



INDIA AS DEPICTED IN MODERN ARABIC TRAVELOGUES

Dr. Mohd. Qasim Adil

Associate Professor and Head, Department of Arabic, Zakir Husain Delhi College, (University of Delhi), India

Dr. Md. Quamruddin

Assistant Professor, Department of Arabic, Zakir Husain Delhi College, (University of Delhi), India

Abstract: Travelogue or travel literature has a great scientific and literary value that cannot be overlooked. Since it carries in its folds various sciences and branches of knowledge, it helps study peoples, nations and different cultures of certain periods of history, and the reader enjoys its interesting narrative style, characterized mostly by dialogues, stories and legends, with great artistic pleasures.

It is clear to all familiar with the history of peoples and nations that the history of Indo-Arab relations is very old and deep-rooted, and the relations have various manifestations: religious, political, military, cultural, tourism, etc. Both the Indians and the Arabs have been visiting each other for a long time for various reasons. The Arabic travelogues and accounts by the Arab tourists and visitors to India are the result of these contacts and visits, and they are a treasure trove of information about India. The value of the travelogues of geographers and travelers such as Sulaiman al-Tajir (9th century), Ibn Khordadbeh (820-912), Abu Zayd Hasan al-Sirafi (d. 920), al-Nakhuda al-Ramahurmuzi (d. 956), Al-Mas'udi (856-957), Ibn Hawqal (943-988), Al-Maqdisi (945-991), Al-Biruni (973-1048), Al-Marwazi (1056-1125), Al-Idrisi (1100-1166), Ibn Battuta (1304-1377) and others is known to all. These travelogues and travel writings have been an essential source of knowledge about different spheres and aspects of the Indian culture of some eras. The series of travel-writings continue to the present day. This paper will discuss some of the pictures of the Indian society presented, inclusively but concisely, by the modern Arab writers such as Fathullah Antaki (1875-1922), Emir Yusuf Kamal Pasha (1882-1965), Aminah al-Sa'id (1914-1995), Dr. Ihab el-Sherif (1954-2005), Nawal El Saadawi (1931-2021), Muhammad Makhzangi (1950-....) and others in their travelogues.

Keywords: Indian Culture, Indian Women, Marriage, Sectarianism, Travelogue, Travel Literature, Untouchability.

There is no doubt that India is a country of wonders and strangeness, as it is a country of diverse civilizations, cultures and traditions. Whoever visited it was impressed by its panoramic beauty and picturesque locations. Since ancient times, it has remained a center of natural resources, human sciences and early civilization. It enjoys a great reputation in the fields of arithmetic, astrology, secrets of medicine, sculpture, drawing and many other amazing facets. In view of its geographical location, its prestigious position among nations, its wide global fame and the contribution of its scholars to sciences and arts, and to get benefit from its human and natural resources, Arab and Western travelers have made their best efforts to discover India by land and sea. They have recorded their adventures and described the past and present conditions of the Indians. The Arab travelers, ancient and modern, such as Sulaiman al-Tajir (9th century), Ibn Khordadbeh (820-912), Abu Zayd Hasan al-Sirafi (d. 920), Buzurk Ibn Shahryar al-Nakhuda al-Ramahurmuzi (d. 956), Ali al-Masudi (856-957), Ibn Hawqal (943-988), Shams al-Din al-Maqdisi (d. 920), Abu Rayhan al-Biruni (973-1048), Sharaf al-Zaman Tahir al-Marwazi