



## Qamar Iqbal's Life and Literary Works: A Critical Study

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QAMAR IQBAL was the renowned Urdu poet of Marathwada Region. He had taken up writing his autobiography but his untimely demise punctuated it just in the middle of this work. Incomplete as it is, the autobiography would be of utmost use in many ways for a research scholar.

The importance of this unpublished document need not be underestimated as it would provide the basic material to trace out the details regarding his personal life and family background.

*"Qamar Iqbal was born on 2nd February 1944 at Aurangabad Maharashtra. He was primarily a ghazal writer but he had also composed Sulas, Nazm and Hazal. He also worked in the capacity of an editor for the daily newspaper "Aurangabad Times". His published works are "Titliyaan" (A Collection of Sulaasi- 1981) and ("Mom Ka Shahr"- A Collection of Ghazals) 1986. Qamar passed away on 18th July 1988 in Aurangabad. His complete work titled "Kulliyat-e-Qamar Iqbal" was published posthumously by his wife Afsari Begum, in 2010."* (<https://www.rekhta.org/poets/qamar-iqbal/profile>)

As per records, he was born in Aurangabad. He was raised in Khandwah, Madhya Pradesh and his Primary Education was done in Khandwah. He was named as Iqbal Mohammad Khan S/o Daad Mohammad Khan and Shehzadi Begum. He got education till matriculation from Motilal Nehru School and R.C. Function School, Khandwah. He had written many books in Urdu literature like "Titliyaan" (A Collection of Sulaasi- 1981) and ("Mom Ka Shahr"- A Collection of Ghazals). While two books, Bhanwar Mein Charaagh and Ungliyaan Figaar Apni (His auto-biography) were unpublished work of Qamar Iqbal.

He married Afsari Begum, who published his complete work titled "Kulliyat - e - Qamar Iqbal" in 2010 after his death. He died on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1988 at 44 and buried in Chita Camp Graveyard beside Municipal Corporation Aurangabad. He had 3 children One Daughter and 2 sons. His paternal relatives were from Parbhani, Maharashtra. His maternal Grandfather Hazrat Shah Khan was in Police Department. Renowned Poet Bashir Nawaz was also his maternal cousin in some way.

Firstly he joined government job but after some time he resigned and joined Aurangabad Times as Resident Editor. He started writing poems and prose from very young age. His work published in various magazines and newspapers all over the nation. His popular columns and poetic forms were Sulaasi, Gazal, Hazal, Qata, Teer o Nashtar, Idaariya, Baat se Baad, Baal ki Khaal etc. He was prominently known in Marathwada and central region of Maharashtra and he was great poet of his times and popular among his audience and readers. Qamar Iqbal inspired and encouraged young writers and poets of his region. His contribution towards Urdu literature is remarkable and unforgettable. Many critics and linguistic experts consider him as a big poet of his era.



A collection of his Ghazals (Lyrical poems) was published under the title of 'MOM KA SHAHAR' (The city of wax). The draft copy and the proof of his second collection namely "Bhanvar Mein Chiragh" (A lamp in whirlpool) was almost ready but it could not be published. However, his published and unpublished work's would be screened. So also a comparative study of his Ghazals, (Lyrics) and those of his contemporary poets would be undertaken. Qamar Iqbal was the great poet of very popular Urdu poetic form Ghazal. His Ghazals were mirror of social incidents and philosophy of life. He never pretends about his feelings but embodied into a beautiful form of life. Qamar Iqbal was the Poet of Beauty of life. How beautifully he describes his true love and untouched beauty of his beloved. His beloved was pleasing village girl. His Ghazal was the incomplete story of his true love. Sometimes his Ghazals became the picture of contemporary incidents. He was very sensitive in nature and expert to explain eternal and external happenings of his life in the form of Ghazal.

He would never written Ghazals just for his exercise. He kept his Ghazal as meaningfully sound and complete aware of topic. He was very creative and very expressive about his feelings. As he was very sensitive poet, He feels that he was alone, desperate and underprivileged in the world. That is the main theme of modern Urdu Poetry. Meaningfully his Ghazal was a masterpiece of his times. He reveals the new meanings of untouched parts of feelings and love to his audience in the form of Ghazal. He influenced many generations in short span of his life. His Ghazal states Morality, emotions and injustice of underprivileged peoples. He fights for them and for their rights.

Qamar Iqbal's Ghazals were studied, analyzed, discussed widely and interpreted by the many research students. Many Research Scholars tried to find out the new dimensions of his Ghazals and Qamar Iqbal successfully adopted the views and counterviews of critics of his era.

Besides lyrics Qamar Iqbal's poetic work comprised many poems of different varieties (Genres). It was in 1981 that he published first collection of his poems entitled as 'Titliyan'. There were many poems and triplets in this volume. In addition to this very many poems appeared in newspapers and literary magazines from time to time. As he was a journalist also his poetry dealt with current topics and multifarious issues and burning problems. These poems appeared in 'Aurangabad Times' daily. All of these treasures of his artistic wisdom would be Analyzed examined and adjudged.

Nazm has the wide canvas to explain a single topic while Ghazal has limited space to interpret the real situation in limited and powerful words. Qamar Iqbal used this canvas to discuss untold stories occurs in surroundings of common peoples. He not only explores the problems of society but he successfully creates the formative scene of the situation in humorous style. In this way Qamar Iqbal's Nazm becomes the moment of happiness in the said situation. He was magician of the poetry. He wrote in many forms but he keeps the justice with each form of poetry. When he discuss the problem of social events like marriage, dowry, bribe, feast and husband wife relations in his Nazm, he satires on the topic and makes the Nazm humorous for his reader. That is the beauty of his poetry. Nobody take his hand in this style. He inspired many young writers to follow him. Sometimes His Poem use serious style to explain the real situation of the problem. In this way he succeeded to attract his audience and reader to approach to the problem, Then they could understand and think about the solutions and overcoming ways.

Qamar Iqbal was the Unique Poet of his style who had written thousands of poems continuously. Same format, different Style with different topics, he was genius to protect himself from imitation of other poets.



He created his own way to produce large number of readers. He had thousands of daily readers. The sale of Aurangabad Times was increased just because of Qamar Iqbal's Poetry. Every Tea Stall and Every Nukkad (Junctions) became the social gathering point for his readers in Aurangabad Maharashtra.

His Ghazals Dealt with loneliness, depression and hollowness of humanbeing but his Nazm was widely dealt with full of happiness, events and social problems. Whenever He sees any situation occurred before his eyes, he starts writing extemporaneously. That was the attribute and Expertise of Qamar Iqbal.

The use of three lines – triplets – for the expression of a complete theme and thought is associated with Himayat Ali Sha-er a native of Aurangabad, Maharashtra as a settler of this new trend. Qamar Iqbal followed Himayat Ali Sha-er only to improve and fully develop this new form of poetry. His first collection of poems named 'Titliyan' of triplets comprises and other poems. In addition there are many unpublished triplets which would also be critically examined. Qamar Iqbal's Triplets are the very popular form of his poetry. He was very successful poet at his times who was ruled whole generation by saying and writing Triplets. As I explained before, Sulaasi was the Invention of Himayat Ali Shayar of Aurangabad, after partition he went away to Pakistan. But true publicity work of these genre was done by Qamar Iqbal.

He had written thousands of Sulaasi during 2 decades of his literary life. He utilized the whole canvas to draw the graph of philosophy of life and human emotions. These Triplets were published in Aurangabad Times enormously. Rubai (Quatrain), the four verse poetry form was very surprising in its fourth verse. Triplet or Sulaasi dealt same way, its third and last verse was very surprising and has sudden impact of mind. The Credit of goes to Qamar Iqbal who had published this genre enormously and a complete volume in this genre named Titliyan the Collection of his Sulaasi. He was the first person in Urdu Literature who not only enormously and successfully created large number of impressive Triplets but he promoted this genre in contemporary poets.

In the promotion of Sulaasi the contribution of Qamar Iqbal is very much valuable and worthless. We can say the Sulaasi is the another face of Qamar Iqbal's poetry. This Poetic Genre Made Qamar Iqbal the top level poet in Urdu Literature. We cannot discover or explore Qamar Iqbal's Literary Works without describing his Sulaasi. Many Urdu Research Scholars did a hard work for finding out new aspects and new dimensions in his Sulaasi. Research Scholar had not only Titliyan (the Collection of Qamar Iqbal's Sulaasi) for analysis but he had the bunch of his Sulaasi and other works for his another literary works in his manuscript and paper cuttings of Daily Aurangabad Times. His efforts and His valuable creations could be seen in his Sulaasi. His Sulaasi has a significant status in Urdu. Still it has a grand popularity in the region and many Writers, speakers use his Sulaasi as Philosophical Quote to explain life and its incidents. His Popular Sulaasi was:

**Roshani Kaun Kisko Deta Hai**

**Sham Hote Hi Suraj Bhi**

**Apni Kirne Samet Leta hai**

Another Popular Sulaasi of him:

**Sar se Sar ko Milake Hans Padna**

**Yaad Aata Hai Aaj Bhi Mujhko**

**Wo Tera Khil Khilaake Hans Padna**

In both Sulaasis His different views and contradiction of topics and ideas could be seen. His Vision to see the beauty of life is unique. In first Sulaasi he interprets about the bitter truth of



life in Modern form of Poetry. He used Metaphor to get better meaning of verse. His style of explanation is not only different but Acceptable and Thinkable. While another Triplet Explain the beautiful attraction of her beloved. Truly Qamar Iqbal was a genius poet. He captured the whole embodiment of the beautiful girl and her innocent behavior in a single triplet. As a journalist Qamar Iqbal wrote "Hazal" a literary genre which appeared daily in the Aurangabad Times regularly. So also he wrote a column under the title 'Baal-ki-Khaal' which was a daily feature of the newspaper. Moreover he used to write a column under the heading: 'Baat-se-Baat' and the editorial note. These scattered prose writings and Satire (Hazals) would reflect the mind and personality at work. The inner self of the creator would positively reflect in his creation. It is through the detailed account of these writings inner recesses of the poet's mind was highlighted.

Qamar Iqbal was considered very talented, skillful, extra-ordinary and very courageous Journalist in Urdu. He was feature editor of the Aurangabad Times. In a single busy day he writes Editorial, he edits news, before compiling news and daily news paper he used to complete writing Special Page Raftaar e Adab which contains "Sulaasi, Qata, Baal ki Khaal, Baat se Baat and Hazal" it was very creative and fatiguing activity which includes daily set up of newspaper, editorial writing and lot of creativity is not possible in a single day for a common man. But for the Qamar Iqbal it was a routine work.

His editorials were the political analysis of national and international stories. Where, he condemns the injustice, capitalists, politicians and communal hatred in the society. He Admire the good initiatives of the governments in the favour of common man.

His complete work as an editor was always been masterpiece of the day. He had a big fan following just because of his regular columns, which were very popular in public.

We can say Qamar Iqbal as the Engineer of Journalism. His stories, editorial and regular columns were not just only for the reading but it had the literary sweetness and demand of the reader. His angle to see the news was always with common sense. He never manipulated his followers. He puts the news as it is as per situation but using the quality language being used in it.

He set the uncommon landmarks and heights for upcoming generation to learn the sentimental of the public in news writing. He developed his own structure and format to narrate adulteration proof news. Some Critics find the new dimensions and heights in his journalistic samples and also dealt with deep and analytical study of his regular columns. We can find out his skillful penning qualities and significant skills in journalism.

Qamar Iqbal used to compose a "Hazal" daily under the Penname of "Allama Gumnaam". Wit and Humour is the important aspect of his personality, but this is not found in his lyrics. To be witty and humorous on one hand and to be a serious thinker on the other hand are in fact polar opposites and pose a very difficult task for a writer and poet but for Qamar Iqbal it was very easy. After reading his humorous Ghazal (Hazal) we couldn't believe that Poet of this Product is very sincere man. Actually Hazal is the Comedy Version of Gazal. This is much difficult then Gazal. Poets consider Ghazal as the most difficult form of poetry. In Gazal, You have just 2 verse i.e. couplet to explain whole story in it and Gazal contains 5-7 couplets which have 10-14 verses. Each couplet has different topic to deal. Same way Hazal has 5-7 couplets and in single couplet you have to create humour and wit with proper dealing of the topic.

Qamar Iqbal's Gazal dealt with very serious topics and had written in modern style of poetry, where his Hazals were very humorous in sense. Nobody can stop laughing after reading each couplet of Qamar Iqbal's Hazal.

Faded and frustrated People of city would delight and smile during reading of Hazal of Qamar Iqbal. After analytical study of his Hazal we can say that Qamar Iqbal was magician of



poetry. It is very difficult to express views in contradiction firstly in serious form of emotions and secondly in humorous style but Qamar Iqbal was a fantastic person he lived his life in sea of emotions. He could transform himself in different emotions. May some Psychologist Say that this is not normal condition of mind like dual personality effect but every creative person influenced with emotional flood.

So, We can say different topics about common man and society are discussed in Hazals of Qamar Iqbal. His Particular Style in Hazal was Satire with Humour.

It is his uniqueness that makes it difficult to find match of Qamar Iqbal among his contemporaries. Be it in the field of the Lyrics (Ghazals) or satires (Hazals). The two contrasting literary genres one serious and the other full of jest and humour. A heterogeneous mix of a poet, a humorist, a journalist and a critic bring Qamar Iqbal in the forefront of his contemporaries and has no equal in this sphere.

There is no doubt about Qamar Iqbal that he was very unique in his style. Not a single poet was stand beside him to compare his style. If we found any similarity in someone's Poetry then we could understand that he was the follower or influenced one of Qamar Iqbal.

His Unique Style can be observed in his all forms of writings and poetry. He studied lot of books during editing of News paper. He learned Poetry very well. His Practice was fabulous and uninterrupted. As a result he had designed himself as a productive machine (as literary robot). But in producing huge amount of Poetry his quality of language and literary aspects were not compromised by Qamar Iqbal. You can challenge any writer before Qamar Iqbal's to Pen, definitely, he will refuse to take this challenge and start loving Qamar Iqbal and his capability. Qamar Iqbal has power to influence your thinking style with his poems. He could change your minds and feelings with his Hazals and Sulaasi. You can call him Qamar Iqbal, Allama Gumnaam or Gulfaam you will find his writings are as pure as just droplets of dews. Without any impurity and without any dense thoughts, he just penned for his readers. How fluently and how eloquently he had written his poetry and prose. When we read his books and poetry we don't let ourselves but love with his poetry. We start loving him, we start respecting him and we start believing that Qamar Iqbal was a phenomenon who should be discussed more and more by critics and linguistic experts. Qamar Iqbal's Uniqeness is that no history of Urdu will complete without remembering Qamar Iqbal and his literary works. **Qazi Saleem** claims

*"Half of the writings of Aurangabad were written by Qamar Iqbal."*