

Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Rumi's Messages for the New Generation

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Abstract

Human thoughts can articulate powerful concepts of humanity; therefore, historically we are witness of remarkable personalities such as Ghalib, Rumi, Shakespeare and many other scholars and writers. Their thoughts, ideas and literary texts have given inspirational meanings and messages to the people all around the world. Fortunately, Afghanistan with its rich literature has many inspirational figures who are worthy of praise and their names will be alive in the history, literature and minds of Afghan nation and the world.

Rumi (1207-1273) was born in Balkh, Afghanistan and due to some reasons settled in Konya, Turkey; he has been venerated by people in all over the world because of his graceful thoughts. His writing and rhythmical expressions include different types of aspects of mortality. He encourages his readers that all human beings should accept each other although they are different in many aspects of their lives. Though, contextual differences such as language, religion, culture, gender, etc. can pose different types of challenges and definitely can cause different types of conflicts among people, the great man, Rumi, in almost all his poems has asked the readers to be the problem solvers rather than problem makers. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to redefine his messages for the new generation to guide them through his great ideas toward humanity, and to evaluate his ideas on how to live like a real human being.

Keywords: *humanity, morality, contextual differences, rhythmical expressions, and culture.*

Introduction:

For most of the intellectuals such as philosophers, social scientists, writers and ethicists, justice and humanity are the central issues to be considered in every society without consideration of sex, age, gender, religion, ethnicity and so on. If it is considered by the people, we would have a safe society or environment where people can live in a better way.

Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Rumi is one of those intellectuals who has pointed out to the human rights centuries ago as he believed that justice should be done to all human beings without consideration of religion, language, face and many other differences. He believed that human greatness is within each person; thus, if mankind does not know himself, no ascension would be possible. This message of the Rumi does not only help us to understand ourselves, but also leads us toward knowing the lord who has created us. To him everyone should be himself and no one should try to be someone else, and it relates to individualization or personality. If we think about today's generation, they are much eager to copy others rather than being themselves. In most of his relics, he encourages the readers to respect themselves and adds that the more we close to individualization and keep our own personality, the easier we get the greatness.

Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi has lots of fans and followers all over the world. His poems and writings are admired and quoted not only by the Muslims, but also by many non-Muslims around the world. With no doubt we can say that Rumi is in hearth of every human who has ever read his literary texts. His language, his texts, expressions, stories and poetries can impart many lessons for the readers especially for the new generation.

What Others Think of Rumi: A Brief Literature Review:

Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Rumi can be called as one of the best teachers who has taught lessons of civilization and has been a great representative of love and peace whose words carry the real meaning of true faith, acceptance and tolerance. According to Rahim (2016), Rumi is one of the astonishing scholars who had implemented such outstanding images in his works which still are revealing as he is better known in the modern world.

Rumi's path was Sufism which has fascinated millions of people all over the world. As a Sufi, Rumi thought that the deepest nature of a man can hold the man's core prospects and it directly connects the man to the world of Spirit (Chittick, 2005). Rumi's literary works have caused many people from other countries to follow his path, and one of them is Friedrich Ruckert who was a German poet, translator and a professor. When he reads *Masnawi Manawi* and *Divan-e- Kabir*, he became infatuated of Rumi's ideas and words, and then he translated all the Rumi's odes into German. According to Tenik (2002), Rumi's poetry style caused Friedrich Ruckert to learn Persian, Turkish and Arabic as he aimed to know more about his masterpieces. Then, he translated for about fifty of Rumi's couplets into the German verse.

Rumi believes that human being can be purposeful if they stay within the society, and he thinks of himself and his thoughts as crops or product of the community (Yaseen Negah, 2009). The authors add that equality without consideration of difference among people was one of the greatest characteristics of Rumi. Even he respected differences in ideas, beliefs and thoughts. Most of his writings show that he believed that differences in ideas are the source of improvement. This is something that encourages the young generation to accept each other's ideas in order to develop and change positively.

Moreover, Nicholson (1998) states that Rumi has been known the most influential character who much focused on the principle of justice. In Rumi's perspective, every individual should be careful about what they do and every step they take because members of this universe have been created according to the principle of justice.

Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi had never had any discrimination with any religion and language. He has repeated in his literary texts that lack of humanity within a community is the main cause of failure of social welfare (Yaseen Negah, 2009). According to Chegtayee (2003), Rumi was against rudeness and violence, and he believed that anger and violence cannot solve the problems, though can make several types of problems among human. Rumi was favor of love which is the opposite of violence and states that love is such a bless which can replace all the disagreements into gentleness that can invite us toward self-understanding and understanding others. Rumi in one of his poems states that my dead body changed into an alive body, my sorrows changed to laughter when I fall in love. Here the word love can be defined based on the ideas of the readers. For some people love may mean somebody; however, for someone else love refers to the real creature of the earth and the heaven.

Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Rumi centuries ago believed on equality of men and women and trusted that they both have the same rights. He assumed that the spirit does not know any man or woman as our spirit originates from the Divine spirit; thus, we have to think of mortality and doing good things for the community we live rather than gender differences and showing our physical power. Rumi in one of his poems points out that individuals who know themselves can easily realize this issue. That is why he was assure that self-awareness can pave the ground for knowing the lord and for solving many other problems which can be raised from such differences which are out of our control such as being a man or a woman, being white or black, and so on.

Rumi's Messages:

"Anyone who genuinely and consistently with both hands looks for something will find it". Here Rumi encourages everyone to work hard for getting whatever they want.

"The garden of the world has no limit except in your mind". It refers to the way we see the world and our abilities. Trust yourself and your abilities. Use the eyeglasses of your mind to know your power, capability and skills.

"Everyone has been made for some particular work, and the desire for that work has been put in every heart". It clarifies the fact that God has given everyone specific talent in doing specific things. Some people are good in one thing and others are experts in doing or performing something else. This is very essential in our lives to know our abilities, talents and interest. After knowing them we need to choose our career based on our interest and ability. In this case we would be successful enough in every sphere of our life.

"Wherever you stand, be the soul of that place". Rumi encourages the readers to be kind, be helpful and try to be the one who touches the hearts and be the one who gives comfort and peace rather than being someone who is against humanity and justice.

"I have been a seeker and I still am, but I stopped asking the books and the stars. I started listening to the teaching of my soul". This message gives the readers the idea that the best teacher is knowing yourself and your soul. Try to find what comforts you and bring you peace as your soul wants you to learn to be optimistic, purposeful, love life, and mindful. These are the lessons that our soul can teach us.

"With every breath, I plant the seeds of devotion, I am the former of the heart". It conveys a great lesson for everyone specially for the young generation to plant goodness wherever you are.

Research Method

The method for this research article is library method to comprehend what other researchers think about great ideas of Rumi. The method helped the researcher to get preliminary ideas on the chosen topic. Diverse related books, research articles and reliable sources were used to reach the point. In addition, the researcher has used her personal experiences to enhance readers' understanding toward the topic

Data Collection

Since this is a library research, only related books and research articles were used in order to collect data. After finding the materials on Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Rumi's Messages for the New Generation, the main points were highlighted and reviewed.

Data Collection Analysis

The researcher used some specific steps to collect the data for writing this research article. Indispensable steps which were taken include categorizing and coding. The reason behind choosing categorizing and coding is to provide coherent and smooth paper. First, the whole information from the books and research articles were categorized based on the topic. Then, they were included in different parts of the article. Another way which was used to analyze the data is coding. The concepts were identified appropriately and relationship between them were found through coding.

Result

The results achieved from this study is stimulating and are presented according to different authors' ideas on Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Rumi's Messages for the New Generation. Based on the researcher's experiences and reading different sources, it was clarified that centuries ago, Rumi encouraged every reader to be and act as a real human being. Still his messages and literary texts convey great messages for the readers.

Conclusion:

After reading several articles, books and discussions with professors of Persian Department, it has been realized that Rumi is alive. He is one of those special characters who is always with us by his great thoughts and perspectives. He is the best scholar and teacher who teaches us the lessons of humanity and kindness. His path shows us equality, and the way he used different images in his literary texts can appeal our senses as we can feel compassion, touch gentleness, smell the adore of soft-hearted people, and see the beauty of everything that surrounded us. His messages are the best guidance for everyone specially for the young generation; though, the future of their country depends on their strengths. Only reading, learning and knowing of such great writers is enough; thus, the ideas of Rumi and other intellectuals like him should be followed and applied.

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