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Topic of Research: The Sharing of Knowledge and the Interfertilization of Mystical Ideas: A Selective Reading of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Mystical Poetry of Kashmir

Finding

Keywords: Kashmir, Mystical Poetry, Shared Knowledge, Syncretism

In the Kashmiri, Sanskrit and Persian historical narratives on Kashmir, the Valley is described as a sacred space. In their respective idioms, it is articulated as *Reṣu'-Vār*, *Rīṣī-Vātika* and *Bāgh-i-Sulaymān*. These epithets portray and suggest the centrality of mystics and other divines in the lives of Kashmiris. Being a landscape of diverse traditions, one comes across the activities of interreligious interactions. The presence of interreligious elements within the poetry of Kashmiri mystics has regularly invited the attention of scholars. In the course of their discussion, scholars have mainly interpreted such kind of poetry as syncretic, which reflects a gross generalization, misinterpretation and reductionism of mystical poetry to syncretism.

The present study attempted to fill this lacuna by examining the mystical poetry in Kashmiri with a particular focus on the works of six mystic poets from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. After setting up the background, it underlines the poetic tradition of Kashmir. By using the method of content analysis, the present research establishes that the works of mystics demonstrate an interplay between orality, textuality and historic memory in the multilingual and multicultural literary milieu of Kashmir. It is being postulated here that the works of the mystics need to be read keeping in mind their multi-layered context.