

**NAZIR AHEMAD'S NOVELS: A STUDY OF ORIENTAL  
CULTURE**

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***Abstract***

*Orientalism a cultural fact represents the Asian countries with their customs, vocabulary, imagery and doctrines. The colonial superiority over the Orientalists is because of varying degree of complex hegemony. It acquired negative connotations and prejudiced western interpretation of the Eastern culture and people. Urdu novelist Deputy NazirAhemad wrote on the eighteenth century Muslim households. The writer in his two novels described the Muslim family and social life in old Delhi.*

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**Introduction:** Orient word derives from a Latin word "Oriens," suggesting the rising of the Sun, relate to east in exact sense of the word. This word is purely invented by the Europeans. It is depicted as a place of romance, haunting memories, exotic being and amazing experiences." **In the past, Orientalism was used mainly in two senses. One is a school of painting that a group of artists, mostly from western Europe, who visited the Middle-East and North Africa and depicted what they saw or imagined ,sometimes in a rather romantic and extravagant manner. The second and the more common meaning, unconnected with the first, has been a branch of scholarship**".<sup>1</sup> Orientalism is the outcome of the closeness experienced between Britain and the Orients that truly referred to India. The colonizers dominated the Orients and Orientalism in the eighteenth century. The English have the relation ship with the Orients was that of power, domination, racial and cultural essences." Orientalism is a cultural and political fact, " **but it is not merely a political subject matter or field that is reflected passively by a culture, scholarship or institution; nor is it a large and diffuse collection of texts about the Orients; nor is it representative and expressive of some nefarious "Western" imperialist plot to hold down the" Oriental' world. It is rather a distribution of geopolitical awareness into aesthetic, scholarly, economic, sociological, historical and philological texts: it is an elobration not only of a basic geographical distinction( the world is made up of two equal halves, Orient and Occident)**".<sup>2</sup> In 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a indistinguishable consciousness that multifaceted civilizations existed in India from where luxury goods such as woven clothes, silks, and spices were imported. As European exploration and colonization expanded, a distinction of literate and illiterate was emerged. The European sense of cultural and intellectual superiority granted to the westerners the authority to judge the oriental behavior. The western intellect seen the oriental behavior and mind in negative terms. They drawn the characteristics of oriental behavior as sensual, tyrannical, aberrant mental state, irrational , chaotic and backward. The occident attacked the colonized state and in particular Muslims for their backwardness, lack of equality and abrogation of women's rights.

When it was not the custom in India to teach reading and writing to the secluded sex ,especially Muslim women, Nazir made his debut as the Urdu fictional writer. Attributed with the honorific title" ShamsulUlema"( Sun among the learned ), Deputy NazirAhemad (1831-1912) belonged to a distinguished family of religious ancestry from Bijnore. Educated at Delhi College in 1853, Nazir joined the colonial administration. He translated the Income Tax Law and the Indian Penal Code into English. Endowed with religious reformative thinking ,Nazir wished that knowledge , whether it be theoretical or practical, is transmitted from one human

being to another, and reading and writing is the only method that develop one's intellect. The need of education in women is more greater than men as women have no share in the business of the world. Due to their illiteracy women live in a state of ignorance. Girls who wasted their lives in playing or listening to the stories have no role left in the world of knowledge .Education will definitely raise the status of women in the estimation of the world. Hindustani women who keep purdah have considerable influence in the affairs of the household; and when the effect of education falls on intelligence and virtue, that influence can be the cause of extremely desirable results.

Nazir's debut novel *Mirat- Ul- Urs*( The Bride's Mirror) is a curriculum for the instruction of women while *Taubat- Un- Nusooh* (The Repentance Of Nusooh) is for teaching piety and morals. The quality and reputation of these two novels differs markedly. *Mirat-Ul-Urus* is simply known as the story of Akbari and Asghari. The elder Akbari, newly married, mean tempered, uneducated , behaving in every unsuitable manner is good for nothing. This silly girl who taught nothing useful or practical befriend with girls of low- bred and vulgar people" **Affection and friendship depend upon the union of hearts. There was a bangle-seller named Basu living next door to my mother's house, whose daughter Banno was my bosom friend. I used to play with her when I was little. Yes, Banno and I made a marriage between our two dolls. Banno, poor thing! Was very badly off. I used to steal quantities of thing from my mother and give them to her. I would never give up my meetings with Banno, however much my mother forbade them**".<sup>3</sup> The younger Asghari , a literate, competent, pious, patient and sober girl is more refined and wise than her sister. As raised by her father, she always consult him by letters. She viewed that women must maintain the family's proper order and decorum which include their own subordinate and purdah bound status. As Asgharisays,"**of all the children's amusements, I think most highly of their dolls. By their means the girls acquire a knowledge of sewing and kinds of ceremonial functions, such as the sixth day, the taste of rice, the weaning, the first reading( Elsewhere called the Bismillah), the first fast keeping, the betrothal, the feasts and holidays, the creams and cakes of Muharrum, the Hindu festivals; the weddings, and all the ceremonies which occur before and after a wedding.**"<sup>4</sup> In eighteenth century , the dependence on maidservants was almost a fashion among the Muslim women's households, they would trust maidservants to the extent that they would borrow loans through the maidservants. Mama Azmat a respected female servant who had been managing all the purchases, all loans all debts and financial transactions involving the women's jewels- and in the process, cheating and stealing to her heart content. She exploits the illiteracy and credulousness of Asghari's mother-in -law.

For *Taubat-Un- Nusooh* (the Repentance Of Nusooh) ,Nazir used a dream as a catalyst, a God's tool. Dream have an elemental significance in Islamic societies, in particular Sufi circles, is well documented. Nazir'sislamicate tradition, delved book on "akhlaq"(moral conduct) to show that religion, any religion required certain duties brought about for the offspringsuccessful and happy lives in this world too. Nusooh reforms both himself and his family except Kulleem his eldest son who adheres to unreconstructed sharif culture: poetry,

chess, gambling, dancing girls, cards ,pigeons and kites." **A city like Delhi, a fool like Kulleem, and a pocket full of money gratis! He took a house and everything was provided on the instant- chandeliers, furniture, and servants. The very next day he had a poetical conversazioni, and then a nach**"<sup>5</sup>. It was the world of the Persianate, urban culture of Mughal court. It epitomized a nawabi, or princely lifestyle with having dancing girls, extravagance, and all night poetry recitation. If Kulleem had reformed and survived, he would have surpassed his brothers and sisters in piety. Unlike traditional writers, Nazir gave sufficient chances to Kulleem fight his own case.

### **Conclusion**

Novelist NazirAhemad, one of the Stalwarts of the Aligarh movement, has successfully bring alive, through incidents and dialogue the oriental culture of the Muslim households and the social life in old Delhi with its crowded markets, narrow lanes, spiteful servants and colourful festivals. In both the novels, the patriarchs of the family play significant roles. Nazir placed his characters in a traditional Indian house order with its distinction between the Zanana (female) and Mardana(male) section.

The present novels are the authentic record of instructions and moral values. Mirat-Ul-Urus (The Bride's Mirror) helps a woman to improve her ideas and correct the habits. Taubat-Un- Nusooh(The Repentance of Nusooh) aimed to established the necessity of social and family virtues and morality that is the core of oriental culture.

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