

ABSTRACT

One who follows the history of the city of Jerusalem notices that it has lasting and continuous holiness. May be this religious importance was one of the main reasons it survived until to day as one of the major world cities despite the repeated invasions through its history.

Jerusalem remained a focus of interest for Moslems and Christians, traveling to her from all over the world. Since it represents holiness and purity for all. We can also state that Jews desired the city, and prepared for a long time to occupy her. The Jews achieved this in 1948 when they occupied the western part of the city. In 1967 they were able to occupy the eastern part unifying her and declaring her their capitol.

Because I am part of the Palestinian people and especially because I am a resident of Jerusalem I can grasp the size of the threats to the Holy City such as emptying it from its non-Jewish residents changing its Islamic nature hiding its Palestinian identity and not allowing those Palestinians who do not reside in it from entering it. Because of all the above, I chose to give my city its due right by studying its picture in twentieth- century Palestinian poetry and specifically from the beginning of the British mandate over Palestine to the end of the twentieth century (1917-1999).

The study shows the picture of Jerusalem in Palestinian poetry during different time spans. The study was divided to an introduction, five chapters, and a conclusion. In the introduction, the political, social, and ecumenical situations in Palestine were discussed. the study shows that these affected the Palestinian poetry because poetry is mirror of society.

The first chapter discussed Palestinian poetry from the beginning of the British Mandate until the disaster (1917-1948). Jerusalem was mentioned here and there and far in between in Palestinian poetry because the issue during this period was not a matter of holy places as much as the land itself. Sorrow and sadness were dominant in Palestinian poetry but was mixed with optimism.

In the second chapter the picture of Jerusalem from 1948 to 1967 (the six-day war) was discussed the Palestinian poetry in that period depicting Jerusalem was revolutionary, rejecting reality, at the same time showing the sadness and sorrow. Jerusalem and her Holy Places lived through.

The third chapter discussed the picture of Jerusalem in Palestinian poetry from the six-day war to the first intifada (1967-1987), poetry of this period depicted pictures of sadness reflecting the state of hurt and persecution Jerusalem felt.

In the fourth chapter, the picture of Jerusalem in Palestinian poetry from the beginning of the first intifada to the end of the twentieth century (1987-1999) was discussed. Poetry pictures Jerusalem during this period showed a new period of defying the occupation. Also important aspects came to surface which influenced the direction of the the poets' pens, such as the attempt by the Jews to "Jewify" Jerusalem, the attempt to hide her Palestinian character, and the Oslo Accord which stopped the intifada. We can say that the picture of Jerusalem in Palestinian poetry changed from period to period according to the actual circumstances surrounding the Palestinian case.

The fifth chapter discussed the artful building of Palestinian poetry picturing Jerusalem. This chapter was of three parts: the poetic picture, music, and language. The poetic picture was either a partial or total picture. Some relied on the more traditional direct picture.

Some poets relied on Palestinian tradition to create a rectum with reality. As for music, most poets during the period before 1948 pictured Jerusalem in their poetry using *alwazen walkafia*, but after that most poets became free of that and wrote free poetry for many reasons. As for the poetic language, most of what made it special was its reaction with the spirit of the Palestinian society. Because of that, in many cases it came close to the spirit of the people as a result of poets using renowned phrases renowned to every body, phrases renowned included the results of this study.