

Reconstructing the Image of Love through the Concepts of Persona and Shadow: A Jungian Reading of Abdul-Wahhab Al-Bayati's Poetry



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Abstract

The image of love constitutes one of the fundamental concerns of both literature and psychology, as it represents a creative force and a core element of human existence. In the poetic world of the prominent Iraqi poet Abdul-Wahhab Al-Bayati, love is perceived not merely as a personal emotion but as an existential, human, and mystical experience that embodies the essence of human liberation. Adopting a mythological-critical approach and a descriptive-analytical method, this study examines the manifestations of love in Al-Bayati's poetry through the Jungian psychological concepts of persona and shadow. The research demonstrates that love in Al-Bayati's poetic universe follows an evolutionary trajectory in which the poet moves beyond social and mythological masks, confronts his inner shadow, and ultimately attains existential transformation, resurrection, and a sense of immortality. From this perspective, love functions as a path toward self-discovery, engagement with the unconscious, and the realization of existential wholeness. Moreover, love in Al-Bayati's poetry transcends historical, political, mythological, and experiential contexts—such as travel and exile—and emerges as a constructive and regenerative force capable of cultural and historical renewal arising from suffering, destruction, and darkness.

Keywords: Love; Existence; Persona; Shadow; Myth; Abdul-Wahhab Al-Bayati.

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