

A reflection on the didactic poems of Attar Nishaburi

Mohammad Yasin Ahmadi 

۱. PhD student, Department of Persian Language and Literature, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, University of Isfahan, Iran. Email: myasinahmadi@gmail.com

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Educational literature refers to works that express philosophical, religious, moral and social issues with a literary approach, and its purpose is education. Educational literature uses literary language in an artistic way to educate people in the society and invites them to acquire moral virtues, love of knowledge, seeking God and benevolence, and keeps them away from ignorance and meanness. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to examine the didactic poems of Attar Nishaburi. In this research, a part of Attar's poems, which has a didactic aspect, was analyzed with a descriptive-analytical method. Documentary findings show that Attar is one of the poets and professors of Persian language and literature who has addressed educational issues in his poems and works. His educational ideas in various cases such as: seeking God, chivalry, patience and tolerance, piety, avoiding greed and violence, having good morals, acquiring knowledge, using scientific resources, avoiding ignorance and ignorance, etc. You can see it in his poems. and used them to educate people in society. Because reaching the perfection of humanity, servitude and closeness to God is one of Attar's educational goals.

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Introduction

Didactic literature encompasses works that employ a literary approach to articulate philosophical, religious, ethical, and social themes, with the primary objective of moral guidance and education. By utilizing artistic and literary language, didactic literature invites members of society to cultivate virtues, pursue knowledge, seek the Divine, and reject ignorance and degradation. Attar of Nishapur, a preeminent mystic and poet of Persian literature, stands as a significant figure who deeply integrated educational and moral themes into his works. This research aims to explore the didactic dimensions of Attar's poetry, specifically identifying and analyzing the educational and ethical messages embedded within his verses. The study seeks to answer: What advice and moral guidance does Attar offer? What were his pedagogical objectives? And which specific didactic concepts are reflected in his poetry?

Method

This study adopts a descriptive-analytical research methodology. By examining Attar's body of work, the research identifies and extracts poetic samples containing educational and moral themes. These samples are then analyzed within the framework of Islamic mysticism and ethical pedagogy to delineate Attar's worldview regarding human perfection, servanthood to God, and societal conduct.

Results

The findings indicate that Attar consistently incorporates profound educational insights into his poetry, addressing various facets of life. The core didactic themes identified in his works include:

- **Seeking the Divine (Khodajooyi):** Attar emphasizes that the ultimate goal of human existence is achieving servitude and proximity to God, necessitating strict adherence to Sharia and constant remembrance of the Creator through all human faculties.
- **The Struggle against the Carnal Self (Nafs):** Attar advises against following base desires, advocating for asceticism, humility, and the constant discipline of the soul to avoid the pitfalls of worldly attachments.

- **Chivalry and Humanism (Javanmardi):** He defines true chivalry through traits such as honesty, kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and humility, urging readers to treat others with Conduct:** He promotes virtuous behavior, polite speech, and the avoidance of arrogance or hostility, stressing that one's treatment to success, encouraging believers to remain steadfast during trials and grateful during times of ease.
- **Ethics and Social Conduct:** He promotes virtuous behavior, polite speech, and the avoidance of arrogance or hostility, stressing that one's treatment of others ultimately shapes one's own reputation and spiritual standing.
- **Pursuit of Knowledge:** Attar places high value on knowledge (*ilm*) coupled with action (*amal*), asserting that knowledge without practice is fruitless. He encourages the continuous acquisition of learning and warns against ignorance and negligence.
- **Righteousness and Justice:** He strongly condemns oppression and anger, advocating for a life guided by reason, justice, and the rejection of all forbidden acts.

Conclusion

This research concludes that Attar of Nishapur is a masterful educator whose poetry serves as a comprehensive manual for moral and spiritual development. His work effectively bridges the gap between theoretical mysticism and practical living. By synthesizing Islamic teachings with mystical wisdom, Attar provides a roadmap for individuals to attain human perfection and spiritual closeness to God. His didactic approach-emphasizing reason, knowledge, patience, and ethical integrity-remains profoundly relevant, offering timeless guidance for contemporary society to navigate the complexities of life and achieve lasting happiness and spiritual dignity.