

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITY OF BALUCHISTAN
QUETTA**

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University of Baluchistan has been recently established, i.e., in 1972. Department of Philosophy was started only two years back in 1987. Naturally we cannot expect much from such a young institution. Previously, it was proposed more than once to start the teaching of Philosophy in the University, but for one reason or the other it was delayed and could not be started earlier. Thanks God that now the Department is started and it is hoped that it will make its progress rapidly. In the very first year of the establishment of the Department, the 27th Session of the Pakistan Philosophical Congress was held in the Baluchistan University. It was due to the kindness and patronage of Mr. Mohammad Hasan Baluch, the Vice-Chancellor, that the Congress could be held. The credit of its being a success goes to the untiring efforts of late Prof. Ch. Abdul Qadir, Mrs. Ghazala Irfan, Dr. Abdul Khaliq and Prof. M. Saeed Sheikh and we are very thankful to them all for their efforts and cooperation.

There are one Professor and four Lecturers in our Department. The four Lecturers, incidentally coming from all the four provinces of the country, are fresh M.A.s. They are quite hard-working, industrious and studious, and take great interest in the subject. They have not yet produced any substantive work but are working on different problems. Ms. Shagufta Begum is studying critically the problem of 'Law and Morality' and Ms. Nusrat Hasan is working on 'Values'. Both of them will be taking admission for their M.Phil/Ph.D. degrees

in the Punjab University. Ms. Rubina Lodhi has applied for her admission in Athens University, and it is hoped that she will get it this year. Mr. Hamid Hasan Khan is also trying to get admission in some foreign University, preferably in U.S.A. We are lucky enough to have such a promising and brilliant staff in the Department. They have not yet achieved anything in the shape of published work but their start is very promising and it is hoped that all of them will prove their worth in the near future.

As far as the students are concerned, they are not many, no doubt, as their number is only in one digit in each class. Unluckily the subject of Philosophy is taught not in many colleges in the province, and so the feeding institutions are only a few as far as the subject of Philosophy is concerned. We are making an effort that the subject is introduced in many more colleges so that we may have a more expansive feeding area and consequently the number of students in the Department increases.

I do not claim to have done much in the field. However, nearly fifty articles on different philosophical, educational and literary topics are published in different magazines and journals of India and Pakistan : Humayun, Alamgir, Adb-e-Latif, Naqoosh, Iqbal, Pakistan Philosophical Journal, Afkar, Al-Ilm, Education in Pakistan, and Sar-e-Aab, the Quetta University Journal. A book entitled **مسلمانوں کا نظام تعلیم** (Educational System of the Muslims in the Sub-continent) was published by All Pakistan Educational Conference, Karachi in 1956. It is a discussion on, and the history of educational systems of the Sub-continent during the Muslim period. Another book entitled **اقبال کا نظریہ اخلاق** was published by the Institute of Islamic Culture, Lahore in 1960. As the title indicates, the moral theory of Dr. Iqbal is discussed in the book. The position taken in the book is that, according to Iqbal, 'Realization of the Self' is the Summum Bonum. To attain this end, Iqbal has emphasised positive and negative as well as individual and social values. The nature of self, ways and means of strengthening the self and the different kinds of values and the part played by them to achieve this end is discussed in the book.

Three books on Aesthetics have also been written by me. These are *حقیقت حسن ، تاریخ جاہلیات* and *فن اور مطالعہ فن*. The first two books are published by Kalat Publishers, Quetta, and the third is recently published by Qamar Kitab Ghar, Karachi. *تاریخ جاہلیات* is a voluminous book containing nearly 500 pages. In it different schools of thought of Aesthetics and the great thinkers of this branch of knowledge are discussed chronologically. Beginning from the Greek thinkers it comes upto the contemporary thinkers. Some of the thinkers and schools of thought in Aesthetics discussed in the book are Plato, Aristotle, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Rationalism, Empiricism, Romanticism, Idealism, Realism, Art for Art's sake, Ethical school, Psycho-analysis, Play theory, Empathy, Expressionism, Experimental Aesthetics and Science of Fine Art. The author's point of view is realistic, but he has tried his best to be impartial in his discussions.

Aesthetics has two main aspects, Beauty and Fine Art. The other two books are on these aspects respectively. In *حقیقت حسن* the author has discussed the different definitions of beauty and its different schools of thought. Different definitions of Beauty are discussed and then classified under five heads – Natural, Metaphysical, Objective, Subjective and the relation between object and subject. The other topics of the book are Aesthetic Sense, Aesthetic Taste, Aesthetic Experience, Aesthetic Pleasure, Beauty and Other Values, Sublime and Ugliness.

The third book on Aesthetics is *فن اور مطالعہ فن*. It is recently published and the general discussion on different aspects of Fine Art is found in it. Definition of Fine Art, its nature, its importance, its aims, creative impulse, relation of Fine Art with life and other values, Art as the result of social consciousness, Art as social activity, Imagination, Feeling and Emotion, Expression and the future of Art are some of the topics discussed in it. Different points of view are presented in the discussion, but the reader can easily find the realistic and progressive point of view of the author.

I think the general field of Aesthetics is covered only in outline by these three books: and they may perhaps create some interest in the reader for this branch of knowledge.

I have translated a few books in Urdu. One translation is that of the 'History of Freedom of thought' by J.B. Burry, the compiler of Gibbon's 'Fall of Roman Empire'. This is perhaps the best book of Burry. In it he has discussed the significance and importance of freedom of thought and its expression. He has also discussed the struggle of the lovers and the martyrs of freedom of thought and has paid tributes to them for their sacrifices. I have added nearly 140 explanatory notes covering more than fifty pages in the book so that the reader may find it easier to follow the book and its arguments. This translation is also recently published by Qamar Kitab Ghar, Karachi. Let me say that, though it is only a translation, I like it most of all my books.