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**EXPLORING THE RICH HISTORY OF POETRY IN ARAB AND
UKRAINIAN TRADITIONS: PARALLEL THEMES**

The article highlights the issues on the Arabic and Ukrainian poetry, navigates the relationship and commonalities between them, focuses on the history of poetry of these countries, both ancient and contemporary, as well as the way how the poets of both cultures have been able to embody the reality of their times through social, cultural and political issues.

Key words: *contemporary literature, ancient times, Arabic traditions, Ukrainian poetry, Arabic poetry, variety.*

Poetry is an art that is highly capable of expressing thoughts and feelings and is an essential part of various cultures around the world. Among them are Arabic and Ukrainian, which have a rich history and a long heritage. The Arabic and Ukrainian poets have used language in elaborate artistic ways to portray their unique emotions, opinions and visions of the world and life.

The history of Arabic and Ukrainian poetry spans thousands of years, forming an essential part and heritage of both cultures. The Arabic poetry dates back to the ancient times, dealing with philosophical, religious and historical topics. The historians have agreed that the stages of the history of the Arabic poetry go back to the era of the so-called Jahiliyyah. The early Arab poets were renowned for their mastery of language and their ability to express complex ideas and emotions through verse. Poetry played a central role in Arab society, serving as a means of communication between tribes and as a way of preserving the oral traditions of the region. This was the period when the poet predicted a prominent

place in his tribe; he was the defender of it and the spokesman of its tongue. They sang with courage, generosity, chivalry and loyalty. There was a market in Mecca called Okaz, where the poets competed in giving their poems, and the best of them were hanging their poems on a wall of Al Kaaba, the Holy House of Arabia, so it was named the seven commentators. In the early Islamic era, the poet's job has become to define and defend the religion of Islam, perhaps the most prominent of which is Hassan bin Thabit and Kaab bin Zuhair.

Over time, the Arabic poetry continued to evolve, adapting to the changing political and social landscape of the region. The development of the ghazal, a form of love poetry, marked a significant shift in the Arabic poetry.

The poets began to explore more personal and emotional themes.

The history of Ukrainian poetry is closely linked to the country's complex political and cultural history. The earliest examples of Ukrainian poetry date back to the 12th century. These works were characterized by their religious themes and their use of the Old Church Slavonic language. The work on a poetic text was similar to the drawing of church icons. At the time, they dealt with topics such as sermons, stories and lives of saints. It reflected the lives, social and cultural experiences of the Ukrainian people, expressing life and histories in rural and urban areas. During the Middle Ages, various schools and styles of poetry appeared in Ukrainian poetry, especially as it opened itself to the experiences of other nations in the framework of communication and cultural exchange with neighboring peoples. With the beginning of modern times, the Arabic and Ukrainian poetry witnessed the renewal and development of poetry ideas and methods. Most have been linked to the political, economic and social conditions of both cultures, given the changes in the world during the nineteenth century. Calls for the renewal of poetry have emerged in Arabs using new methods to express social, cultural and political realities. The so-called "free poetry" emerged, and Ukrainians were influenced by the developments of romantic literature and

poetry in Europe. Ukrainian poets have therefore addressed issues such as patriotism, freedom and equality in their poems.

Despite cultural and historical differences between the Arabic and Ukrainian poetry, they share many common aspects, such as attention to the expression of social and cultural reality and the use of poetry as a means of expressing basic human feelings. Each has a strong influence on literature and culture in its region. Historically, there have been close literary and cultural relationships between the Arabic and Ukrainian poetry. The Arabic and Ukrainian poets and literature have made important contributions to the development of world literature, exchanging literary and cultural ideas and influences throughout the ages. In recent centuries, cultural exchanges between the Arabic and Ukrainian poetry have continued through translation, literary conferences and cultural events. Poets and translators from both sides translated poetry works between the two languages, allowing readers of both countries to understand and assimilate each other's culture and ethics.

Literary and cultural relations between the Arabic and Ukrainian poetry contribute to promoting understanding and cultural communication among peoples, where poetry can be a bridge to cultural communication and intellectual exchange between different cultures. The Arabic and Ukrainian poetry reflects people's experiences, feelings, and hopes and their cultural, historical, and social heritage. Social and cultural issues are important aspects of the Arabic and Ukrainian poetry, which poets explore in their poems and poetically express them. The expression of national identity, nationality, social justice, and women's role in society underscored the similarity between modern Arab poets and their Ukrainian counterparts.

For example, in Arabs, the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish used the Palestinian cause and national conflict in his poems, using unique poetic language to express his national identity and the suffering of his people. Within the

framework of the so-called poetry of resistance, we find the Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861), the founder of modern Ukrainian literature, dreamed of its independence from Russia and discussed in his poems social issues concerning the poor classes of society and their living conditions under Russian rule. In 1840, Shevchenko was able to obtain permission to publish his first poetry collection, "Kobzar", meaning "folk singer," of particular importance as it was published in Ukrainian at a time when Ukrainian literature was a warrior. Seven years after his first poetry collection, Shevchenko was accused of explicitly promoting Ukraine's independence, writing poems in Ukrainian that mocked Russian imperial figures, inciting independence and liberation and being imprisoned and exiled. The famous poet Serhiy Zahdan, one of the modern poetry flags in Ukraine, can also be mentioned as he used new language and methods in his poetry to reflect changes and transformations in contemporary Ukrainian society, such as dealing with national identity, individual freedom and environmental problems.

On the other hand, the poems of the late Syrian poet Nazar Qabbani can be used to talk about women's rights issues and social and cultural relations between the sexes in Arab society. This is matched by the poetry of the famous Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko in his treatment of class issues and economic transformations in Ukraine in the nineteenth century.

Therefore, our understanding of the literary and cultural relations between Arab and Ukrainian poets can be used to draw on poets' experience and knowledge of these cultures to enrich understanding and cultural exchange among peoples. This moral and cultural interaction can also be used to promote mutual understanding and rapprochement between peoples and cultures and to promote cooperation and cultural exchange between Arabs and Ukrainians.

It can therefore be concluded that poetry in Arabs and Ukrainians is one of the important literary means that contribute to enhancing understanding of culture in human societies, it as a means to highlight challenges and changes in modern

societies and to promote dialogue and cultural exchange between different peoples and cultures.

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