A Comparative Study of Utopian Thoughts in the Poems of Nima Yooshij and Walt Whitman

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Abstract

The idea of utopia, as a depiction of an ideal society in which all human values are fully realized and all human beings are living in peace by virtue of their thought and wisdom and an aspiration of its emergence, has a long history in human civilization. It can be argued that the assumed and ultimate goal of all religions and governments in the history has been the achievement of such a community. It is not surprising, therefore, that the concept of utopia has long been considered by philosophers and thinkers of the world, and great figures such as Plato and Thomas Moore in the West and Farabi in the East have identified its attributes from their own point of view. In the present study, the ideals of Nima Yooshij and Walt Whitman, as the representatives of the East and the West in a world that had undergone tremendous developments at the turn of the twentieth century, have been studied and compared. The most important common denominator of these two poets, which makes their utopian thoughts comparable, is that they both carry the banner of poetic evolution and redefine the poet's responsibility as a committed intellectual in his society and on the verge of facing the coming traits of modernity.

Keywords: utopia, Nima Yooshij, Walt Whitman, comparative Literature, modern poetry.