

ISSN 0976 - 8165



THE CRITERION

An International Journal in English

DECEMBER 2019 VOL.10, ISSUE - 6

10th Year of Open Access

— Editor-In-Chief —
Dr. Vishwanath Bite

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ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

www.galaxyimrj.com

Picture of Sufism Portrayed in Ahmed Fagih's *Maps of the Soul*

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Article History: Submitted-10/12/2019, Revised-24/12/2019, Accepted-25/12/2019, Published-31/12/2019.

Abstract:

Ahmed Fagih's novel, *Maps of the Soul* is an exposure of violence and vulgarity, in which the writer tells that Sufism is a best remedy to keep the world away from violence and vulgarity. The writer portrays the picture of violence particularly the violence between two communities and the racial violence as well as the vulgar political, social and cultural nature of the people living in the same country. He creates various characters and uses some different narrative techniques by which he is possible to comment on the violence and vulgarity which became one of the basic elements of the social survival. Actually violence takes place for the survival of a particular group. This group may be the group of minority or the group of soldiers or the group of the nationalists which attempt to destroy the peace in the society and create the chaos so that people may blindly follow the order of either military or the bad power. In the novel, *Maps of the Soul*, we have the situation, where the protagonist comes in the contact of European civilization and cultures, and brings the changes in his personal life. Actually the changes came in his life not due to only the contact with other cultures but his deep breathing and knowledge of Sufism.

Keywords: Sufism, love, violence, soul, spirit.

Maps of the Soul is a historical fiction which deals with all those things which are concerned to the history and culture of Libya. The purpose of writing such novel by Ahmed Fagih is to expose how Sufism plays most important role in training the soul and mind by a proper way. It is the story of a young man's journey from nothingness to nothingness or from rags to riches and then back to rags again. The novel is divided into three parts and every part has been divided into twelve parts. The setting of the story is Libya. Whatever happens, it

happens in the early 1930 under the rule of Italian colonialist ItaloBolbo. His role in the novel is most significant because whatever comes from the novel, it helps to decide the fate of the protagonist or how the protagonist has been travelled from nothingness to be a complete human being with the help of Sufi principles. The opening of the novel is totally pessimistic. The protagonist experiences the fear of the death. He has been arrested by the abyssinians and he was stored in the cube of executing. He saw his colleagues one by one are being murdered and beheaded and he was silent and not doing anything. In this condition, he experiences that now death is only his colleague and he would be murdered soon. His group of Italian army recruit had been captured and taken as prisoners by the Abyssinians. They were bound and tortured still a tall Negro named as Sanko methodological the thoughts of prisoners in an alternate pattern slaying one and leaving the other. The first part of the novel is called the *bread of the city* where the protagonist experiences very horrible life and almost thought that he is no more due to the tyranny of Italo Bolbo.

His vision or the meaning of life broadened just as his understanding of hope and salvation, failure and success, good and evil, happiness and misery, pain and pleasure, even life and death shifted in that portal moment. All of these concepts achieved a single meaning of utility but the education which got in childhood through the Sufism helped him to get out from all the situations and to be humble and polite with the human beings and even to the persons who were the lovers of tyranny and violence.

Everything in the district confirmed what Mario had said and you were unable to defend your countrymen against the accusation of spiritual impoverishment. On either side of the road, among the piles of rubbish and the stagnant water, the residents of the quarter went about their daily lives as if they didn't see the squalor that surrounded them. (207).

The whole novel moves around the protagonist Othman. The novel jumps into the past and exposes how the protagonist had engaged in the love of Aziza. His preliminary meetings with Aziza were without any physical contact because in spite of admiration for him and her willingness to meet with him, she wasn't ready to make the physical relationship. She had to remain a virgin. Out of a sense of comparison for a girl moreover, it didn't keep him from enjoying the fact that relationship didn't trouble, is a religious function as it didn't fall under the category of full sexual intercourse which Islamic law considers among the bravest of the sins.

He was both concerned with the Islamic law and the way of life which has been established by Sufism, so what are the things affected a lot on his mind, he obeys the law of Sufism which allows him to attract the mind of any woman and have the relationship, either it would be the relationship of mind or the soul. In this way, the beginning of the novel shows how Sufism plays the role of the trainer to the mind and soul to the protagonist.

The city of Tripoli plays most important role in the novel. The first thing that struck the protagonist is he began to acquaint himself with the city of Tripoli. He found how greatly the people here different from the people of Aulad Ali Shaikh. They wear clothes of multifarious foreign fashions rather than the uniform traditional Garba that the people of his village over. Their complexion didn't assemble the naughty faces he were used instead the people here were fair and ready. It was actually an Arab Italian City. He had begun to compare the people with the villages of Aulad Ali Shaikh, thinking they were all of the same Libyan dissent but they weren't Libyans, the Italians or there wasn't anything Libyan about the way. They were about the wide streets where they sat in elegant cafes and restaurants. There were shopping malls and grand looking stores, all the while speaking in their foreign language and stamping life with an Italian air that had anything to do with Arab origins.

The people in Tripoli began to compare to the people from the village which had been stytic following the Islamic laws and the people who had the touch of both Islamic state laws and Sufism, were living very happily. He thought that he himself is also in the contact of both Sufism and Islamic laws. Sufism is the best way to accept and follow the principles and rules of it. So he decided to accept blindly the rules and regulations of Sufism which performs to train the soul and mind very systematically. Let us see one of the examples from the novel how he utilizes the knowledge of Sufism to be trained spiritually and mentally. He had come to the city without any money. He demanded to get a cup of tea from the proprietor by promising to pay him later then because drinking tea alone only serve to increase the pain in his stomach. He would try to get him to loan with which to buy a love. He had high hopes that this man would agree from the very first day; he had felt that he sympathized with him which are not inserted into continue coming here to the exclusion of all. The other circle after makers has a kind of camera battery developed between the two of them. He had started to call him by his name whenever he handled him, his teeth will begin to call him, uncle Sharif. Why he was impressed is different matter. Even he afraid to approach him, then it was not as if he were asking for his daughter's hand in marriage. It was only frank which he could pay back it or certainly a better option than starving and more dignified than baking, even so the task was difficult for him because it was the first time in his life, he was asking a stranger for

money in big City. He hadn't anybody to help him, so he just began to work as a tea seller and it saved him from dying without bread and butter.

He had got these teachings from Sufism that none of the words in the world is of the locality, so he concentrated on his work to fulfill his physical desire and not to have any relationship to be developed with the owner or with his daughter. His relationship between different various women also gives him a big lesson and that lesson is concerned to the teachings of the Sufism. There was a large portrait of Marshall Bolbo hung on the parlour with his small elegant pointed beard looks as though he had been painted in Chinese ink.

It was not true that he had been on his way back to the city to ask the three hours hand in marriage after filling from the army back, then he had truly been following a path that would have saved him from sin that ask before him discovered that she had disappeared into the house of another man and so he too had disappeared down this tunnel that would stretch on for a long time before the light appeared at its end. If it never would she would go to invite her to write beside him and once she saw him sitting in front of the steering wheel. She would be dazzling by the side and proud of him. She would sit beside him and with this magical form of transportation, he would take her on a right that only the most fortunate and privileged woman could enjoy.

In this way, the company of his next beloved also became cellular and causes him to lose the hopes of the life. The company of the women didn't give him the satisfaction of his mind and the soul. He had the medicine which was with himself in his subconscious mind and that hours the principles of Sufism which helped him to be trained as a good human being. Even though his mind and soul are also trained by the Sufi ideology to be a good human being and not to commit any kind of sins in the company of women without having any relationship that relationship should be the relationship between wife and husband and not only the illegal or adulterous relationships. The protagonist exposes to everything that Mario had told him about the velocity of the Italian architects who had built his new districts to so they would not be made as simile of Italian architecture. They had turned to the realities of the eastern Arab environment while benefiting from the techniques of modern Italian architecture to give Tripoli a different look from Italian cities and without repeating the flowers of the modern Arab cities which had lost their identity.

These architects had emphasized the necessity of starting a new school of architecture that would draw on both East and West to emphasize the pioneering spirit of those immigrants who established a new homeland for Italy the fourth coastline. She was thinking to be lucky because he had got the company of the lady like he was happy and feel like

rejoicing at its presence in the carriage that wished him a long like in a dream the world a delightful place governed by the beautiful rhythm of the horses who's on the Asphalt the twinkling of the decorative well that hung from the carriage and the dilemma of life in the streets and squares all mixing harmoniously with his height and heartbeat. Everything before him disappeared with the colour of happiness and everything around him spoke the language of joy; everything that had once married him disappeared all the sources of operation and anions including his life on the best tug of war the rituals of pain and punishment; everything that had come to pass and would it come to pass he didn't remember any of it and he couldn't imagine anything at the present moment except the lady which was with him.

There is another past about him that he was only enjoying the present moment contentment as she had her ice cream as no less than his known as he asks her to do it her lips and face were rose coloured and frame and beautifully in the white of the clock for studies in the happiness and excitement never felt her face which made her slim at more sweet and innocent. The site of her captivated his heart and he had the most beautiful feelings in him especially when he looked into her to honey coloured eyes and he held their radiance which worst he is a chest and let the death of his heart with their blessed fire, with tender longing hilly surrender to the comments that she made from time to time expressing in sweet voice and astonishment on her face. Her beautiful words were always striking him.

Oh my God, my lord is this really triply or another City that descended from heaven is this a dream or real? (63)

The journey in the carriage along with the lady like today was a good experience for the protagonist because he could give the inputs to his mind and the soul in the company of this lady. The carriage was well suited for woman like Tureya from within she could see the city and views of life in its modern district. She was able to see the people, the streets and the squares and at the same time remain certain that no one could see to approach her. It would not have done for her to approve this part of the city on foot and other forms of transportation would not have worked like the open carriages. People from the Arab quarters used which would not have provided such security and protection from the eyes of the people burst into laughter at the site of an extremely fat Italian woman with a tiny dog. The size of a mouse that followed behind her on a leash and a large hat that was decorated by figures and colourful ribbons appointed the woman out to him so that he could love with her. There was also a boy selling balloons from his bicycle seat as he rode along side the carriage calling out in the multi language that a mix of corrupted Arabic and Italian clusters of coloured balloons sword above his head tied to his hand by string. He shouted out offering his balloons for cell

using them powered him until their breast, his face, the protagonist within sight of the fountain in the middle of a square. The water powered out from issues held locked by statues of mystical Sheesh horse with wings that stress for several metres into the square and although he passed by this square and its fountain every day since it was at the cross roads between the old city and the new city.

The protagonist never the less felt just as much as courier somehow the fountains in the larger more majestic and beautiful and the stone versus simply to purchase a life of their own ready to take off with their joint magical wings into the year. It was because this time, the protagonist had everything in four hours company and because he also was looking at it from a year contest. The protagonist was on the pavement with his head dunk low so that the fountain water would not splash him. Now he could see a new image from a different angle with him happy at having made this spontaneous outing laughing even when there isn't anything to laugh about the original reason for this trip. He has to have slipped her mind; she didn't mention it or bring it up instead of her was in grass, in the sights and sounds as they unfolded and at every opportunity expressed her happiness at the moments of freedom and liberty that the trip afforded for the walls or buildings along with the streets were dropdown with the large posters advertising commodities that couldn't be found in the old city types of perfume, wine, cigarettes and makeup in addition to advertisements for musicals performed for Italian in the Almeria theatre and the alhambra theatre; their advertisements for films, automobile, dresses boating, resources or sports matches and many other colourful attractive posters that advertised dance and music, lessons at the Italian clubs for the benefit of any interested Italian Hitler's.

No matter how certain you were that escaping to the desert was your only path to salvation, you didn't know if you possessed the courage and determination to follow through with it. The feeling of suffocation that had afflicted you in the garage now returned violently, as though someone had suddenly come and placed a giant boulder on your chest. Frustration and despair built up and hindered your breathing. (313).

All of it was written in Italian but it was accompanying pictures explain their meaning and spread the river from having to read the writing. They attempted the viewers into wanting to become a part of this fortunate class of people who purchased, used or performed heart disease advertisements of a similarity, all the men and women who appeared in the posters had attended the highest form of human perfection in terms of duty elegance and health.

Naturally the second part of the novel simple pleasures focuses on the role of Sufism in training human behaviour. The human behaviour has been forecast in details with the examples of many characters in the novel how the human behaviour is wild and uncultured and how it should be cultured and well organised has been described in the second part of the novel. His relationship with Mario became limited to his driving lessons until one day he informed the protagonist that he had set a date for his driving test with the department of roads and transport in action. Mario had condemned the protagonist to a number of his acquaintances in the department so his test only lasted an hour after which he received a card with his picture on it which gives him the right to drive a car. His direct methods considered his acquisition of a driving license and equation for celebration has no Libyan recruit had ever acquired one before as soon as training ours ended. They brought the protagonist the letter full of Oriental pastries and a part of audit from the camp kitchen who attended the celebration which did the protagonist on his success as he considered a protagonist, his star people know pretentious about integrating himself with the protagonist and told the rest of the recruits that they should rejoice as the protagonist had become their representative in the highest society. Actually the protagonist had any affinity with such type of programs so he had become friend due to this modesty. He replied that he didn't belong to higher circles and that his place would always be in this barracks under surgentandaz authority. Although he had returned his compliment, his words had hand in the inverse of ambition in his hard and had it under his self importance. He hadn't been speaking without ulterior motive is sixth sense which must have predicted which were bound to ascent the ladder of success and authority.

We can't to know how the protagonist of the novel bringing the changes in himself to be a good human being and one was trying to stamp his good ways of the life on others. Let us discuss one more incident which took place in the life of the protagonist and brought him to be the pure human soul. When he was on his way to couriers house to present himself and inform her that he was ready to take the job. When it occurred to the protagonist, he could take a day off without anyone in the camp realising and spend it by himself or with the person he loved and since he was the only person he loved and by whom he was loved in the city. He decided to visit her and her family after in the streets a while to release in the victory. He had owned by passing the driving test and acquiring a driving license as he was at the house he passed by a confectioners a shop and bought a plate of sweets and pastries to celebrate his success with her and her family. She was consumed with earring to see her eyes and her smile the totality of all beauty.

He knocked at the door and expected that she would open it as she had always opened it every time he had visited them in the morning when her brother was at school. Actually no one opened the door so he did not again knock and continued until it became clear that no one was home. He was a sized wheat worry that something hard might have happened to her and her family. Her father might have died and his family take him to the his village to Bhari him beside his ancestors dark horse race through his head but he would not t on the neighbours two hours so as not to worry them for invite gossip about stranger who had come to the house. He left the door and returned to the main road. He decided he would have to ask someone so it was best to ask the shopkeepers who work the next to the shop.

Al-Kubran pretended to be surprised and laughed, "Oh my God! Why does it taste sweet in my mouth then? Perhaps I have been transformed into one of the pious man of God to turn alcohol into honey in their mouths." For the first time you realise that al-Kubran liked to drink. You had seen him playing cards before, but without anything to drink other than his three rounds of tea. He understood what was going through your mind and so, as he swayed to the melody with his corpulent frame and echoed the lyrics with the others, he smiled and said, "I am a tea drinker just like you, but it doesn't suit these songs. It's just a glass we sip in honor of this wonderful gramophone" (391).

They were all friends of his and scenes he had worked in his shop they all knew him and his questions would not raise any suspicions as it turned out. There was no need to ask anyone because when he arrived he was surprised to find Haj Al Ahmadi sitting in his shop in Gloucester in his work hammer in hand a box of nails beside him pieces of red leather scattered around him. He took a piece of leather and put it on the small anvil and hammered it gently in order to soft and the leather. The protagonist felt both happy and sad. He was happy that the man had recovered from his illness. He thought he might have died. He felt relieved to learn signal Oriya didn't require his services that evening so he gave the car keys to Mukhtar and left. After all, Mukhtar set chatting about the richest those who fought in the war stood to gain. He still wanted to escape that by any and all means even if that moment employing decides as the protagonist attempted with physically couriers. Permanent driver's last resort would be to seek assistant from courier who could be add to him as the woman closest to the governor general. It is the time for the protagonist to bid farewell to those who are needed sorrowful farewell so that news of his departure for the battlefield didn't catch

them and he could visit his family in our lord Al Sheikh which despite he is dislike of it and his escape still occupied a special in his heart that no other place could take this. There isn't enough time for the protagonist to go to his village. He should at least to bid farewell to the people in new in Tripoli. The city where he had a flat to seek refuge; it was in Tripoli where despite all, he is suffering, he had found friends, a job and compassionate hearts. She could bid farewell to everyone. He admits in Tripoli and throws them. He would be taking leave of his homeland whose son had withdrawn behind the dark clouds of the occupation, whose lands had been pulled out from under the feet of its true owners but despite the owners, the dark clouds and the stolen scorched Earth. It was still his homeland, he didn't have any other farm, land and more than being stone pre and Earth it was people hearts and emotions. It was his sister who died and left their breed lingering in the air and the blood and bones mixed in the earth in his mind. The sum of all this formed the outlines of the country called Libya, the homeland in his moments of despair and frustration similar to have abandoned him.

Third part of the novel exposes the sole courses in detail on the moral aspects of the citizen. The novel concentrates on the moral aspects which have been portrayed throughout the novel to the some dubbed on prayer and couldn't go to back to sleep. He performed his ablutions and prayers and then let in bed starting at the ceiling waiting for 9 o'clock to arrive this seems how he was connected to the philosophy of Sufism. Minutes after leaving his hotel, he found himself by the mirror Café, so he had a glass of tea with milk and ate two pieces of pastry call to breed of the Nazarana. He then took a carriage to Bala Dr Street wear signal courier lead. He told the driver hire him until midday and he was to wait for him at a specified place even if he were let his in a wish to meet to his beloved.

The role of Sufi philosophy exposes how he detected the immorality in his blood and replaced it with moral aspects of Sufism. He avoided unnecessary conversation with the driver so that he would not reveal anything confidential to him. He asked him to stop in front of the door of the apartment building, there were none of the customary signs of the Governor Generals presence in the apartment; however the plainclothes police man scattered throughout the surrounding area clearly suggested. When he had arrived, his arrival at the house of his beloved exposes the purpose of confession. He wanted to confess that he loves her from his heart and mind. He doesn't just want her body to please his physical desire or to blow off his physical hunger; on the other hand, he had become a moral character and never wanted to lead himself to be any immoral activity.

The morality is not only concerned to the nature or behaviour of the character, on the other hand, it is even concerned to how the human beings behave in the society and how they

keep themselves away from any kind of corruption; whether it is social, economic, political or moral corruption. He was always happy in the company of Shaurya. Her mother wanted him to take some food stuffs to her son in law. But he apologized for not being able to take the bundle of food which was assembled his mother's bundle under the excuse that no one was allowed to board the ship with food but he promised her that she would search for the anti, he found him and that he would send them a letter telling them how he was sharing. The protagonist added that he would send them a sunny photograph of fairy and himself in perfect health drinking coconut milk on a river bank.

In this way, the whole novel concentrates on the principles of Sufism with different aspects; aspects of moral and immoral, the aspects of training the soul and mind and the aspects of training whole human beings dominated throughout the novel. The aspect of the novelist is the same to visualise the keen views of the Sufism which have been the milestone since Sophie philosophy has spread all over the world.

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