

A study of preaching and moral discourse in the poetry of Abu Muslim al-Bahlani: Systematic reading in the light of cultural criticism

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Abstract

Cultural criticism is one of the modern critical approaches that enables readers to interpret texts, decode their symbols, and explore their underlying meanings. Abu Muslim al-Bahlani's moral discourse emphasized detachment from worldly concerns and awareness of mortality. His advocacy for virtue and the mobilization of Muslims had a significant influence on modern Omani history, particularly during the rule of Imam Salem Al-Kharousi. This research applies cultural criticism to uncover the implicit patterns within al-Bahlani's preaching discourse through a descriptive-analytical method based on four thematic axes: the educational system rooted in worldly trials, the symbolic concept of death as a moral warning, the call for unity, and the encouragement of virtuous action. The analysis also identifies a virile self-image that criticizes Muslim disunity, expressed through aesthetic analogies and poetic imagery.

Keywords: cultural criticism, systemic significance, implicit patterns, virulent patterns, the ego and the other, preaching discourse, Abu Muslim al-Bahlani.