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Abstract

Abul 'Ala al-Ma'arri, the reputed blind bard of the Abbasid period wrote "Risalat al-Ghufran"--- a book on skyward journey. The hero of the book Ibn al-Qarih on his way came across several personalities in paradise and hell. Ma'arri's work is considered to be one of the most celebrated literary texts in Arabic. Around 1930, Allama Muhammad Iqbal composed his Mathnawi "Javed Nama" dealing with the same theme. Iqbal was aware of the eastern and western religious and literary currents and had direct approach to "Risalat al-Ghufran". As such his work, which is justly considered to be his masterpiece, combines the tradition with the modernism. The article presents the comparative study of both the works with similarities and differences too.

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