



## **An overview of motifs of women's poetry with the theme of sacred defense**

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### **Abstract**

This research aims to analyze these themes in the poetry of women in this field through a descriptive-analytical method. The selection of women's poetry is to show some female perspectives in the use of motifs, the frequency of their use and the character of their flow in the field of sacred defense. The results of the research indicate a very surprising effect of the value concepts of sacred defense and its important elements and events on the minds of poets and their manifestation in the form of themes that show the intellectual dimensions and feelings and emotions of passionate and thoughtful women. It is also understood from the results of this research that in the poems of this type, there are themes that are unique to the holy defense and due to the frequency of use, real narration, historical identification, archetypal depth and symbolic function. It will remain forever in Persian literature.

**Keywords:** *Poetry of women and sacred defense, theme in the poetry of sacred defense, theme in contemporary women's poetry, theme in contemporary poetry.*

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### ***Extended Abstract***

#### **1- Introduction**

Many concepts related to human life and its emotions and events are manifested in the form of symbols and metaphorical forms and are redefined and repeated to define and explain what is not objective and tangible. These frequent symbolic and metaphorical words are full of themes, ethnic and individual unconscious images and concepts and beliefs that show their presence in the field of art and literature and express the thoughts and emotions of people about it. Concepts speak and reveal the results of their thoughts and feelings in writing. In this way, artistic themes are formed, and explaining how they are made is not an easy task; but their repetition is quite meaningful and is rooted in their acceptance by the people of the language. One is due to the effective functions and important role they play in interpreting the world around humans and the other is due to their artistic and aesthetic narration. The statistical population of the current research is mostly the poetry of women who, unlike the famous female poets in the field of holy defense, despite their genius and great poetic creativity, are less known, but have published valuable poetry notebooks and beautiful poems on the topic of holy defense. It should be noted that the repetition of some concepts, sub-themes and sub-themes in the works of poetic geniuses of a society, is in a wide way, completely meaningful and flow-forming and should never be ignored.

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#### **Research Question(s)**

The main question of this research is what concepts, topics, metaphors and symbols have become motifs in women's poetry with the content of sacred defense. To what extent have women poets been creative to express emotions and poetic motifs?

#### **2. Literature Review**

The main themes of the poems of female poets with the theme of sacred defense

##### **2-1- Flight, bird and butterfly**

Flight and bird are one of the most familiar elements of Persian literature, and mentioning their evidence from the masterpieces of Persian literature and contemporary Iranian literature does not fit in this field. These words and themes, which are repeated symbolically referring to their appearance and function in nature and the perceptible world of man, speak of the desire of the human mind and soul to be

freed from all the constraints and physical limitations of human life. This liberation in the epistemological and spiritual system is to reach a part of the human being's capacity in which the banalities of earthly life are transformed into a sublime plane. What is reflected in the poems of the holy defense poets with this motif about the martyrs is the story of such excellence and growth that results from the achievement of sacrifice and self-sacrifice.

In women's discourse, attention to the components of an incident, object, place, etc. is more than in men's discourse, the examples mentioned with the theme of flight in this research show that attention to the components of this motif and images are more detailed. Flight is present in the minds of poets.

In confirmation of women's partiality and dissent, it can be said that the canary and the red canary are often seen as symbols of martyrs in women's poems, and it expresses women's poetic creativity in this field, and it is less often seen in the poems of male poets. The reflection of the female mind and its effect on the use of literary themes is the semantic network of flight and bird.

One of the most frequent words in the field of the bird motif in the poetry of revolution and holy defense, which is one of the most famous themes of Persian lyrical literature, is the butterfly, which carries the characteristic of love along with flight in its symbolic layer.

## 2-2- Mother

Mother is one of the most important human archetypes, which is a symbol of unconditional love and sacrifice due to her emotional and natural characteristics. This archetypal and symbolic feature in connection with the realistic function of the behavior of the mother martyrs during the holy defense period and the narrative and repeated expression of these sacrifices in various texts, has led to the creation of a powerful foundation in the literature of stability and holy defense.

In the women's poems of Holy defence, apart from the description of the martyr's mother's sacrifices, her nightly sorrows and frequent cries in parting with her martyred son are also narrated. An effective narrative that is expressed much more sincerely and emotionally in the context of the women poets of Holy defence. Because women act more than men in expressing their feelings and emotions.

## 2-3- Plaque and Chafieh

Some of the themes of the holy defense poems are rooted in the Persian literary tradition, and others were created by the time and place of eight years of war imposed in the works of poets and writers. Plaque and

Chafieh are among this group of concepts that appear in the poems of men and women, with meaningful repetition and in a narrative network and in conjunction with certain words and well-known persons, in specific and thematic situations.

#### **2-4- Sea and ocean**

In Persian literature, sea and ocean are symbols of vastness and infinity, soul, unseen world and truth. In the poems of this research, in many cases, the sea and the ocean are symbols of warriors and martyrs, which, due to the dominance of this concept throughout these poems and their great frequency, it can be said that it has become a motif.

#### **2-5- Love**

Undoubtedly, love is the most prominent theme of Persian mystical and lyrical literature, which is most prominently present in the poems of holy defense.

#### **2-6- Rain**

Rain, which is a symbol of heavenly effects on the earth and a symbol of fertility, is used a lot in women's poems with the theme of sacred defense. In the samples of the poems in this research, the symbolic meaning of this word with its interpretations related to the tender and sincere speech of women has a striking presence.

#### **2-7- Apple**

One of the words whose symbolic meaning is rarely used in classical Persian literature is apple. This word is a symbol of love and friendship in contemporary Iranian literature and in the poems of poets such as Sohrab Sepehri. In the analysis of women's poetry with the theme of holy defense, repeating this word is meaningful. In some cases it is a symbol of martyrdom and in some cases it is a symbol of life.

#### **2-8- travel**

One of the most used motifs in holy defense poems is travel motifs. This concept, in connection with the real theme of the warriors going to the battle fronts and their journey of martyrdom, has created an eternal and rich narrative.

#### **2-9- Weapons of war: rockets and mortars/mines, guns and grenades**

The high frequency of words related to war tools such as rockets and mortars, mines, guns, and grenades in the poems of holy defense have caused them to be recognized as the basis of these texts. These words, which are a symbol of violence, hatred and war in the outside world,

are sometimes reflected in women's poems with poetic and completely emotional interpretations that are specific to women's language.

#### **2-10- House**

In the poems of women of holy defense, the word house and its special requirements and places are seen a lot, which is one of the signs of loving home in women's language. Some topics, despite being used in men's works, have a stronger place in women's writings. For example, the house is one of the most frequent subjects that can be seen in the works of women. Home is a place that women have a lot of connection with, they spend most of their time there and experience many events in their life, such as childhood, birth, marriage and the death of relatives.

#### **2-11- window**

Window is one of the words that do not exist in the Persian classical literary tradition in a symbolic form, and in contemporary literature it is a symbol of freedom and liberation. This concept in the poems of this research has a meaning close to the same meaning and is a symbol of human awareness and knowledge towards new horizons.

#### **2-12- Tree and fertility**

The tree is a sign of freshness and greenness in the nature around man. This concept with the same function in Persian literature is a symbol of growth and life and an archetype of fertility and birth. In the poems of this research, the tree is mostly a symbol of martyrs and warriors and a symbol of fertility and growth.

#### **2-13- Tulip and anemone**

Tulips and anemones are familiar motifs in poems of holy defense and stability, which are also abundantly seen in women's poems. The symbolic use of these words is rare in classical poetry. However, this limited number together with the natural and external features of these flowers in creating beautiful poetic images, has caused them to find a meaningful and symbolic evolution in contemporary poetry and with the social awakening of the people, and describe the word martyr in the context of war poetry. Certainly, the red color and delicate shape of these flowers have been effective in creating this motif.

#### **2-14- The sky and the stars**

Sky, star and galaxy are other symbols that are used as shelter and resting place of the martyr and horizon of perspective in the poem of holy defense.

### 2-15- Photo frame

One of the most interesting and significant elements in the poems of holy defense, especially in the poems of women of holy defense, is the photo frame, which is repeated in a meaningful way. This motif, which in its general form, originated from the mentality of preserving the memory of lost loved ones, is in the form of a photograph and framing it, in the poems of the holy defense, it finds a meaning beyond the preservation of memory and as a symbol of stability and evocative of many. It is one of the valuable meanings of martyr, which is gathered in the photo frame on the ledge. For example, if someone sees his father's picture on the wall or ledge of his house, he remembers his kindnesses and personal memories. But the frame of the martyr's photo is a symbol of the collective memory of the awakening and sacrifice of a kind of martyr and has a wider range of meaning.

### 2-16- Water, mirror, Quran

In classical Persian poems, water, mirror and Quran are abundant and meaningful and they are symbols of brightness, purity and honesty. All these images, along with the tradition of chasing away the traveler with water, mirrors and the Quran, are narrated in the holy defense poem and have created a network of meaning that has become a motif due to its function and frequency.

### 2-17- Ashura and Karbala

One of the frequent motifs in the poems of holy defense are the elements and symbols related to the great event of Ashura and Karbala, which can be seen in the poems of men and women. The motif of these words is rooted in the ideological and religious connection of people's and martyrs' struggles with the Ashura uprising and the freedom-seeking and rights-seeking of the heroes of Karbala, and it also speaks of the Shiite tendencies and affiliations of the Iranian nation.

### 2-18- Immortality

Immortality and aliveness of people who were killed in the way of God; In the first place, it originates from the Islamic culture - the Qur'an, which clearly points to this issue, and in the next stage, it originates from the archetype of immortality and the fear of death and destruction, which is frequently present in the poetry of holy defense and in the poetry of women.

### 2-19- women's themes

In women's poems with the theme of holy defense, women's interpretations and words specific to their physiological, physical and

emotional conditions are seen a lot. Also, their passionate feelings, meaningful love, belonging, favorite objects and special imaginations and images are abundantly expressed.

## **2-20- The social atmosphere after the war and how to preserve the values of the martyrs**

One of the most important and prominent topics in the works of poets and writers of the holy defense is to depict the social atmosphere after the war and how to preserve the values of martyrs, freedmen, veterans and fighters of the right path. Images related to combinations such as artificial men, warehouse of goods, wall instead of window, vacant place of zealous brothers, lies, loss of narrator and loss of real smile, express the depth of these concepts.

## **3. Methodology**

The research method is qualitative content analysis, a type of thematic analysis. In this research, the frequency of motifs in the poems of female poets of Holy Defense were extracted from the text as the final codes and then analyzed.

## **4. Results**

By analyzing women's poetry with the theme of holy defense, it is clear that female poets, like male poets in this field, use common themes in Persian literature (classical and contemporary) and sustainable literature to express the valuable concepts of holy defense in an artistic form. These poets have used many of these topics in the form of symbolic codes. At first glance, we can see many commonalities in the use of these concepts, which seems natural. But more carefully, it can be seen that female symbols, details in the choice of colors, the choice of a certain type of a collection, the presence of deep feelings in the description of the subject, the use of tools and expressions containing female feelings, clear expression, emotions, Sadness and happiness have made the themes of women's poetry prominent and unique. One of the key results of this research is the existence of themes in the poem of holy defense that have not been seen in classical and contemporary Iranian literature and were created by factors such as place and time, military tools, special conditions, etc. These concepts have become discourse circles and semantic networks in these poems. The diversity and abundance of some unique motifs in contemporary Iranian poetry, especially in women's poetry with the theme of sacred defense, is a

reflection of the creativity and intellectual genius and powerful poetry of poets in this field.

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