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Critical Translation of Bajara Nama of Nazeer Akbarabadi

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Nazeer Akbarabadi, also known as Nazir Akbarabadi or Nazir Akbar Abadi, was a prominent Urdu poet who lived during the 18th century. He was born in 1735 in Agra, India, and his real name was "Wali Muhammad." Nazir Akbarabadi was known for his humorous and satirical poetry, and he often wrote about the daily life and social issues of his time.

He moved to Delhi, where he became associated with the literary circles and earned recognition for his poetic talent. Nazir Akbarabadi's poetry was known for its simplicity, wit, and use of colloquial language, which made it accessible and relatable to the common people.

His poetry covers a wide range of topics, including love, humor, satire, and social commentary. He also wrote several Ghazals and Nazms (poems) that are still cherished by Urdu poetry enthusiasts.

Nazir Akbarabadi's contributions to Urdu poetry have left a lasting impact, and he is considered one of the pioneers of Urdu humorous poetry. His work continues to be celebrated and appreciated by poetry lovers in the Indian subcontinent and around the world.

Critical application of Banjaranama of Nazeer Akhbarabadi,

The Banjaranama, written by Nazeer Akhbarabadi, is a significant work in the Urdu literary canon. It is a satire written in the form of a travelogue, and it criticizes the prevailing social and political conditions of the time. While not a critical application in the modern sense, the Banjaranama is important for several reasons:

Satirical critique of society: The Banjaranama is a scathing commentary on the societal norms, customs, and the prevailing power structures of the late 18th century. It exposes the hypocrisy, corruption, and decadence of the ruling class, religious leaders, and other influential figures. Through his satire, Nazeer Akhbarabadi aimed to awaken the masses and provoke them to reflect on the prevailing issues.

Reflection of historical context: The poem captures the historical context of the time, which was marked by the decline of the Mughal Empire and the emergence of British colonial rule in India. Nazeer Akhbarabadi's observations and criticism reflect the changing political landscape and the struggles faced by common people during that era.

Preserving colloquial language: Banjaranama is written in a colloquial and rustic style of Urdu, known as "Rekhta" or "Hindavi." Nazeer Akhbarabadi's choice to write in this language helped preserve and popularize it among the masses, making it more accessible and relatable to a wider audience.

Influence on subsequent Urdu literature: Nazeer Akhbarabadi's Banjaranama set a precedent for the use of satire as a powerful literary tool in Urdu poetry. It inspired later poets and writers to adopt a critical approach to social and political issues, leading to a rich tradition of satirical poetry in Urdu literature.

Sociopolitical impact: While not a direct application, the Banjaranama's critique of the ruling class and social injustices may have contributed to raising awareness and paving the way for social reform movements in subsequent years. It served as a medium for expressing discontent and dissent against the oppressive practices of the time.

Overall, the Banjaranama remains an essential work in Urdu literature, not only for its literary merit but also for its role in reflecting the historical and social context of the late 18th century and its lasting impact on Urdu poetry and satire.

Translation

O my friend, leave aside arrogance and pride; don't wander in foreign lands anymore.

Like the Kazakh's bell that rings day and night, your life will return to dust eventually.

What difference does it make if you own a buffalo, ox, or camel? Or if you cultivate wheat, chickpeas, peas, or sugarcane?

Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

If you believe yourself to be the richest, even your heaps of wealth are insignificant.

Oh, unaware one, there's another great merchant greater than you.

Is the sweetness of Egyptian candy any better than the taste of sugar or jaggery?

Are the ornaments of copper, brass, and pepper any different from saffron, cloves, and anise?

Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

You may have loaded and adorned oxen, but if you go east or west, you'll either increase your profits or suffer losses.

When the scythe of the Reaper of Death descends upon you, even your wealth and possessions won't help.

No relatives, heirs, or sons can accompany you; you will be all alone on your journey.

Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

At every stage, your deeds will be with you, and all your accumulated wealth and treasures.

When your capital scatters and vanishes, all your possessions will be left behind.

What good are gold and emeralds? When the final moment arrives, only your deeds will count.

The nobility of lineage, military might, and armies will be of no use then.

Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

Why burden yourself with the weight of these valuables, laden heavily upon your soul?

When the caravan of death sets out, the traders will be looted, and their goods will be gone.

Are silver pots and golden utensils of any use? What about the silver plates and golden spoons?

Are the dishes of gold and silver any different from clay or china?

Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

Why do you roam around with such pomp and show, like an ignorant wanderer in the wilderness?

No one will accompany you when the appointed time of death arrives; even your enemies will not be there.

What are these ornaments, made of pearls and precious gems? What about the countless riches and treasures?

What are these horses, saddled and adorned? What about the elephants, beautifully decorated?

Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

Why do you construct such mighty structures, bearing the burden of your body?

You raise high forts and castles, while graves await with mouths wide open.

What are the silver and gold threads, or the richly woven fabrics?

What are the gold and silver crowns, or the ceramic jugs of fine china?

Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

Why do you carry the burden of these gold and emerald ornaments, like a donkey laden with loads?

When the capital is lost, every soul will be accountable for its deeds.

What are these boxes of pearl and diamond? What about the heaps of wealth and treasure?

What are the minted coins and engraved coins? What about the thrones and canopies?

Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

Why does your body bear the burden of this stubborn hump?

Carrying high loads, why do you wander, stubborn like a stubborn ox?

When death's noose tightens around your neck, no one will befriend you.

This forest, then, will not care about you or the precious jewels you carry.

Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

In every moment, you exhaust yourself, carrying these heavy burdens.

Why do you rely on temporary things when you are surrounded by enemies?
What good are these enslaved women, medicines, and holy men?
What are the temples and mosques, wells, and canals?
Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.
Why do you build such solid structures, bending the arch of your body?
If you ascend high mountains, there, vultures will prey upon you.
What use are the armies and fortresses? What about the palaces and thrones?
What are the glass mirrors and silk robes, and what about the china and sugar?
Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.
Why do you carry these heavy loads? They are like stones upon your heart.
When you face death's dark valley, even the virtuous will abandon you.
What is the use of silver and gold, and what about the precious gems?
What are the drums and banners, the wealth, power, and armies?
Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.
Why do you toil so hard, building lofty structures?
The grave is where you will rest, and there will be no one to look at you.
What will happen to the wealth you have amassed? It will be divided into shares.
The grandchild will only get the potter's field; the descendant will have no choice.
Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.
Why does the burden of these pearls and gems weigh down your body?
When the trumpet sounds, all will scatter, and the wealthy will be left with empty hands.
Will the ornaments of heroes and warriors matter then? What about the thrones and crowns?
What are the seats and cushions, the carpets and colorful fabrics?
Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.
Why do you build such strong fortresses, bearing the weight of your body?
When death's call comes, no one will be spared; kings and subjects will be the same.
What use are the thrones, palaces, and majestic castles?
What are the curtains, the carpets, and the colorful canopies?
Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.
Why do you bear the burden of these rubies and emeralds, wearing them as your shroud?
No wealth or treasure will go with you when you return to the earth.
What are the crowns and coronets, the gold and silver jewelry?
What are the gold and silver plates, the china and the porcelain?
Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.
Why do you exhaust yourself, carrying so much weight on your shoulders?
When death's call comes, the burdens will be left behind, and everyone will scatter.
What good are the worldly riches and the precious gems?
What are the swords and spears, the armies and the battalions?
Everything will be left behind when you depart, and you will be carried to your final destination.

Why do you wear yourself out, bearing the heavy weight of gold and emeralds?

When death arrives, your body will become the shroud.

What is the use of the silver bowls and golden vessels?

What are the utensils of gold and silver, and what about the clay and china dishes?

Everything will be left behind