A study of the Values and Life of Qatari Society as they Appear in it’s Folk Literature

Noor Abdulla Al-Malki

Abstract

Qatari Folk literature, in all its forms, acted as a guardian of the beliefs values and traditions of the Qatari society and documents the social economic and political life of the nations past and present. This paper support this argument through an analysis of proverbs, tales and poetry.

In that process, a wide range of social topics has been discussed such as the tribal nature of the society, the societal preference of endogamous marriages, the status of women, polygamy, family - including the relationships between family members, friendships and relations with neighbors, as well as social etiquette. The paper also examines, the image of bedouins and slaves in the literature, the economic life of the society and their attitude towards political authority.

The paper tried also to identify the value system of the society through a structural analysis of proverbs. It found that many wide spread proverbs emphasis the importance of team work and values courage and generosity.

Finally, it looks at the way the media and the school system have marginalized folk literature and the role of the media in preserving such culture.

*Noor Abdulla Al-Malki, Family supreme Council, Douha, Qatar.

Noor عبد الله المالكي, المجلس الأعلى للأسرة, الدوحة, قطر

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