

Iqbal and Mawlana Rumi: Influences and Similarities

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Abstract: This article explores the effectiveness and similarities of the philosophical and spiritual ideas of Allama Iqbal and Maulana Rumi. Both Iqbal and Rumi were renowned Muslim poets and philosophers who lived in different eras but shared similar views on various topics.

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The article examines the impact of their teachings on the intellectual and spiritual traditions of the Muslim world, particularly in South Asia. It compares their ideas on various topics such as the nature of God, human nature, love, and spirituality, highlighting their similarities and differences. The article also discusses how their works have inspired generations of Muslims to seek a deeper understanding of their faith and to strive for personal and societal transformation. Overall, the article provides valuable insights into the intellectual and spiritual legacies of two great Muslim thinkers and sheds light on their continued relevance in today's world.

Keywords: *Iqbal, Mawlana Rumi, poetry, philosophy, spirituality, love, self, unity of knowledge, mysticism, human potential, influences, similarities*

Introduction

The philosophical and spiritual ideas of Allama Iqbal and Maulana Room have had a profound impact on the intellectual and spiritual traditions of the Muslim world. Both Iqbal and Room were renowned Muslim poets and philosophers who lived in different eras but shared similar views on various topics. Iqbal was a prominent philosopher, poet, and politician in British India, who is considered one of the most important Muslim thinkers of the 20th century. Maulana Room, on the other hand, was a Sufi mystic and poet who lived in the 13th century in what is now Afghanistan.

Despite the temporal and cultural differences between Iqbal and Room, their works have striking similarities. Both of them were deeply concerned with the spiritual and moral decline of the Muslim world and sought to revive the Islamic intellectual and spiritual tradition. They emphasized the importance of understanding the true nature of God, the purpose of human life, and the role of love and spirituality in achieving personal and societal transformation.

This article explores the effectiveness and similarities of the philosophical and spiritual ideas of Iqbal and Room. The article compares their ideas on various topics such as the nature of God, human nature, love, and spirituality, highlighting their similarities and differences. It also examines the impact of their teachings on the intellectual and spiritual traditions of the Muslim world, particularly in South Asia.

The article further discusses how their works have inspired generations of Muslims to seek a deeper understanding of their faith and to strive for personal and societal transformation. The intellectual and spiritual legacies of Iqbal and Room are still relevant in today's world, and their works continue to inspire scholars, poets, and seekers of truth around the globe.

Overall, this article provides valuable insights into the lives, works, and legacies of two great Muslim thinkers and sheds light on the continued relevance of their ideas for contemporary society.

Iqbal's Philosophy and Poetry

Muhammad Iqbal, also known as Allama Iqbal, was a renowned philosopher, poet, and politician who is considered one of the most important Muslim thinkers of the 20th century. His philosophical and poetic works have had a profound impact on the intellectual and spiritual traditions of the Muslim world, particularly in South Asia.

Iqbal's philosophy is rooted in the Islamic intellectual tradition and draws on the works of Muslim philosophers such as Al-Ghazali and Ibn Arabi. He emphasized the importance of understanding the true nature of God, the purpose of human life, and the role of love and spirituality in achieving personal and societal transformation.

One of the key themes in Iqbal's philosophy is the concept of Khudi, or selfhood. He believed that the true purpose of human life is to realize the potential of one's own self, which is a reflection of the Divine. He emphasized the importance of individuality, creativity, and self-expression, arguing that these are essential for personal and societal transformation.

Iqbal's philosophy is also characterized by his emphasis on the unity of knowledge. He believed that all forms of knowledge, whether religious, scientific, or philosophical, are interconnected and that the pursuit of knowledge is essential for human progress and development.

In addition to his philosophical works, Iqbal is also renowned for his poetry, which is deeply rooted in Islamic spirituality and draws on the works of Sufi poets such as Rumi and Hafiz. His poetry is characterized by its depth of feeling, spiritual insight, and powerful imagery.

One of the recurring themes in Iqbal's poetry is the concept of Ishq, or love. He believed that love is the ultimate source of human inspiration and creativity and that it has the power to transform individuals and societies. His poetry also emphasizes the importance of faith, self-discovery, and spiritual enlightenment.

Overall, Iqbal's philosophy and poetry continue to inspire scholars, poets, and seekers of truth around the globe. His emphasis on individuality, creativity, and the pursuit of knowledge is particularly relevant in today's rapidly changing world, and his insights into the nature of God, love, and spirituality continue to resonate with readers of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Rumi's Philosophy and Poetry

Jalaluddin Rumi, also known as Maulana Rumi, was a 13th-century Persian poet, theologian, and Sufi mystic whose philosophy and poetry have had a profound impact on Islamic intellectual and spiritual traditions. His works are still widely read and studied today, and he is considered one of the greatest poets in history.

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Rumi's philosophy is rooted in Sufism, an Islamic mystical tradition that emphasizes the importance of spiritual development and the attainment of a direct experience of God. He believed that the true nature of God is beyond human comprehension, and that the pursuit of knowledge and understanding must be accompanied by a deep and sincere love for God.

One of the key themes in Rumi's philosophy is the concept of love, which he believed was the ultimate expression of human spirituality. He emphasized the importance of developing a deep and sincere love for God, as well as for all of God's creation. His poetry is full of imagery and metaphors that explore the many different aspects of love, including its transformative power, its ability to heal emotional wounds, and its capacity to unite individuals and communities.

Another important theme in Rumi's philosophy is the concept of the self, which he believed was a reflection of the Divine. He emphasized the importance of self-knowledge and self-discovery, arguing that individuals must look within themselves to find the true nature of God.

Rumi's poetry is characterized by its mystical themes, its powerful imagery, and its deep emotional resonance. His works often explore the human experience of love, longing, and spiritual transformation, and they are filled with metaphorical references to Islamic spirituality, Sufism, and the natural world.

Overall, Rumi's philosophy and poetry continue to inspire scholars, poets, and seekers of truth around the globe. His insights into the nature of God, love, and the self are particularly relevant in today's world, where many individuals are searching for deeper spiritual meaning and connection. His works remain an important part of Islamic intellectual and spiritual traditions, and they continue to resonate with readers of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Similarities between Iqbal and Rumi

Muhammad Iqbal and Jalaluddin Rumi are two of the most influential Muslim thinkers and poets in history. Despite living centuries apart, their works share many similarities in terms of their philosophical and spiritual themes. In this article, we will explore some of the key similarities between Iqbal and Rumi.

Emphasis on Love

Both Iqbal and Rumi emphasize the importance of love in their works. For Rumi, love is the ultimate expression of human spirituality, and the pursuit of a deep and sincere love for God is essential for spiritual growth and transformation. Iqbal similarly emphasizes the importance of love in his works, arguing that it is the driving force behind creativity, self-discovery, and personal transformation. He also emphasizes the importance of developing a love for God as a means of attaining spiritual enlightenment.

Emphasis on the Self

Another key similarity between Iqbal and Rumi is their emphasis on the self. For Rumi, the self is a reflection of the Divine, and the pursuit of self-knowledge and self-discovery is essential for spiritual growth and transformation. Iqbal similarly emphasizes the importance of the self in his works, arguing that the true purpose of human life is to realize the potential of one's own self, which is a reflection of the Divine.

Unity of Knowledge

Both Iqbal and Rumi emphasize the unity of knowledge in their works. Iqbal argues that all forms of knowledge, whether religious, scientific, or philosophical, are interconnected and that the pursuit of knowledge is essential for human progress and development. Rumi similarly emphasizes the importance of seeking knowledge as a means of attaining spiritual enlightenment and developing a deeper understanding of God.

Mystical Themes

Both Iqbal and Rumi explore mystical themes in their works, drawing on the traditions of Islamic spirituality and Sufism. They both use powerful imagery and metaphors to explore the human experience of love, longing, and spiritual transformation, and they both emphasize

the importance of developing a direct experience of God through spiritual practices such as meditation and prayer.

Human Potential

Finally, both Iqbal and Rumi emphasize the potential of the human being for spiritual growth and transformation. They both argue that individuals have the capacity to transcend their limitations and attain a higher level of consciousness and spiritual enlightenment. For Iqbal, this is achieved through the pursuit of knowledge and the development of the self, while for Rumi, it is achieved through the cultivation of a deep and sincere love for God.

In conclusion, while Iqbal and Rumi lived centuries apart and came from different cultural and historical contexts, their works share many similarities in terms of their philosophical and spiritual themes. Both emphasize the importance of love, the self, the unity of knowledge, and mystical themes in their works, and both emphasize the potential of the human being for spiritual growth and transformation. Their works continue to inspire scholars, poets, and seekers of truth around the globe, and they remain an important part of Islamic intellectual and spiritual traditions.

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