

The Images of Rain and Spring in Ibn-Zaydoon's and Wordsworth's Poetry: A Comparative Stylistic Study of Selected Poems

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Abstract—This study examines the representation of rain and spring images in poetry, basically in Ibn-Zaydoon's and Wordsworth's selected poems. This study relies on the analytical and theoretical aspects of Parallelism theory of the American School of Comparative Literature. It focuses on studying "the idea of similarities in humanity's social and historical evolution, which means harmony in the process of literary development" (Enani, 2005, p. 42). The study is also based on the analytical approaches of Russian Formalism that focuses on studying "Similes, metaphors, structures, ironies, rhymes, and symbols" (Bressler, 2011, p. 49). The significance of the study is to introduce a comparative study between two poets whose languages, religions, and traditions are different. Ibn-Zaydoon and Wordsworth represent nature as the perfect place for pleasure, peace, and tranquility. These two poets glorify spring and rain specifically and their psychological influences on humankind.

Index Terms—comparative stylistic study, Ibn-Zaydoon, rain, spring, poetry, Wordsworth

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the most important Andalusian poets during the Islamic state in Al-Andalus is Ibn-Zaydoon. He is Ahmad Bin-Abdallah Bin Ahmad Ibn-Zaydoon. He was born in 1003 CE in Cordoba, Spain, and died in 1070 CE. He was in contact with the rulers of Al-Andalus at that time and praised many of them in his poetry. After the death of Al-Mutamned (the ruler of Seville at that time), Ibn-Zaydoon kept in touch with Al-Mutamned's son Al-Mu-tathed Bin Abbad who is the second ruler of Seville after the death of his father. Most importantly, Ibn-Zaydoon presented nature in most of his poems. Al-Hussain (2009) states that he "borrowed his poetic images from nature and built his poems from the beauty of it to reform regular rhymed and thematic structure of poetry" (p. 14). He described rain, flowers, trees, animals and spring aesthetically and perfectly. He is influenced by many Arabic poets in the East like Al-Bohtory and Abu-Tammam. Other poetic themes of his poems are flirting, complaint, nostalgia, departure, love, and description. His surrounded nature let him adapt spiritually with it through poetry. On the other hand, William Wordsworth is an English poet. He was born in 1770 CE and died in 1850. He is considered as the founder of English Romanticism with his companion S.T Coleridge. They described all sides related to nature. Wordsworth defines poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility" (Wordsworth, 2004, p. 16). He primarily tackled nature as his shelter and the place of tranquility and peace. He presented many images of nature, such as animals, trees, rain, clouds, spring, and birds. He shows the image of nature with the images of spring and rain as a source of pleasure and comfort in life "I have aimed at, which poems have continued to give pleasure from generation to generation" (Wordsworth, 2004, p. 15). However, Ibn-Zaydoon and Wordsworth depict not only nature, but all sides related to it. Spring and rain are specifically shown perfectly as their shelter of peace and pleasure.

This study considers the approaches of comparative and analytical methods. The study concentrates on how each poet receives the concept of rain and spring and how they treat it through poetry. A comparative technique will be adopted to analyze the poetic images by comparing the poems one to another presenting the significance each poem involves. This study is based on the analytical and theoretical sides of Parallelism of the American School of Comparative Literature. It focuses on analyzing the literary texts similarly based on the poet's "social and historical affinities and evolutions of some literary works" (Enani, 2005, p. 42). Parallelism does not pay attention to whether the writers have a direct or indirect influence on the literary texts. It focuses on the mutual relations between them. The

study also relies on Russian Formalism that studies texts through their linguistic devices aesthetically. Russian Formalism mainly focuses on texts' "Personifications, similes, metaphors, paradoxes...etc" (Bressler, 2011, p. 42). The samples of the study are some poems by Ibn-Zaydoon quoted from his poetic Diwan edited and published by Abdullah Sindeh in 2005. On the other hand, Wordsworth's selected poems are mainly quoted from his poetic collections too. The study tackles the concept of rain and spring as not only natural objects, but it provides all their psychological aspects of them. This study addresses the following questions:

- 1- How do Ibn-Zaydoon and Wordsworth portray and symbolize the spring and rain in their poems?
- 2- What is the significance of rain and spring in both Spanish and English poetry?
- 3- To what extent do we consider the image of rain and spring as a positive psychological theme of their poems?
- 4- What are the main similar themes and images depicted by both poets?

II. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The examination of Parallelism begins with thematic and linguistic devices depicted by these poets. Firstly, Ibn-Zaydoon portrays the image of rain and spring in different poetic stanzas. For instance, he portrays the image of rain and spring when he represents the beautiful image of Cordoba in Al-Andalus during spring. He sings in its natural beauty and calmness. The speaker mentions obviously the reason for Cordoba's beauty and perfectness, he states that it is raining while the whole place is green. This rain makes the land naturally beautiful showing how rain causes spring metaphorically, while it is comfortably and gladly depicted:

The rain watered the beloved remains in the palace
Weaving on it a miniature dress
And showing the flower's stars
How much did they keep those pearls as dummies?
While the living is soft, and the time is young. [Our Translation]
(Sindeh, 2005, p. 31)

The speaker attributes the beautiful image of the flowers metaphorically to rain. This rain is depicted as the source of making the "palace" beautiful with "flowers". The persona mentions the word "dress" to show how Cordoba wears this weaved dress while it obviously refers to spring. He delivers a question of how this rain makes these flowers like pearls while they are bright and beautiful. Then, by a simile, the speaker continues how these images cause the softness, pleasure, peace and comfort of living in Cordoba with these beautiful views of nature.

The persona concludes metaphorically at the end of the poem that Cordoba is the home of beauty and youngness that make the persona happy and comfortable while he enjoys this natural perfectness. The speaker returns to rain as the source of making people look young and pleased, he recites:

The rain watered the sides of the palace
And the doves sang on the branches
While Cordoba is the home of generosity
Which is a land where youngness has made its ways
While I was born among generous people. [Our Translation]
(Sindeh, 2005, p. 33)

Youngness, generosity, and pleasure are various factors collected with the beauty of nature in Cordoba. Rain makes the land, the speaker, and people happy and comfortable. The speaker continues to show how spring affects his mind positively while flowers and nature enjoy rain. Spring is depicted as the reason to keep the speaker glad and calm, while he shows spring as a distinctive natural sign of Cordoba. The persona enjoys the view of spring while he remembers spring when he was beside the river:

A day on the river's bank
While the wine was given by the flowers' boys
We only had mattresses of the flowers
Given by the beautiful spring. [Our Translation]
(Sindeh, 2005, p. 34)

The speaker relates "wine" with the beauty of spring around him. He is beside the river with wine surrounded by spring, while wine and spring are two fundamental reasons to keep the speaker comfortable and pleased while he enjoys the beauty of Cordoba. The speaker continuously delivers another metaphor of showing the mattresses as they are made of flowers and grass under them, while he enjoys his sitting beside the river.

Similarly, Wordsworth portrays the image of depicting the beauty and perfectness of spring, flowers, land, and rain in his "Spring Morning". The person feels enjoyed, comfortable, and happy in the morning. At the same time, in this poem, he shows the sky as raining at night, he says:

There was a roaring in the wind all night;
The rain came heavily and fell in floods;
But now the sun is rising calm and bright;
The birds are singing in the distant woods;
Over his own sweet voice the Stock-dove broods;

Jay makes answer as the Magpie chatters;
 And all the air is filled with the pleasant noise of waters.
 (Curtis, 2009, p. 862)

The speaker portrays the image of rain as causing happiness to all people and nature creatures. He depicts a thorough metaphor as the wind was “roaring” at that night, which indicates to the preparation of rain before its coming. The persona follows the first stanza by showing how he moves from an afraid tone into a happy one. He explains after the coming of “roar” of the wind that rain comes. Rain makes the birds and people pleased. The word “sun” is mentioned as it comes after rain, in which it bestows the image of pleasure and hope. This rain was heavy until it filled the channels, rivers, and seas. “The rain came heavily and fell in floods”, the filling in “floods” is depicted to refer to the filling the speaker with pleasure metaphorically as the last line of the stanza shows. The persona uses a simile referring to the pleased air after rain as other creatures of nature.

The speaker moves to express how “all things” that love sun get out of homes to enjoy the view after raining. There is a metaphor depicting the sky enjoying the birth of a new morning, in which it’s like the mother who enjoys having a new child. The image of spring is clearly shown as the grass is “bright”, the speaker concludes:

All things that love the sun are out of doors;
 The sky rejoices in the morning's birth;
 The grass is bright with rain-drops;—on the moors
 The hare is running races in her mirth;
 And with her feet she from the plashy earth
 Raises a mist, that, glittering in the sun,
 Runs with her all the way, wherever she doth run.
 (Curtis, 2009, p. 864)

The speaker enjoys all the natural objects around him. He depicts himself as a traveler who enjoys the views after rain, while he was walking out “I was a Traveller then upon the moor; / I saw the hare that raced about with joy;” (Curtis, 2009, p. 864). The speaker relies on his senses to touch spring and smell its beauty. He uses a personification as he hears the talking “wood” that is happy as a boy “I heard the woods and distant waters roar; / Or heard them not, as happy as a boy” (Curtis, 2009, p. 864). The persona concludes obviously that he is glad for his favorite season which his heart employs to. This is what Ibn-Zaydoon portrays as showing the image of sun looking at flowers while it protects and lets them grow. He presents the flower’s image beautifully, especially in spring after winter and rain passage:

You see the sun washes it when it rusts
 How beautiful the flower’s view is!
 With the breath’s softness and tenderness
 While it’s happily and with charm presented
 As the paradise that you wish, in a view that increases age. [Our Translation]
 (Sindeh, 2005, pp. 46-47)

The speaker delivers the flower’s image as pleased and soft while the sun covers them. It is metaphorically shown as the sun washes these flowers to be bright and clean while they grow during spring. The speaker portrays also the flower beautifully to show the reader how fascinated he is by the beauty of nature, especially during spring. On the other hand, Wordsworth emphasizes the same idea by personifying the cloud that looks at flowers in his “I Wandered Lonely as A Cloud”. He depicts the “daffodils” dancing “in the breeze”. These daffodils enjoy the beauty of spring and nature:

I wandered lonely as a cloud
 That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
 When all at once I saw a crowd,
 A host, of golden daffodils;
 Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
 Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
 (Curtis, 2009, p. 678)

The tone of the poem is pleasant, while all natural objects are enjoyed and joyful too. This personified cloud looks and gazes at these daffodils while they are “Beside the lake, beneath the trees”. Then, the persona continues depicting these flowers as dancing and happy. Wordsworth describes himself as the personified cloud that enjoys the views around him. The speaker moves directly to mention other various objects to be joyful. He recognizes “the waves” that are also happy for the beauty of nature. The speaker continues looking at these daffodils until he gets happier and pleased.

Similarly, Ibn-Zaydoon presents the flower (Jasmine) also while he personifies it as his lover who he loves. The persona describes the jasmine as:

A looking of it in its branches
 While other flowers smelled its musk
 If he gave the jasmine by his hand
 The stars would take the flowers from the full moon
 It has tendered wonderful morals

And goodness like the trance of wine. [Our Translation]
(Sindeh, 2005, p. 31)

The speaker shows this flower as beautiful and lofty. This flower is personified to be perfumed and it has very well-known morals. While they are “tendered” and soft. Ibn-Zaydoon enjoys the view of spring and flowers in other poems, he depicts the flower’s image when winter has passed as beautiful, comfortable, and joyful. He wanders in the orchard while he notices these flowers and portrays them as:

The orchard is smiley with its silver water
As you cleave the farcing into rows
[...]
We enjoy seeing the beautiful flowers
That are dewy while the necks love to see
Flowers that shine in their habitants
While the morning comfort id increased
They are smelled by their perfume. [Our Translation]
(Sindeh, 2005, p. 52)

Ibn-Zaydoon shows many literary images based on the previous stanza. He personifies the orchard as a smiley person who laughs at the flower’s beauty. Then the speaker moves to deliver a new personification as the “necks” want to see these beautiful flowers. These flowers enjoy being in this orchard while spring covers it with its dew. The scene of comfort is depicted as caused by the beauty of the flowers. The speaker’s tone is tender, comfortable, and pleasing while the speaker is describing the flowers in the orchard. The persona finishes the stanza by a new personification while he personifies the morning seeing these flowers. This morning enjoys and comforts the view of these beautiful flowers. The speaker enjoys the perfectness of the flowers during spring, especially in Al-Andalus. In another poem, he depicts the image of spring metaphorically too, specifically when he praises Abi-Al Hazim bin Jahoor. He presents Abi-Al Hazim’s authority and power as wise and wonderful as the beauty of spring in Al-Andalus. The speaker attributes the beautiful image of spring to his love for this person while he enjoys springs’ views:

He is amazed by the beauty of the free spring
That distracts him to do his goodness
[...]
The authority is worn by its perfectness,
Beauty, flame, and charm. [Our Translation]
(Sindeh, 2005, p. 160)

The persona expresses how this praised person is “amazed” by spring’s beauty. This fascination is attributed to the poet’s enjoyment of spring, especially after winter. Then, the speaker bestows an image of having this person’s authority as metaphorically depicted as spring. This authority should be protected by spring’s beauty and peace. While this spring is shown as the “green blessing” that makes land and people feel comfortable and joyful. This green blessing is metaphorically portrayed as the “life’s paradise” that makes things green and blessed. Spring is symbolized as a sign of power, comfort, and beauty.

Similarly, this spring image with its beautiful greenness is depicted by Wordsworth as a symbol of beauty and peace too. He describes in his “Written in March” a clear image of spring after winter passed. It is a blessing for all animals, birds, and people provided by nature. The speaker’s tone is pleasant and optimistic. He depicts the cock as “crowing” while the stream is “flowing”. He continues presenting the beautiful images of spring as:

The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter,
The green field sleeps in the sun;
(Curtis, 2009, p. 691)

The persona chooses his poem’s title “Written in March” while March is the time of spring. All natural creatures enjoy its beauty, while all things get green. The speaker depicts a metaphor as “The green field sleeps in the sun”. Like Ibn-Zaydoon, Wordsworth depicts the sun during spring, especially in the morning as a symbol of hope, shining, and peace. Psychologically, the image of the field’s greenness indulged by the yellowness of the sun distributes very hopeful impact on people’s and living creature’s souls positively, which is why the two poets enjoy depicting this view of nature. Wordsworth continues this portrayal of spring as the end of rain and snow, while all people were in homes. He shares a similar image of getting out the homes as that in “A Spring Morning” poem presents.

In this poem, all people are enjoying and working while spring spreads after winter. The farmers are working happily covered by the clouds under the blue sky:

The cattle are grazing,
Their heads never raising;
There are forty feeding like one!
Like an army defeated

[...]
 Small clouds are sailing,
 Blue sky prevailing;
 The rain is over and gone!
 (Curtis, 2009, p. 712)

The speaker concludes the whole poem by describing the rain causing this field's greenness while all people love to see it. The persona mentions the word "joy" obviously to share his glad feelings while nature bestows to him its beauty "There's joy in the mountains;/ There's life in the fountains;". The persona personifies the mountains as joyful and pleased while the "fountains" are full of water again due to rain's coming in a regular rhyme scheme. This rain is followed by spring's enjoyment and perfectness. This happy image of spring is also depicted by Ibn-Zaydoon when he personifies the good morals of a praised person in his poem. He metaphorically shows his blessings as the flowers in spring, while they feel joyful and peaceful. The speaker depicts the flowers as beautiful and hopeful showing how the sun shines on them to let them live and smile again during spring. He says:

We are a flower due to your blessings
 It renewed the time of spring
 While winter was suitable to us
 As the sun that brings Aries
 Your morals bloomed and smiled as
 The flower's smile to pearls. [Our Translation]
 (Sindeh, 2005, p. 136)

Metaphorically said, the persona depicts his situation as being as a flower. This flower is blessed by the praised goodness. The speaker claims that this flower makes the time of spring, and the beauty of it is shown by the flower's image. The speaker returns to "sun" to explain how it helps the flower to bloom and grow during spring. In another metaphor, the persona shows how the person's morals bloom like this flower in the green field while it's personified as smiling and happy.

In the same context, Wordsworth similarly depicts the flowers as fresh, joyful, and comfortable during spring. The speaker draws the image of the flowers as young, joyful, and pleased while he remembers their image in his childhood. The speaker expresses how he gets happy for remembering their beauty and freshness during spring in his "Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood". The persona admires the view of the flowers, while the whole tone is pleased, he recites:

Fresh flowers; while the sun shines warm,
 And the babe leaps up on his mother's arm:—
 I hear, I hear, with joy I hear! —
 But there's a tree, of many, one,
 (Hyden, 1981, p. 523)

Again, the speaker in this context is like Ibn-Zaydoon. He repeats the image of the sun shining on the flowers, in which it means, that the whole image which combines the flower, and the sun is bright and beautiful. The speaker repeats the phrase "I hear" three times to emphasize his happy mood while the flowers are bright during spring. Wordsworth emphasizes the idea of a pleased mood, especially during spring. He expresses how spring after rain and winter can bring happy moments. In "Lines Written in Early Spring", Wordsworth depicts the image of spring causing the speaker's happy thoughts. He resorts to nature, specifically to spring, to express how he feels the beauty of spring's greenness and charm. The persona in this different poem repeats the idea of hearing things indicating his pleased and lonely situation in the grove. His mood is sweet and joyful while he enjoys spring:

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,
 The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
 And 'tis my faith that every flower
 Enjoys the air it breathes.
 (Nugroho, 2008, pp. 258-259)

In a personification, the persona portrays the last line of the stanza as the flowers enjoying the air around them. It refers to the happy tone the speaker feels. The speaker continues showing how other natural objects enjoy and admire the beauty of nature. He recognizes that even "birds" dance and play around the orchard. At the end of the next stanza, the persona obviously shows that these birds are also pleased for the beauty of spring in the grove.

Similarly, Ibn-Zaydoon depicts spring in a pleased tone, especially when he describes his lover. Metaphorically, he portrays his lover as the flowers during spring, while they are beautiful and joyful. They are symbolized as a hint of optimism and kindness. The speaker feels enjoyment and pleasure while he describes the flowers specifically. He says:

She became like the stars' flowers
 Beautifully and perfectly was created
 Walking and admiring the grove's flowers
 Looking as the young and beautiful field
 [...]

The flowers are perfumed by musk
 And looked very dewy. [Our Translation]
 (Sindeh, 2005, p. 252)

The persona flirts with his lover through a metaphor. He shows her as the most beautiful flower in mid-springtime. This flower is young, charming, and fresh. The speaker feels pleased while he is looking at the flowers in the grove. Ibn-Zaydoon is like Wordsworth in depicting the flowers during spring as comfortable, beautiful, and enjoyable. The speaker finishes the stanza by a personification while all flowers are perfumed by musk. These flowers look young and fresh too. This image is repeated by Ibn-Zaydoon in another stanza describing how the daffodils look beautiful and bright beside the river with the image of rain and water. He says:

As the rain on the river's bank
 While the flowers bloomed brightly
 They are sprayed by the flower's water
 Covering it by wine perfume. [Our Translation]
 (Sindeh, 2005, p. 311)

The speaker describes the situation of the flowers near the river as glad and waving. They bloom happily while they are perfumed by wine's smell. The same image is depicted by Wordsworth in "I Wandered Lonely as A Cloud". He portrays the daffodils beautifully as fresh and sharp. Ibn-Zaydoon concludes the above stanza by personifying the flowers as drinking from the flower water while they have an attractive smell.

Eventually, Ibn-Zaydoon admires spring, especially when he praises Al-Mu'tad (the ruler of the Islamic state during the Abbasid era) in Seville. He depicts him metaphorically as a spring that brings happiness and peace. In the following stanza, the speaker presents this ruler as the source of pleasure while he is depicted as constant comfort too:

He came in the early spring
 Looking like the blooming morning
 Swearing that he removed the pain
 When he showed blessing and pleasure. [Our Translation]
 (Sindeh, 2005, p. 211)

The speaker relates the coming of this ruler to the presence of spring. It is depicted as happy, especially in its greenness which makes all people glad. The view of spring removes the pain of life, while the persona loves its beauty and peace. The same image of spring after rain is also presented by Wordsworth when he shows in his "Tintern Abbey" his remembrance of past images of nature while it keeps beautiful memories after his absence for many years. He says:

Five years have past; five summers, with the length
 Of five long winters! and again
 I hear these waters, rolling from their mountain-springs
 With a soft inland murmur.--Once again
 Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs.
 (Doren, 1951, p. 155)

The speaker describes his situation enjoying and admiring the natural views while he has two scenes of the same place. He shows how peaceful he is and is pleased to be with these natural views again after many years "mountain springs" and "inland murmur". He continues his enjoyment until the end of the poem. The persona obviously mentions "this season" indicating spring while fruits are ripe. The groves and trees are also young, fresh, and bright. Wordsworth again relates the image of spring with the image of rain. He shows how rain makes all creatures happy, especially during spring. In "To Sleep" poem, he focuses on birds', trees', and orchards' pleasure for the coming of spring. The speaker depicts how rivers and seas are happy for the rain, while the birds have melancholy. The speaker directly shows how these birds and creatures get happy after this rain in the morning.

III. CONCLUSION

This study investigates the depiction of rain and spring in poetry through a thorough analysis. The study treats this theme spiritually, psychologically, and aesthetically. Nature in Wordsworth's and Ibn-Zaydoon's selected poems is deeply depicted, especially the concept of spring and rain. They represent this theme as a perfect and typical place of peace, comfort, beauty, perfectness, and tranquility. Al-Matarneh and Abuhammam (2021) state that Wordsworth sees nature as "his shelter of tranquility and love where every human being has the right to stay in peaceful coexistence. He also depicts nature as the perfect place of pleasure and peace" (p. 1394). Ibn-Zaydoon and Wordsworth see that nature is the only man's source of joy and pleasure.

These two poets interact with rain and spring happily while they make these poets pleasant and optimistic. Their love and passion for nature made them romantic poets who tackle their nature as the sensuous beauty that affects the human's mood and life. Based on those selected poems used in this study, these two poets present rain and spring as two natural factors that let all creatures including human beings recognize the beauty of nature and its magnificent influence on them. Eventually, the image of rain and spring let these poets touch nature, see its beauty, and smell its perfectness. The image of spring in Ibn-Zaydoon's poems is presented when he praises someone or talks about his hopes of life. On the other hand, Wordsworth recognizes spring and rain when he enjoys them during and after winter. They

are shown as sources of beauty and pleasure. Spring and rain are glorified in their poems as comfortable and joyful reasons for living and enjoyment.

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