

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background of the Study

In the name of Almighty Allah, throughout history, the tribes of each age have had prophets, religions, and sects. These prophets and messengers and their religion have been based on monotheism or non-monotheism, which has led to controversy and debate over monotheism and tragedy. Each of the prophets has created a religion and a faith according to the interests and according to a school, and the leaders have followed that religion and the ideas and beliefs of the school principals have remained as mirrors for their followers so far. Nowadays, when numerous religions and creeds lay claim to the right of spiritual mentoring of a modern person, the words “Sufi” and “Sufism” still remain a secret for almost everyone.

Accordingly, as a mystical Islamic belief Sufism is a practice where Muslims try to find the way and truth about God and knowledge that can be achieved through practice and experience what they know about God. This Islamic mysticism has a separate and unique name Tasawwuf that in translation from Arabic means “To wear the wool”, but it started being used in Western world as Sufism in early XIX century. However, at its core, the tasawwuf was the path of the righteous who paid special attention to the purification of the heart. From many righteous predecessors who did not leave their works and did not become known due to the scientific heritage, various words, instructive examples and cases from life connected with the cleansing of the heart, diligent worship of Allah and education of the righteous soul are transmitted. The adherents of tasawwuf of the first generations were known for their zealous observance of sharia and knowledge based on the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Then after Taşawwuf appeared people who were called Sufis and established their own distinctive path. Sufism became an independent (separate) direction. They moved away from knowledge and scientists and began to rely on feelings and sensations. Their beliefs include innovations and deviations. Their cases included: listening to songs, dancing, making innovations, excessive asceticism in what is

permitted, hurting oneself, and so on. Sufism appeared in VIII-IX centuries during the Arab Caliphate, and has undergone a significant evolution since that time, become valuable in nowadays teaching, it has an important place in the socio-political life of the Middle East nations. Time of occurrence and spread of Sufism in the Muslim world (IX-X centuries.) Is characterized by complex of different events. The main object of the Sufi doctrine is the relation of man to God and his way of mystical knowledge. Of the four ways of learning in Islam - the knowledge of God, self-understanding, as well as knowledge about this world and another world - the Sufis prefer the first. According to Sufism, the god of knowledge is the disappearance of the person and its dissolution in God; activity, desire, thinking, human contemplation to obey God. Sufi ideologues constantly emphasize the distinctive features of the Sufis, and a clear distinction between the Sufi-ascetics and ordinary people.

The question of the connection of Islam and Sufism has started long ago, and many islamic scholars were trying to identify its relation, even till modern scholars. Its relation has often caused two totally opposed sides: some say Sufism is an integral aspect of Islam, and some define that sufism is separate from Islam.

Whenever the topic is about Sufism, Maulana Jalaluddin (Rumi) is in the first of list and he is famous as a poet, Islamic scholar, jurist, genius theologian and sufi mystic of 13th century.

There are a numerous research has been done on Rumi's mystic teachings, poem, and considering the values of such scholars as Rumi in Islamic societies had played a very important rule, especially in last century that his popularity had become a worldwide known. But the secret behind his journey toward transforming to a Sufi mystic and Poet remains unfamiliar to most of us.

I.2 Identification of the Problem

Here are some of the most important problems of this study:

- In comparison with other mystics Rumi had a different consequence of turning to a Sufi mystic, hence, it influenced his perspectives that inspired him find the secrets which still unfamiliar to most of us.
- According to Shahram Shiva who spent his thirty years to investigate about Rumi's life, the importance of Rumi's journey toward transforming to a Sufi mystic and Poet is still undetermined or untold to many people.
- There are no specific visual information about Rumi's journey on transforming to a Sufi mystic and Poet.

I.3 Focus of the Problem

Rumi used to be a sober scholar or a smart sheikh before turning to impassioned universal seeker of truth and love, the attempt is to find out how he has been inspired and motivated to become such a human being. To identify how he became a Sufi and what went through all his journey.

I.4 Limitation of the Problem

There are several limitations to this research that are likely can affect the results of research.

The limitations are:

- The research is conducted only on transformation of Rumi from a remarkable religion professor to a highly attained Sufi mystic and Poet. Though there are a lot of stories has been written about Rumi's life, which some are reliable whereas some of it not more than a fantasy, in this study it has been trying to depict the mystery of Rumi's life on transforming to a Sufi mystic and Poet.
- Almost in all major languages of the world the sayings and poems of Rumi are available, and there are a numerous articles and books are written about Rumi, that in this study it has been tried to depict only the secret of Rumi's journey on turning to a Sufi mystic and Poet.

I.5 Purpose and Benefits of Design

There are a variety of benefits associated with this study;

Here are just some of the most notable benefits that can be expected from this research.

I.5.1 Purpose of Design

- The aim of this Design is to create a comprehensive transformation story of Maulana Jalaluddin (Rumi) on turning to a Sufi mystic and Poet to convey the transformation Story of Rumi to its Viewers.
- There are no visual information about the specific transformation story of Rumi from a respectable Muslim preacher to a poet and Sufi mystic, the effort is to create a visual story of Rumi that would be both informative and comprehensive for its viewers to get them inspired.

I.5.2 Benefits of Design

The usefulness of this Design can be divided into two parts, such as:

- Academic: it is expected that this study will be used for the development of the research methodology knowledge and insights relating to Visual Communication Design.
- Practical: For practical reasons, this Design is expected to provide valuable information to people who are interested in Sufi mysticism and religion.