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## A short review of Benewah's life, contributions and poetic style

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### Abstract

Abdul Rauf Benewah is one of the contemporary writers and poets of Pashto literature and language. Also, he is known as the one of the five stars of Pashto literature. Besides poetry, Benewah wrote a lot of essays and dramas, most of them on social and historical which are written by Pashto, Persian and Arabic languages. Benewah contributed numerous collections in prose, poetry and dramas. Preshans Afkar [Troubled mind] is his poetic collection which has a lot of good poems. Also, was tender in historic events that he wrote a lot of books in the field of history and history of Pashto literature. One of his great prosaic contribution to Pashto letters was *اوسنی لیکوال* [contemporary writers] in three volume anthology of Pashto writings published in 1961. *Osani Lekwal* [contemporary writers] is a biography which explained a lot of contemporary Pashtun poets. The spiritual of the majority of Benewah's poems are based on the soul of the Wish Zalmian [It was a Pashtun intellectual youths party].

**Keywords:** Benewah, pashto, literature, prosaic and poetic contributions, poems, style

### Introductions

#### Literature review

Benewah is a Pashtun literary star which is renowned among the Pashtun society and community. So, there are a lot of books which talk about Abdul Rauf Benewah, but these books are in Pashto and Persian language. Indeed, we are lack of the English books and essays to talk about Benewah. Now, I intend to introduce the Benewah for whom to talk English or know English, and I will discuss his life, contribution and his poetic style in short. Life:

The most prominent, dominant and prolific writer, poet, intellectual and Politician of Pashtun tribe, Abdul Rauf Benewah was son of Mufti Abdullah [Islamic scholar] was born in Kandahar [City name, In Afghanistan], near to shrine of Kharja Mubarak, the road of Said Hasan khan, in 1913 A.D August 21th corresponding to 1292 H. The late Benewah was died in 1985 A.D, January 11th, corresponding to 1363 H and buried in New Jersey or American. Mir Benewah got the tradition Islamic studies of that time from his intellectual family and his elder brother Malawi Abdul Karim Gadah [then called Haqani, Islamic scholar] was a renowned Islamic scholar and he was a member of Jama'iatul Aulama [association of Pashto is a language which is spoken in south central Asia, primarily in Afghanistan, Pakistan as well as by the Pashtun throughout the world.

Pashto language has three phases and literary durations:

1. Old literary phase and duration
2. Middle literary phase and duration
3. Cotemporary literary phase and duration. (Munir: 158)

Abdul Rauf Benewah is a poet which related to the third literary phase that means contemporary literary phase. Also, he is called the one of five stars of Pashto literature (Zewar: 169). In this essay, we will discuss on the Benewah's life, contributions and poetic style scholars] and the judge of supreme court and the best renowned and clever Islamic scholar. Abdul Rauf Benewah has studied literary, political, social, and historical subjects in his throughout life. At the first he lives in Kandahar [City name, In Afghanistan]. Then, he came to Kabul [City name, in Afghanistan] in 1318 H. Benewah started his first official work from Pashto Tolana [association of Pashto] and he became the one of the professional members of it. He was the vice director of the publication department of Pashto Tolan [association of Pashto] for 13 year, then he became the director of the publication department

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د صحافت د ځانګې مدير member of historical department, the vice director د مدير مرستيال of the second domestic broadcast department د داخلي خپرونو څانګه of at the independent commission of publication رياست مستقل, the vice director of general management of Pashto Tolan [Association of Pashto], the responsible manager of Kabul magazine مدير مسول مجلې كابل and at the last he became the general manager of Pashto Tolana [Association of Pashto]. (Bakhtani: 1929) Then he did the following tasks:

1. press attaché to India
2. president of Kabul radio
3. vice president of the Tribal affairs Department of the afghan government
4. Minister of information and culture
5. Ambassador to Egypt.
6. Member of Afghan Parliament.
7. Lecturer of Kabul university.
8. Ambassador to Libya. (Bajawrai: 53)

In the 1980's he was sent to Libya as ambassador there he became ill, and went to the united states, where his family had moved, for treatment. He died in New Jersey in 1986.

### Contributions

Abdul Rauf Benewah joined with the Wish Zalmyanu Party [Active youth] as a keen and prior member among 1326 – 1331 H years. He did organizational and adverting tasks among the party. Finally, he wrote a book by the name of the Party which is titled Wish Zalmyan [Active youth]. Abdul Rauf Benewah has written a lot of influent poetry, literary proses, dramas and essays by the observation of the soul and principle of the party. He observed the spirituality and soul of the party in his all distributions and works.

When Zaher Shah was the king of Afghanistan, Abdul Rauf Benewah was one of the members of Mohammad Hashem Maiwandwal's democratic progressive party (د مترقي دموکرات) (حزب) and he worked for the party, but afterward, Abdul Rauf Benewah with his Kandahari intellectuals left the party.

Abdul Rauf Benewah was a renowned writer, skillful journalist, researcher, poet and a political, social and cultural figure and the writer of the Pashto and Persian language. Also, he published some books by Arabic language. Benewah also has a lot of Drama, critical, and ironic proses. He also wrote a lot of poet in simple figure and language with social and national spiritual with critical points and sometimes, his poem is colored with Sophism.

Benewah, published some contribution by his fake name as Mast, Sarmast, Alizay. Also, Benewah, in his social and cultural life, traveled besides of our domestic provinces, he traveled to India, Pakistan, Egypt, Labia, German, France, the Soviet Union and United Sates America. (Bakhtani: 1929)

### The list of the books and contributions

1. **Pashto Keli [Key of Pashto], 4 volume, first section:** This book is written under the observance of Pashto academy [Pashto association] for the officials to learn Pashto language. It is published in 1320 H. Benewah wrote. This book is the first one of Abdul Rauf Benewah.
2. **Paradis [Traveler]:** This book is the poetic translation of Alamo Iqbal's Musafer [traveler] which is issued in

Anis [Anis was a new paper in Afghanistan] and the manuscript of it is in the Afghan National Archive.

3. **Pashto De Shahano pa darbar ki [Pashto in the king's durbar]:** This is a booklet that is issued many times.
4. **Pashto Mirmani [Pashtun's women]:** this is a biography which talks about cultural and Afghan women that is issued in 1323 H by independent department of publication.
5. **De Hotako Pa Dora Ki Pashto [Pashto in the Era of Hotak]:** This book is published in Kabul Magazine in 1324H.
6. **Mirwais Nika:** this book is published by Pashto Tolan in 1325H.
7. **Aryan, Persian and Pashto's elegies:** This booklet is issued in Kabul Magazine in 1325 H.
8. **De Ghanamo Wege [the bunch of wheat]:** This booklet is written in verse about Ahmadsha Baba's meetings in 1325 H.
9. **Composition, edition and an introduction on Per Mohamad Kakra:** Under the supervision of Pashto Tolana [Pashto association] in 1325H.
10. **Chand Ahang Mili Pashto [some national song of Pashto]:** This booklet is issued in Kabul Magazine, then it is published by Kabul Radio.
11. **Adabi Fanon [literary figures]:** This booklet is written for the students of literature of Kabul university in the first year of the establishment of literature faculty. This booklet is published under the supervision of Pashto Tolan.
12. **Wish Zalmyan [intellectual youths]:** This book is a collection of the prosaic and poetic writings and essays of the intellectual youths. This book is written by the proposal of Benewah and it is issued by Pashto Tolana instead of Kabul Magazine in two volumes.
13. **Dar Mistater's Pashto researches:** This is a linguistic book which is translated by Said Qassim Rishta from French to Persian language. Then, Benewah and Abdul Hai Habibi translated it to Pashto language. It is published in 1326 H in Pashto Tolana.
14. New composition and introduction of Rahman's book of poems.
15. **Khoshal Khan khatak Sa wayee? [What does Khushal Khan Khatak say?]:** This book is published by Said Ghulam Sappi in Mumbai and the second time it is published in Kabul at governmental publication.
16. **Nazari ba Pashtonistan [a view to Pashtonistan]:** This book is written in Persian language in Kabul Yearly Magazine in 1329H and the second time it is issued as a book.
17. **Pashtonistan:** This book is a big research which is written about the people and the land of Pashtonistan in 480 pages. At first, this book is issued in [Anis] Magazine and the second time it is published as a book by the independent presidency of publication.
18. **Leadran Imrozy Pashtonistan [Introduction of today's leaders]:** This is a biography which is issued in Kabul Yearly Magazine and the second time, it is published as a special book.
19. **The composition, edition and an introduction of Kazim Khan Shaida's book of poems:** It is published by Pashto Tolana in 1335 H.

20. **Hotake:** this is a historic book which is written about duration and kingship of Hotat Pashtun tribe. This book is issued by Pashto Tolan in 1335H.
21. **Prishana Afkar:** This is a collection of poems which is published by Pashto Tolan.
22. **Translation of Getangeli:** This is the Pashto prosaic translation of Rabander Anata Tagor's songs. This book is issued in Anis Magazine successively, then it is published by Kabul Radio and literature faculty of Kabul university.
23. **Landey:** This is an anthology of Pashto Poems which is translated by Persian and English language. This collection is published by Kabul Radio.
24. **Khushal Aw Pasarlay:** This booklet is issued by Pashtun Ghag Magazine in 1337H.
25. **Pacha Khan:** This book is about Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan's life and struggles [This man was a leader of Pashtun tribe in Pakistan, he lived in 20th century]. Originally, this book is written by khial Bukhar in Urdu language. Then, Benewah translated it to Pashto language. This book is issued in Anis Magazine successively.
26. **De Zra Khwara [the secret of hearts]:** This is a collection of literary, ironic and critic letters which are written to a supposed friend. This book is issued in Islah Magazine successively in 1338H. Then, it is published by Book Publisher Institute in 1345H.
27. **Pashto Qirat [Pashto reading]:** IT is written for 10th grade that is published by ministry of education in 1344H.
28. **Osani Likwal:** This book is in three volume. It is published by independent presidency of publication that the first one is in 1340H, the second volume in 1341, the third is in 1346H.
29. **Afghanistan Al Yawm:** This book is written in Arabic that is published in Cairo in 1342H.
30. **Arba Aen Haqiqa of Afghanistan:** It is written in Arabic that is published in Cairo in 1343H.
31. **Almarat ul Afghani:** It is written in Arabic that is published in Cairo in 1964H.
32. **De Afghanistan Nomyali:** This book is written in four volumes. It is published by the ministry of culture and information. The first and the second one is published in 1353 H, the third one is in 1356H and the fourth one is published in 1395H.
33. **Nita Lik Yadashtona or De Afghanistan Tarikhi Peshi [The historic events of Afghanistan]:** This book is published in two volumes in Kabul university in 1345H.
34. **De hask Peghla [The girl of the sky]:** This is a collection of poems which is published in the association of youth of Afghanistan in 1367H.
35. **Zor Gonahgar:** This is a collection of Drama which is gathered by Afzal Takor and it is published in governmental publication in 1367H.
36. The translation of Maamarul Qazafi' green book which was written in Arabic, but Benewah translated to Pashto language.
37. Arabic- Pashto dictionary.
38. The Afghanistan Nomyali [The Hero of Afghanistan], fifth volume [Notes]
39. De Afghanistan Tarikhi Reshee [The historic root of Afghanistan]
40. De cheen Sapar [The trip of China] (Bakhtani: 1932)

### Poetic style

Style has traditionally been defined as the manner of linguistic expression in prose or verse. As, how speakers or writers say whatever it is that they say. The style specific to a particular work, or else distinctive of a type of writings, has been analyzed in such terms as the rhetorical situation and aim; characteristic diction, or choice of words; type of sentence structure and syntax; and the density and kinds of figurative language. [Abrams: 303]

The literary style has the following elements: Diction, Figurative language, Imagery, Syntax, Tone and mood, Rhyme, Meter, Form, Poetic syntax, Sound. [Jago: 21]

In this essay, I will discuss on some of the preceding elements of a literary style in Benewah's poems.

### Figurative Language

Abdul Rauf Benewah was one of the expert poets of Pashto language. Also, he was keen to use a lot of magic and golden figure of speech in his poetry. Also, there are a lot of wonderful simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, irony, paradox and something else.

د کوهستان شفق  
هندکش په سر لمبي دي که اسمان سره کناره ده  
د کوم سوي زرگي آه دی یا د وینو فـــــــواره ده  
که چنگیز د عصر توره چي له تیکي را ښکاره ده  
یا خو بل د مینې اور دی  
د فلک پرې سوي کور دی

This poem is a capturing of Benewah's musing as he watches the sun set behind the horizon in Kohistan, an area north of Kabul at the foot of the Hindu Kush. The structure of the poem is reminiscent of Pashto folk poetry.

The poem was probably written at the end of the fifties. Our copy was published in Preshana Afkar [Troubled mind, پریشان افکار] which is a collection of some of Benewah's poetry published by Pashto Academy in the late fifties. (Tagay: 115)

### Simple prosaic translation and interpretation of the above Pashto poem

Is there a flame on the top of the Hindukush Mountain or is the edge of the sky is fire? I guess it is not a flame, but it may be the scream of a burned heart which went out or it is a fountain of blood. It may be a Changeez sworn which is revealed or I think it may be the fire of a love which burned the world.

### Syntax

Generally, Benewah utilizes simple sentences. He tries to convey the meaning easily. He was a realistic poet, he often attempts to send the message directly in verse, but sometimes he tries to decorate the poems with figure of speech that the sentences will be lengthened.

سپين غر  
جگي جگي ساقي راشه د خورمن د زرگي په خوا شه  
ستا له سره سپيلنی شم تر سرو سترگو دي واری شم  
را ته خنده راته داد کړه پخپل داد بی وزلي ښاد کړه  
زما لوري ته ډېر ډېر شه تر بي درد عالم را تېر شه  
په پياله مي کړه نمخنه رانه ليري کړه پوهنه



This poem is a Saqinama [a poem or chant addressed to the Saqi, usually translated as cup-bearer, who serves the wine. Because of these Saqis, the word Turk carries a connotation of beauty. This Saqinama is a poetic form in which half-lines must rhyme, and all half-lines must be of the same number of syllables. This particular Saqinama is a description of the author's thoughts- some having to do with wine, some with nationalism- as he watches the sun set over Spin Ghar in the Ningerhar/ Logar area of Afghanistan. (Tagay: 118)

### Form

Generally, Benewah is interested to write poems and mix stanzas.

### انقلاب

نسیم ووي د گل غور کي بدل شو د یارانې رنگ  
غلی شانتنه انقلاب دی بدلوي د زمانې رنگ  
ورسره نوي رنگونه رنگارنگ تحولونه  
کړي سمسور به راغ رگونه  
موسم بل دی هم بل سوی د بلبل د ترانې رنگ  
غلی شانتنه انقلاب دی بدلوي د زمانې رنگ

(Benewah: 7)

### Tone and Mood

Benewah was a real poet that he wrote a lot of contributions. When we read his poems that we will understand which are written by sincerity and real emotion.

### صحرايي گل

د عدم په غيږ کي پروت وم، خبر نه وم له جهانې  
نه محتاجه د نسيم ومو نه مې ويره له خزانې  
نه مې پانې وې نه ځانگې، نه غوتې چې خندا نه  
څنگه راغلم؟ څه را وسوه؟ په هيڅ پوه نه شوم له ځانه  
څه شيرين خو د عدم و؟ له هر څه فراموشي وه  
کوم بي نيازې را بيدار کړم؟ هرې خواته خاموشي وه

(Tagay: 118)

### Conclusion

Here in the essay, it is concluded that Benewah is a great, prominent and prolific Pashtun poet who has several poetic contributions and collections, and you will find a lot of different and specific elements of a literary style, such as: Diction, Figurative language, Imagery, Syntax, Tone and mood, Rhyme, Meter, Form, Poetic syntax and Sound. The one enormous of character of Benewah's poems is to announce the aims and goals of Wish Zalmian (the intellectual youth party).

Generally, Benewah utilizes simple sentences. He tries to convey the meaning easily. He was a realistic poet, he often attempts to send the message directly in verse, but sometimes he tries to decorate the poems with figure of speech that the sentences will be lengthened.

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