

## Reflection of the Chaste Love in Two Stories: *Mam and Zin* and *Sham and Wali Dewana*

**Esmail barwasi\***

Phd student of Ferdowsi University,  
Mashhad, Iran.

**Khosrow hasanzadeh\*\***

Bachelor of Law of Qom University,  
Qom, Iran.

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*Mam and Zin* and *Sham and Wali Dewana* in Kurdish literature are two of the most famous love stories both portraying a chaste love full of sorrow and failure. The stories are similar and share much in many aspects, and call for an independent comparative. Hence, the present article intends to investigate these two stories adopting a descriptive-analytic approach. In *Sham and Wali Dewana*, love stems from childhood and school lessons, and in *Mam and Zin*, love starts in adolescence; the enthralled lovers endeavor to marry, and in this way seek assistance from friends and relatives, but there exist obstacles and inhibiting factors causing the failure of two lovers and their ever-increasing mania and devotion which portrays their lasting despair and disappointment. Adherence to chastity and fidelity to the beloved until the moment of death and the hope for reunion in the Hereafter are the features of chaste love manifested in both stories. These two love stories are fraught with sorrow and tragedy resemble *Romeo and Juliet* and *Leily and Majnoon* in essence. In spite of the prominence and popularity of these two stories, an exact academic study with a literary nature has is required, and like many other Kurdish literary works, they are still inadequately known. There has been little study on literary works like this, and to the best of the writers' knowledge, compilation of the book

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\* Email: ebarwasi@mail.um.ac.ir (Responsible Author)

\*\* E-mail: tavjhm@gmail.com

*Sham and Wali Dewana*, some descriptions and explanations about Wali Dewana's life in literature books, and the translation of the narrative book by Ahmad Khani on the love story of *Mam and Zin* into several languages are the only works in this area. However, the sorrowful verses of Wali Dewana for Sham's love and Mam's love for Zin deserve a scientific and comparative study. Therefore, since *Mam and Zin* and *Sham and Wali Dewana* both represent a chaste picture of love and a comparative study does not seem to have been conducted on them so far, the writers of the present study intended to compare the events and adventures of these two stories portraying a chaste picture of love. The aim was to consider the similarities between the two stories and the themes that they have used to depict the concept of chaste love. Looking carefully at the themes of the two stories, it is understood that the common logical process of the events plays an important role in portraying the chaste love and its related themes. The stories *Mam and Zin* and *Sham and Wali Dewana* have their origins in Kurdish principles and culture. *Sham and Wali Dewana* portrays the beginning and formation of a chaste love in a nomadic atmosphere, while *Mam and Zin* portrays the commencement of a chaste love in an urban atmosphere. Both stories encompass the rituals of the emirate feudals and nomadic Kurd tribes while being fraught with prejudice. It is in a way that this rigid and prejudiced culture of Kurdish nomadic tribes and emirates plays an important role in the processes and failure of the chaste love in the two stories. Considering the features and themes of the chaste love, in *Mam and Zin*, love starts from adolescence and in *Sham and Wali Dewana*, love stems from childhood (in a tribe) and gradually reaches its climate. After the disclosure of the mystery of love, in both stories the process of the events and adventures continues in a way that the reader is absorbed in the stories by the difficulties and deterrent factors encountered by the characters in their way toward each other and the reader sees what happens at the end for this sorrowful and chaste love. This destiny is predetermined in a way that even the intervening factors do not influence the success of the lovers in reaching their beloved ones. In both stories, the prejudice and honor common among Kurdish people and the obligations governing Kurdish women's fate are considered as deterrent factors. These factors prevent Zin and Sham from getting married to their beloved. On the other hand, in *Mam and Zin*, the jealous, resentful, revengeful, and evil personality of Bakr Mergavari (in some narrations) and poverty (in some other narrations), and in *Sham and Wali Dewana*, the hostility and resentment of the tribes

toward each other and poverty (in some narrations), which are beyond one's power, cause the failure of the lovers in marrying their beloved ones. In *Sham Wali Dewana*, Sham carries the emotional burden. Wali Dewana's love makes the poet bewildered and crazy and he goes to great strengths to marry his beloved while tolerating many difficulties and Sham is presented as surrendering to her fate. However, in *Mam and Zin*, the presence of Mam beside Zin in his effort to meet the beloved is more tangible. In *Mam and Zin*, after separation, the lover and the beloved do not obtain the opportunity to meet each other for a long time, but in *Sham and Wali Dewana*, there is a permanent separation and this separation increases the sorrow and calenture of the lover and the beloved. Loyalty to the beloved and remembering her at all times which is a characteristic of chaste love are illustrated well in this story. The sorrowful verses of *Sham and Wali Dewana* are more influential than the narrative verses of *Mam and Zin* and this originates from the fact that the verses of *Sham and Wali Dewana* were written by Wali Dewana himself, while the verses of *Mam and Zin* were written by Ahmad Khani and this has made the two stories different in terms of their emotional aspects and impact.

**Keywords:** Kurdish Literature, Mam And Zin, Sham And Wali Dewana, Chaste Love, Comparative Literature.