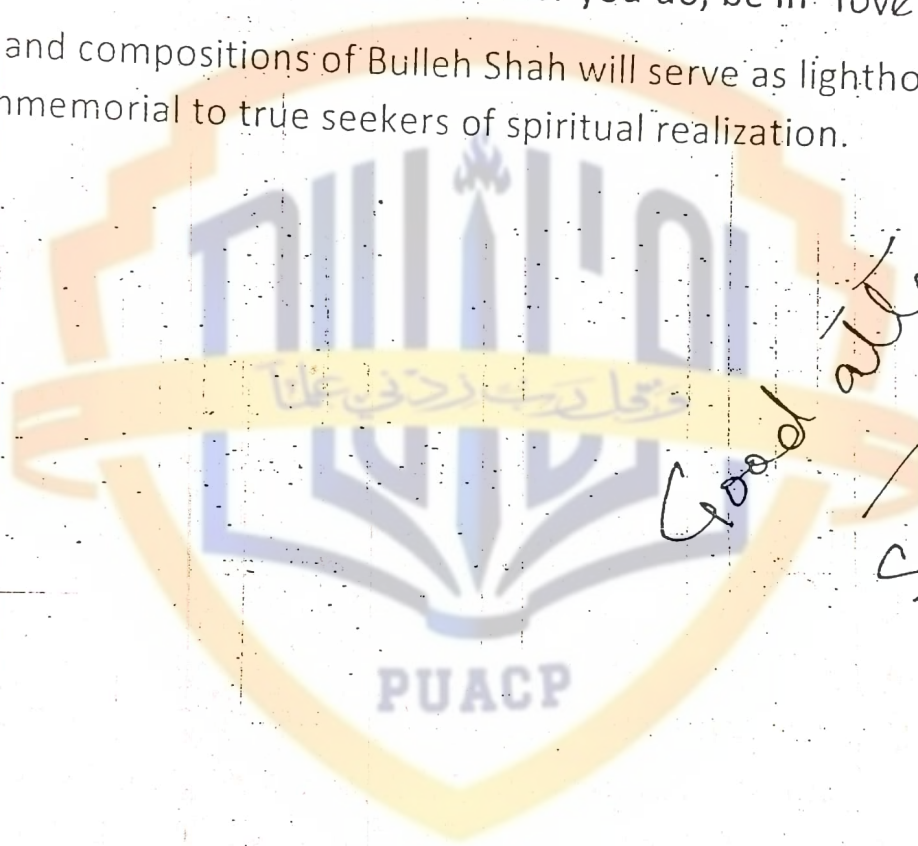
"The soul of the soul of the universe is love"

He is getting everything from the Beloved within him he gains every help and pleasure from that Beloved and he forget his own existence and love Allah Almighty strengthen him) Whatever is humanly it extinguished from him and when one loses the elements of existence and give up his everything to the Real he may be lost into the REAL SEA of Existence. (He says that God is within all human beings and in everything. God's face is the light and His creation is the veil) For Bulleh Shah the whole issue of life is resolved by one point: devotion and dedication to God. He said that keep no accounts and close the book of infidelity. Get rid of the misery of the grave and fear of hell. Purify your heart of all evil thoughts. The matter ends within you: that is the whole point. In vain you rub your forehead on the ground and recite the kalma if there is no understanding within. Take guidance of the mursnid and devote yourself to God. Discard desires and cares and

purify your heart. He who has drunk the intoxicating cup as nothing to do with namaz and rozah. The mullah and pandit have failed to know the secret despite their learning. (Rumi's concept of Spiritual love is similar to Bulleh Shah's philosophy of love. Rumi is of the view that reason is always meant to indicate the questioning spirit to the existence of anything. Reason is an obstacle in the way of love. He says:

"Wherever you are, and whatever you do, be in love.")

The life and compositions of Bulleh Shah will serve as lighthouse for times immemorial to true seekers of spiritual realization.



Good attempt!
Sant Singh Rang