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Reading in *Al-Janadriyah* Festival and its Influence on Saudi Literature

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Abstract

Focussing on Al-Janadriyah Operetta as a leading example of poetic and performance art that combines tradition with modern expression, this essay explores the complex relationship between poetry, national identity, and cultural heritage in Saudi Arabia. Described as a "tumultuous feeling" and a "throbbing idea", poetry is a transformative force that reflects society's values and reshapes thoughts and emotions. Themes such as identity, nation, justice, love, and faith are all addressed in Saudi poetry, which is deeply rooted in Nabati poetry and the oral traditions of the Arabian Peninsula. National operettas, particularly Al-Janadriyah Operetta, which has been the focal point of Al-Janadriyah Festival since 1985, illustrate this evolution. Through an analysis of the operetta "Nation and Men", this study investigates the ways in which poetic texts are adapted into performative works that emphasize the ethical and spiritual principles that form the foundation of Saudi culture.

The study applies the critical-analytical-descriptive approach to trace the influence and effect of the festival on Saudi literature.

Keywords: Al-Janadriyah Festival - Saudi literature - Identity - Literary influence - National pride.

ملخص

مع التركيز على أوبريت الجنادرية كمثال رائد للفنون الشعرية والأداء الذي يجمع بين التقليد والتعبير الحديث، يستكشف هذا البحث العَلاقة المتداخلة بين الشعر والهوية الوطنية والإرث الثقافي في المملكة العربية السُّعُودية. يوصف الشعر بأنه "شعور عاصف" و"فكرة نابضة"، وهو قوة تحويلية تظهر قيم المجتمع وتعيد تشكيل الأفكار والعواطف. يتم

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تناول موضوعات مثل الهُوِيَّة والأمة والعدالة والحب والإيمان في الشعر السعودي، الذي له جذوره في الشعر النبطي والتقاليد الشفوية لشبه الجزيرة العربية. وتوضح الأوبريتات الوطنية، ولا سيما أوبريت الجنادرية، التي كانت بمنزلة البؤرة المحورية لمهرجان الجنادرية منذ عام 1985، هذا التطور. ومن خلال تحليل أوبريت "دولة ورجال"، تبحث هذه الدراسة في الطرق الذي يتم بها تكييف النصوص الشعرية في أعمال أدائية تؤكد على المبادئ الأخلاقية والروحية التي تشكل أساس الثقافة السُّعُودية. وتنهج الدراسة المنهج النقدي التحليلي الوصفي لتتبع تأثير المهرجان على الأدب السعودي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: مهرجان الجنادرية - الأدب السعودي - الهوية - التأثير الأدبي - الفخر الوطني.

Résumé

En mettant l'accent sur l'opérette d'Al-Janadriyah, cet essai explore la relation complexe entre la poésie, l'identité nationale et l'héritage culturel en Arabie saoudite.Des thèmes tels que l'identité, la nation, la justice, l'amour et la foi sont tous abordés dans la poésie saoudienne, qui puise ses racines dans la poésie nabatéenne et les traditions orales de la péninsule arabique. Les opérettes nationales, en particulier l'opérette d'Al-Janadriyah, au cœur du Festival d'Al-Janadriyah depuis 1985, illustrent cette évolution.

À partir d'une analyse de l'opérette « Nation et hommes », cette étude examine la manière dont les textes poétiques sont adaptés en œuvres scéniques qui mettent en avant les principes éthiques et spirituels constituant le fondement de la culture saoudienne. L'étude applique une approche critique, analytique et descriptive afin de retracer l'influence et l'impact du festival sur la littérature saoudienne.

Mots-clés : Festival d'Al-Janadriyah - Littérature Saoudienne - Identité - Influence littéraire - Fierté nationale.

The national poem has played an important role in Al-Janadriyah operetta since its inception nineteen years ago until today. The operetta has become an effective factor in introducing Saudi Arabian culture to other peoples through the national word that is sincere in its sense of belonging to this country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The operetta fosters a sense of togetherness and belonging among spectators by tying the nation's collective goals to its cultural and religious heritage through patriotic and sacred imagery. The words of the kingdom's poetry stars have embraced the ears of the audience through successive

operettas, and the sincere feelings that they conveyed in their beautiful words have given them a presence in the memory of the country and a place in history (Al-Najmi, 2008). For the first five sessions of the National Festival, a central theme was chosen.

In the Arab world, where it hosts numerous seminars, it is the popular heritage and its connection to creative and intellectual innovation. “Every civilization and culture influences and is impacted by others in some way. Over the millennia, literature has had a concrete and tactile impact on cultures in different countries and on different continents” (Dahami, 2024a; Dahami, 2022). Among these were the symposiums on Saudi literature, popular literature, classical literature, and the origins and evolution of the short story on the Arabian Peninsula, in addition to the Grand Cultural Symposium and the Gulf Theater Symposium. Furthermore, “the literature in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with its poetry, stories, and novels, is among the world’s literature, and its trends were influenced by various factors such as education and journalism, and Saudi writers discussed various topics of culture, the economy, society, and various types of literature” (Dahami, 2024a). Popular heritage in celebratory arts and the significance of popular heritage in creative works are a few of its titles. Events featuring comedy, theater, dance, music, and the traditional history of women's attire in different parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are also held. Since its founding in 1985, the festival has drawn tourists from both inside and beyond the monarchy.

In addition to hosting exhibitions of moldable art, the concept of Al-Janadriyah Festival was introduced more than fifty years ago. It features jewelry, old tools, and heritage in an integrated village that Saudi people utilize in their surroundings. “Al-Janadriyah (National Festival of Heritage and Culture) means that in its reality and in the activities that take place in it, all regions of the kingdom participate, represented by models of diverse heritages tinged with popular character” (Dahami, 2026). The name Al-Janadriyah comes from the heritage hamlet of the same name, which is situated close to Riyadh. Al-Janadriyah Festival highlights the vocabulary of Saudi heritage, which includes poetry, painting, and traditional crafts. This idea grew throughout the region and the country, and Al-Janadriyah Festival has a strong desire to develop the annual camel race. This concept stems from the desire to preserve the ancient legacy so that future generations and other global populations are aware of it. See more at (Al-Dabbagh, 2001)

Visitors can learn about handicrafts and popular delicacies at



the festival's many events, which include folk arts, theater performances, exhibitions, lectures, and traditional markets. Al-Janadriyah festival is a significant cultural occasion that displays dance, art, poetry, and unique craftsmanship while incorporating the kingdom's legacy. Building, weaving, irrigation, agriculture, cuisine, education, parades, dances, singing, folk songs, techniques of purchasing and selling, measuring and scales, and sewing clothes with needles and threads are just a few of the many cultural and historical events that take place throughout the festival. It also represents the mayor's center, the sheikh of the craft, and other pieces of art that are difficult to categorize. This vast area spans north and south, east and west, and is home to various occupations, artistic endeavors, and literary events.

Picture 1: A scene of the Operetta (Ibn Hithal, 2021)

Source: https://urls.fr/pqNNnw

The festival has expanded significantly over time, both in terms of the number of attendees and the scale of the events. The festival was first restricted to a small number of folklore and heritage-related events, but it has since expanded into a full-fledged cultural event with a wide range of activities. As BIN SULAIMAN (2020), notes, the festival serves as a reflection of Saudi history, displaying traditional crafts, folklore, and literary expressions that have shaped the cultural discourse in the Kingdom. The festival has also fostered a sense of pride among Saudis, encouraging the exploration and appreciation of their literary legacy. Al-Janadriyah introduced Arab intellectuals and others to Saudi cultural production in the past and present. It prompted people in various

cities and villages to reconsider the validity of many of our previous impressions.

Moreover, it made Saudis proud of their homeland, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and its distinguished insight and ability to confront intellectual challenges at home and abroad (Al-Qafilah, 2004). A temporary alteration of the urban space's public domain is part of urban preservation. The old Al-Janadriyah site in Riyadh has been conserved and elevated through the promotion of its yearly cultural and heritage festival by implementing a branded urban heritage approach. The cultural movement in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia goes through several phenomena, including a regular seasonal movement, as we see in the great cultural season, Al-Janadriyah; and the accompanying diverse cultural activity that paves the way for the great seasonal event or comments on it. See more at (Al-Meskeen, 1997). Al-Janadriyah is also an ancient heritage sign of the flow of life and contemplation. Its symbolic content clearly conveys the movement of the present and the future, even as it reflects the implications of the earliest creation, where harshness, misery, and necessity predominate.

Objectives of the Study

This study explores the scholarly work on the festival's impact on Saudi literature, focusing on its role in preserving traditional forms like Nabati poetry, fostering modern literary movements, and promoting cultural exchange between Saudi authors and the wider Arab literary world. In addition, one of the primary aims of this study is to analyze the influence of Al-Janadriyah Festival on Saudi literature, focusing on its role in literary and cultural preservation as well as the balance between tradition and modernity. The study also attempts to explore the historical development of Al-Janadriyah Festival and its transformation from a heritage-focused event to a comprehensive cultural platform that includes literature. Besides, it seeks to examine the ways in which the festival supports and promotes Saudi literary writers, including established and emerging talents, through events like poetry evenings, literary seminars, and operettas.

Literature Review

Following a thorough inquiry and a review of numerous sources, no previous research on the subject of Reading in Al-

Janadriyah Festival and its Influence on Saudi Literature has been located. This lack of prior research highlights the uniqueness and significance of the current investigation. It implies that this study is obviously needed and that it could be able to fill a significant gap in the material currently in publication. Because it delves into a previously unexplored field of study, this can increase the study's significance and value. Furthermore, it indicates that the subject matter, 'Al-Janadriyah Festival and its Influence on Saudi Literature,' is novel and inventive, providing a distinct viewpoint that has not been previously examined. The uniqueness and potential significance of the research are further highlighted by the lack of prior studies on this specific subject. This lays the groundwork for a significant contribution to the area and emphasizes how crucial it is to investigate novel research directions.

The Result and Analysis

The Importance of Al-Janadriyah Festival

Poetry is a throbbing idea, a stormy feeling, and a spirit that permeates everything, bringing them back to life and movement while eliminating the things that have caused them to stagnate and reshape into something else entirely. “Poetry is the son of life, and life is a mirror of the contradictions that shake us and unsettle us from within, and do not settle us in one state” (Al-Faisal, 2021). If the soul feeds poetry, it is a trace of thought and feeling. In addition, poetry is good poetry “if it can move our feelings and win us over to its side. It is also a poem when it contains captivating language, adequate meaning, and stronger words, in addition to attractive imagination and images” (Qahtan, 2017, p. 34). Furthermore, “poetry is no longer a form of literature, but rather something independent. The difference between them is that literature is the product of talent within defined boundaries. Poetry is a revelation with two missions: transforming the world and interpreting the world. Or, as Breton says, the role of poetry is to continue to advance without stopping” (Ihsan, 1978, p. 7). Poetry is also a voice of a nation's resurgent social conscience and a component of a nation's legacy. Even while the country believes that this is one of the keys to its survival and one of the laws of its transcendent existence, it is still figuring out a way forward and

amassing the arts of politeness for itself. In the same manner, you can say that:

> "Saudi poetry continues to develop at all times as poets express their personal experiences and deal with contemporary issues such as homeland and identity, freedom, social justice, love, glory, pride, lamentation, satire, and many other areas of Saudi poetry. It is no secret to many poets and those interested in poetry that Saudi poetry includes a wide range of poetic styles and forms, and many poets have contributed and are contributing to defining its path and enriching its cultural and literary heritage" (Dahami, 2024b).

Furthermore, I believe that poetry is the spirit of the operetta.

Picture 2: A scene of the Operetta (Ibn Hithal, 2021)



Source: https://urls.fr/pqNNnw

Al-Janadriyah Operetta is the most prominent example of a national operetta in the Arab world. This operetta is performed annually at the opening of Al-Janadriyah Festival, a major cultural event that has been organized in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since 1985. Al-Janadriyah Operetta is distinguished by presenting national and historical stories that reflect the great transformations that the Kingdom has witnessed over the decades. Al-Janadriyah Festival is one of the most important cultural, heritage, and literary festivals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The festival aims to preserve the national heritage and literature and introduce it to new generations, in addition to strengthening the national identity. One of the most important events held at the festival is the singing operetta, which is an event that is anticipated every year. The festival contributes to highlighting different aspects of Saudi heritage through literary arts.

The operetta helps to strengthen the sense of allegiance and national identity by addressing issues of the history, accomplishments, and cultural diversity of the Kingdom. The concentration on national heritage is the most notable of the many traits linked to Al-Janadriyah operetta. In addition to traditional music that captures the cultural diversity of the several Kingdom regions, the operetta makes extensive use of Nabati poetry, which is a part of Saudi literature. Apart from the trait of national symbolism, the operetta addresses issues of the Kingdom's past. In addition to highlighting national values like loyalty and belonging, the operetta also emphasizes significant examples, such as King Abdulaziz's unity of the nation. It is a necessary quality in addition

to artistic diversity. The operetta is a full presentation that shows the diversity of Saudi history through a range of artistic mediums, including singing, traditional dances, and visual acts.

Operetta “Nation and Men” (1)

The operetta, with its reliance on music, dialogue, and drama, mirrors the performative aspect of early Arabic poetry, which was often recited aloud to audiences. In fact, many Saudi operettas have drawn directly from this oral tradition, adapting classical and contemporary Saudi literary works into theatrical performances. For example, operettas staged during Saudi National Day celebrations or cultural festivals frequently feature poetic texts by prominent Saudi writers, such as Ghazi Al-Gosaibi, Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, and several others, whose works explore themes of patriotism, identity, and heritage. Furthermore, as highlighted by Anishchenkova (2020, p. 268), the festival features numerous poetry competitions and performances, which have revitalized interest in classical Arabic poetry and its contemporary adaptations. The event provides a platform for both established and emerging poets to display their work, fostering a spirit of creativity and competition that enriches the literary community.

Operetta “Nation and Men” (Ibn Hithal, 2021; Ahmed, 2016 Kalimat, n. d.; Al-Mubta'ath, 1995, p. 12-13) has been presented in the tenth of Al-Janadriyah Festivals in 1995. In the tenth Janadriyah Festival, in the year 1415 AH, everyone had an appointment with the operetta (Nation and Men) written by the poet Khalaf bin Hithal Al-Otaibi. The operetta was composed by the composer and singer Abdul Rab Idris. It was sung alongside Talal Maddah and Mohammed Abdo by the singers Salama Al-Abdullah, Abdul Majeed Abdullah, and Rashid Al-Majed. The operetta was directed theatrically by a specialized French company. It was directed for television by director Fatis Baqna. This operetta witnessed a real launch for the closed hall after the previous operettas were shown in an open area (Saba, 2008, p. 57; Artistic Editor, 2005).

Picture 3: A scene of the Operetta
(Al-Janadriyah Festival, 2019)



Source: https://urls.fr/AzR7UX

أوبريت دولة ورجال

فِي سَحَابِكَ عَزَّ وَإِلَيْكَ يَا غَيْثُ هَطْلٌ مزنته مِنْ كُلِّ جَانِبٍ تَلُوحُ بُرُوقُهَا
مَرْحَبًا بِاللِّي عَلَى ديرته شُرَفٌ وَطُلْ طُلْتُهُ رَدَّتْ عَلَى النَّاسِ كُلَّ حُقُوقِهَا
أُنْجِبَتْ شُبَهٌ الجَزِيرَةُ بَطَلٌ وَاللهُ بَطَلٌ يَوْمٌ لِقْتُ لَهُ نَحْرَهَا تَرَبَّعَ فَوْقَهَ
جَابَتْ الْحُرُّ الاصيل راهي الْبَاعَ الطَّوِيلَ طَالَعَ مِنْ صَلْبِهَا لَا غَرِيبٌ وَلَادَخِيلُ

Operetta “Nation and Men”

Glory in your clouds, and to you homeland rain falls,
From every side its lightning flashes.
Hail to the one who has honor in his nation;
His appearance restored all the rights of the people,
The peninsula gave birth to a hero, by Allah, he is a hero,
The day the peninsula put its throat, he sat on top of.
It brought the pure, freeman, the patient for long,
Rising from its origin, neither a stranger nor intruder.

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عبدالعزيز يقولها الا إعتزيت إسمي معزي
أحيا على الدنيا عزيز وإن مت انا مامات عزي

Abdulaziz says ‘if I launch my call,
I am proud my name is Mu'izzi
I live in this world, as a nobleman,
If I died, my pride remains

****

ابني دولة وارفع راية واحمل دعوة واقرا أية
ثلم سيوف وكسر رماح حتى وصلت إسمى غايه
أقارع الفرسان باعواد القنا وإن قيل وين إبن الجزيرة قلت انا
اصونها واسوق عمري دونها لي في ثراها مرتبة شكر وثناء
اخدم المبدا واذود عن العقيده وابني المسجد على انقاض الصنم
واربط الدار القريبه في البعيده والشريعه للوطن حكم وحكم

I make a nation, and raise the banner,
Carry a message, and recite a verse (of Qur’an)
Blunting swords and breaking spears
Until reached the highest aims
I fight the knights with spears,
If it is said, where is the son of the peninsula, I say it is me!
I protect it and spend my life for it;
In its soil, I have a rank of gratitude and praise
I serve the belief and defend the faith;
I build the Masjid on the ruins of the idol
I unite the near house to the far;
I unite the law to the homeland, verdict, and judge

****

تَبْسِمُ الْفَجْرُ بانوار وَالصُّبْحَ هَذِي نُجُومَهُ
الْجَارُ سِيَرٌ عَلَى الْجَارِ وَالْقُلَّبِ نَامَتْ همومه
الْحُقُّ حَنَا لَهُ انصار بِالْعِدْلِ اِقْمَنَا رُسُومَهُ
تَجْمَعُ الشِّمْلُ يادار قايد وَشُعَبَ وحكومه

The dawn smiles with lights,
The morn has these stars
The neighbor is a protector for the neighbor,
The worries of heart have slept
We are the supporters of the truth;
With justice, we have established its decrees
The notification has gathered a nation, a leader, people and a government.

The operetta “Nation and Men” (دولة ورجال) is a stirring tribute to national pride, heroism, and the unyielding spirit of a community that strives for justice, unity, and the protection of its values. It is a literary and cognitive activity that expresses the cultural reality in the Kingdom and highlights what it has in form and content (Rahim, 1999, p. 166). The speaker has different roles and characters; he might be a figure of authority or a patriotic citizen, employing various literary devices to convey a deep sense of admiration for the nation's leader and the collective strength of its people.

National Pride and Identity

The poem opens with the line, "In your clouds, glory and to you, O rain," which immediately establishes a connection between the natural world and great blessings. The invocation of "glory" suggests a reverence for a higher power that bestows prosperity and sustenance upon the nation. The reference to rain can be interpreted as a symbol of mercy and replenishment, often seen in religious contexts as a great gift that nurtures the land and its people. The poem "Nation and Men" conveys a strong sense of national pride, particularly in the figure of Abdulaziz, who symbolizes the heroism and resilience of the nation. The speaker expresses a resolute loyalty to the homeland, celebrating its history and cultural identity. Furthermore, it emphasizes the idea of sacrifice for the greater good.

Abdulaziz is portrayed as a hero who embodies the virtues of bravery, honor, and service to his people. The speaker’s assertion, “I protect it and spend my life for it,” reflects a commitment to the nation that is both personal and communal. The operetta sheds light on unity. The concept of unity is prominent, as the speaker strives to bring together different factions within the nation. The reference to establishing justice and building the masjid on the ruins of idols signifies a transformation and a commitment to faith and moral values. The lines “We are the supporters of truth; with justice, we have established its decrees” further emphasize the importance of justice as a great mandate. The use of “truth” and “justice” evokes religious notions that are foundational in many faiths, particularly in Islam, where the concepts of justice and morality are deeply embedded in the teachings of the Quran.

The phrase “The notification has gathered a nation, a leader, people, and a government” reflects the idea of a collective identity underpinned by shared beliefs. The term "notification" may allude to great guidance or revelation, suggesting that the community is united by a common calling or purpose. This phrase, “The notification has gathered a nation, a leader, people, and a government” implies that Abdulaziz's leadership is a unifying force that brings together the community under a common faith. This suggests that his role transcends mere political authority; he is a spiritual leader who fosters a sense of belonging and shared purpose among the people.

The operetta fosters a strong sense of patriotism and cultural pride by combining poetry, music, and performance to tell historical and national stories, such as the unification of Saudi Arabia under King Abdulaziz. The operetta, which is based on religious and natural imagery -such as allusions to “clouds”, “rain”, “and” “Masjid”- draws on Islamic principles and the history of the country to illustrate themes of justice, solidarity, and bravery. By employing striking literary techniques like metaphor, repetition, and symbolism, the operetta goes beyond mere amusement and functions as a creative and religious tool to uphold Saudi culture and national identity.

The poem emphasizes Abdulaziz’s heroism by stating, “The peninsula gave birth to a hero; by Allah, he is a hero”. This line directly associates his greatness with great will, suggesting that his leadership and valor are not merely personal attributes but rather ordained by a higher power. The invocation of "Allah" serves to elevate Abdulaziz's status from a mere human leader to a figure of near-mythical proportions, aligning him with the great purpose. Abdulaziz is depicted as a staunch defender of both the nation and its faith, as seen in the lines, “I serve the principle, defend the faith”. This dual commitment places him at the intersection of national identity and religious obligation. His actions are framed as not only serving the people but also fulfilling a great promise to uphold Islamic values. Abdulaziz is portrayed as a champion of justice, as seen in the assertion, "We are the supporters of truth; with justice, we have established its decrees." This portrayal aligns him with great justice, suggesting that his governance is not only about maintaining order but also about ensuring that the principles of truth, as dictated by faith, are upheld.

Picture 4: A scene of the operetta
(Al-Janadriyah Festival, 2019)



Source: https://urls.fr/AzR7UX

Literary Analysis

The poem "Nation and Men" is rich in vivid imagery that evokes strong emotional responses. "Imagery, which is the central core of the poetic language, is responsible for this life in language" (Rukhaiyar et al. 2002, p. 177). The references to "clouds", "rain", "lightning", and "dawn" create a dynamic backdrop that symbolizes renewal, hope, and the powerful forces of nature that align with the speaker's patriotic sentiments. The "clouds" and "rain" symbolize the nurturing aspects of the homeland, while "lightning" conveys sudden illumination and clarity, reflecting the awakening of national consciousness. The poem juxtaposes themes of struggle and tranquility. For instance, the lines discussing "blunted swords" and "broken spears" illustrate the conflict and the defense of honor, while the mention of "the dawn smiles with lights" implies a hopeful future and peace. The poem in the operetta employs a free verse structure, allowing for a natural flow of ideas and emotions. This choice enhances the poem's conversational tone, making it accessible while maintaining a sense of grandeur. The rhythm evokes a sense of urgency and momentum, particularly in the lines describing action and commitment.

The poem utilizes alliteration and assonance to create a musical quality. Phrases like "pure, freeman, the patient for long" and "the day the peninsula put its throat" emphasize key concepts while enhancing the lyrical quality of the language. The poem utilizes

sound devices such as alliteration and assonance to create a lyrical quality. These techniques enhance the musicality of the language, making the poem more engaging and memorable. For instance, phrases like “pure, freeman, the patient for long” emphasize key ideas while contributing to the rhythm. Repetition is used to reinforce important themes and ideas. The repeated phrases that emphasize protection and service highlight the speaker's unwavering commitment to the nation and its values, creating a sense of urgency and dedication. In addition, repetition is employed effectively in phrases such as “I protect it” and “I serve the principle”, reinforcing the speaker's dedication to the homeland. This device emphasizes the unwavering commitment to the nation’s values and ideals. The poem is rich in metaphorical language. For instance, the image of the “peninsula” as a living entity that “gave birth” to a hero creates a profound connection between the land and its people, suggesting that the nation itself fosters greatness.

In the line “I build the Masjid on the ruins of the idol”, the poet juxtaposes the act of constructing a masjid -a place of worship- with the destruction of idols, which represents a shift from polytheism to monotheism. This imagery reflects a powerful spiritual transformation and symbolizes the triumph of faith over earlier beliefs that may have been seen as misguided. The line “I build the Masjid on the ruins of the idol” illustrates Abdulaziz’s role as a transformative figure who leads the nation towards a righteous path. The act of constructing the masjid symbolizes a return to faith and unity, while the destruction of idols represents a rejection of past beliefs that do not align with Islamic teachings.

The poem states, “I serve the principle, defend the faith”, which underscores the idea that the speaker’s loyalty is not merely to the land but to a higher moral cause. The word "principle" suggests adherence to ethical standards that align with religious teachings, while “defend the faith” implies a commitment to protect and uphold the tenets of Islam. Metaphorical language is prevalent throughout the poem. For example, the "Masjid" represents not only a physical place of worship but also the spiritual foundation of the community. The "ruins of the idol" serve as a metaphor for the rejection of past beliefs, signifying a transformation towards faith and unity.

In “Nation and Men”, the use of religious imagery serves as a powerful tool that deepens the poem's exploration of national identity, heroism, and ethical duty. By invoking great presence and religious principles, the poet emphasizes the inseparable bond between the land, its people, and their faith. This imagery not only reflects the cultural values of the community but also inspires a sense of pride and commitment to a shared mission of justice and unity. Ultimately, the poem illustrates how sacred beliefs can shape and elevate the ideals of a nation, creating a legacy that resonates through time. In addition, religious imagery in poetry often assists in deepening the emotional resonance of the text, connecting the personal to the divine, and invoking cultural and spiritual values that shape a community's identity. In the poem “Nation and Men”, religious descriptions play a crucial role in reinforcing the themes of honor, sacrifice, and unity within the nation, particularly as it relates to the character of Abdulaziz and the ideals he represents. Below is a detailed analysis of the sacred imagery utilized in the poem.

The prominence of religious imaginings underscores the cultural values rooted in Islam, which plays a central role in shaping the moral and ethical framework of society. The poem reflects the belief that leadership and governance should be guided by faith and great principles, aligning with the cultural significance of Islam in the region. In the poem “Nation and Men”, Abdulaziz emerges as a central figure whose characterization is deeply intertwined with the sacred imagery that permeates the text. The portrayal of Abdulaziz not only highlights his heroic attributes but also positions him as a symbol of the moral and spiritual values that underpin the nation. Below is an analysis of how religious images enhance the representation of Abdulaziz within the poem.

In “Nation and Men”, Abdulaziz is portrayed as a multifaceted leader whose character is deeply intertwined with sacred imagery. He emerges as a greatly appointed hero, a defender of faith, an architect of unity, and a champion of justice. This religious framing not only elevates his status but also highlights the profound connection between national identity and spiritual values. Through this portrayal, the poem conveys the message that true leadership is characterized by moral integrity, a commitment to faith, and a dedication to serving the people. Ultimately, Abdulaziz becomes a symbol of hope and inspiration, embodying the ideals that the nation strives to uphold.

It has been conceived that the poem-operetta, “Nation and Men”, is rich in both literary and cultural elements that contribute to its depth and resonance. These elements not only enhance the aesthetic quality of the poem but also reflect the societal values and historical context in which it was written. Below is an analysis of the key literary and cultural elements present in the poem.

The poem employs vivid imagery that evokes the senses and creates a strong visual impact. References to natural elements such as “clouds”, “rain”, “lightning”, and “dawn” serve to symbolize renewal, hope, and the power of nature concerning the nation. This imagery creates a sacred atmosphere and emphasizes the belief that the nation’s strength and honor are greatly ordained. It portrays the land itself as a living entity that is deserving of respect and dignity. Another image can be seen in this verse: “I build the Masjid on the ruins of the idol”. The act of building the masjid not only represents the physical construction of a space for worship but also signifies the establishment of a moral and spiritual foundation for the nation. It highlights the importance of faith in shaping the identity of the community and reinforces the idea that the nation's values are rooted in religious principles.

“We are the supporters of truth; with justice” shows another image. This dual commitment to principle and faith illustrates the intertwining of national identity with spiritual duty. It positions the speaker as a guardian of both the nation and its religious values, suggesting that the two are inseparable in the pursuit of justice and righteousness. It positions Abdulaziz as an agent of change who fosters spiritual and societal renewal. His efforts to build a masjid indicate a commitment to creating a space where the community can gather under the tenets of their faith, thereby reinforcing the idea of collective identity centered around shared religious values. By linking Abdulaziz to the themes of truth and justice, the poem emphasizes his moral authority and responsibility as a leader.

Furthermore, the picture implies that his actions are sanctioned by a higher moral law, reinforcing the idea that he is a steward of both the nation and its spiritual integrity. By framing justice in spiritual terms, the poem suggests that the nation's mission transcends mere political governance; it is a sacred duty to uphold great laws and principles. This imagery elevates the speaker's role as a leader and protector of the nation to that of a greatly appointed guardian of righteousness. It reinforces the notion of a cohesive

society where individuals are bound together not only by their national identity but also by their shared faith.

In addition, it invokes a sense of belonging and collective responsibility that is often characteristic of sacred communities. By framing Abdulaziz as a hero chosen by Allah (The peninsula gave birth to a hero; by Allah, he is a hero), the poem underscores the idea that his actions are imbued with spiritual significance. His role as a protector and unifier of the nation is portrayed as a sacred duty, reinforcing the notion that true leadership is intrinsically linked to faith and righteousness. This portrayal emphasizes that Abdulaziz's leadership is rooted in a moral framework that prioritizes justice and ethical governance. By depicting him as a defender of the faith, the poem reinforces the idea that his leadership is guided by a sense of moral responsibility, elevating his character beyond that of a conventional ruler to that of a spiritual guide. Such a portrayal enhances the image of Abdulaziz as a figure who embodies the collective aspirations of the nation. By aligning his leadership with the religious values of the community, the poem positions him as a pivotal force in shaping the nation's identity, promoting unity, and inspiring collective action.

Nature is personified through lines like "the dawn smiles with lights", suggesting that the natural world is in harmony with the nation's triumphs and aspirations. The banner and Masjid serve as symbols of national identity and sacred faith, respectively. They represent the ideals the speaker seeks to uphold and protect. The poem is rich in symbolism, with elements like the "banner" and "Masjid" representing national identity and religious faith, respectively, as mentioned in "I build the nation, raise the banner" and "I build the Masjid on the ruins of the idol". These symbols highlight the connection between the nation's ideals and its cultural heritage.

The poem reflects a profound sense of national identity, celebrating the heritage and values of the nation. Abdulaziz is portrayed as a central figure whose leadership embodies the aspirations of the people, reinforcing the importance of unity and pride in one's homeland. The references to Abdulaziz and the peninsula suggest a historical context that is significant to the culture and identity of the region. Abdulaziz ibn Saud is a historical figure known for unifying the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and his legacy serves as a source of inspiration and pride for many.

The poem emphasizes the importance of community and collective responsibility. Phrases that speak to unity, justice, and support for one another reflect cultural values that prioritize the welfare of the group over the individual, highlighting the significance of social cohesion. The juxtaposition of traditional values with the call for modern governance can be seen in the poem's emphasis on justice and ethical leadership. This reflects a cultural tension between preserving heritage and adapting to contemporary challenges, illustrating a dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity.

The poem "Nation and Men" intricately weaves together literary and cultural elements that enrich its themes and enhance its emotional resonance. Through powerful imagery, metaphor, repetition, and symbolism, the poem articulates a deep sense of national pride, heroism, and commitment to faith. Simultaneously, it reflects the cultural values and historical context of its setting, celebrating community, identity, and the enduring legacy of a revered leader. This multifaceted approach invites readers to engage with the poem on both an aesthetic and a cultural level, fostering a deeper understanding of the interplay between literature and society.

Conclusion

While the festival is celebrated for its focus on traditional forms, its influence on modern Saudi literature is equally significant. The festival's literary forums, seminars, and discussions have become a meeting point for novelists, poets, and literary critics, providing a space for dialogue about the future of Saudi literature. It is necessary to point out the distinguished cultural and literary activities that are accomplished periodically through Al-Janadriyah Festival, where a large group of intellectuals, writers, poets, and academics are given the opportunity to meet through the festival's activities or through its marginal activities and special gatherings, seminars, and symposiums in many literary aspects.

In conclusion, "Nation and Men" is a powerful ode to national pride, heroism, and the unbreakable bond between a leader and his people. Through vivid imagery, a free verse structure, and various literary devices, the poem articulates a deep love for the homeland and a commitment to justice and unity. The speaker's voice resonates with a sense of purpose and determination to build a

legacy that will endure beyond their lifetime, reminding readers of the importance of collective identity and the sacrifices made for the greater good. This poem stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of a nation and its people, inspiring future generations to honor their heritage and strive for a just society.

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