

TITLE: LOVE IN EAST AND WEST: A COMPARISON OF "ROMEO AND JULIET" AND "LAYLA AND MAJNUN"

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English Faculty 1 English Integrated course №1

Abstract: This article devoted to compare Love in East and West: A Comparison of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Layla and Majnun" It discusses the differences and similarities of these two novels.

Key words: transcends, remarkable, unique, anonymous folk, spiritual, and enduring, [love story](#), Renaissance, obstacle, forbidden love, tragic ending.

INTRODUCTION

Love is a universal theme that transcends cultural boundaries and time periods. While the concept of love may be expressed differently in various cultures, the underlying emotions and experiences remain constant.

These stories share common themes of forbidden love, tragedy, and sacrifice, but also highlight the unique cultural perspectives on love in the East and West. These two stories, which are a reflection of love in the West and East, are like two rivers originating from the same source despite flowing in different regions. The regions in which these rivers flow are home to different cultures and geographies, but what they have in common is also quite remarkable.

"Romeo and Juliet," written by Shakespeare in the 16th century, tells the story of two young lovers from feuding families who defy societal expectations to be together. Their love is intense, passionate, and ultimately tragic as their families' feud leads to their untimely deaths. The play explores themes of fate, destiny, youthfulness, and the power of love to transcend social barriers.

On the other hand, "Layla and Majnun" is an anonymous folk story told by Arabs. It is a Persian epic poem written by Nizami Ganjavi in the 12th century, follows a similar narrative of forbidden love between Layla, a beautiful young woman, and Majnun, a poet who goes mad with longing for her. Their love is pure, spiritual, and enduring despite societal constraints that prevent them from being together. The story delves into themes of unrequited love, devotion, spirituality, and the transformative power of love. The story stood apart from the works of the poets of the East at the time with its subject and storyline. These poets, who had written countless poems on the subject of love, competed with one another to successfully capture and relay the essence of the story. A number of "Layla and Majnun" stories have been written in verse in the East, particularly by Arabian, Persian and Turkish poets. One of the most successful of these stories is by

Azerbaijani-Turkish poet Fuzuli. Although Fuzuli uses Nizami Ganjavi's story as a foundation, he interprets it in his own unique style, which is why Fuzuli comes to mind when "Layla and Majnun" is mentioned in Turkish literature. Meanwhile, there are other works that precede William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." The play takes its subject from Arthur Brooke's poem "The Tragic Story of Romeus and Juliet," published in 1562. The tragic story of the young lovers from noble families was heavily studied during the Italian Renaissance. Many poems, stories and plays were written on the subject in 15th- and 16th-century Italy, some of which were also translated into English. The title page of Arthur Brooke's poem "Romeus and Juliet." "The story of "Romeo and Juliet" presented in the context of a play helps deliver emotional truths and Western sentiments of the time while capturing the audience's imagination. Shakespeare's most important works are his tragedies in which he uses the power of poetry, particularly iambic pentameter, as a storytelling tool. Shakespeare honed his craft, building on the inspiration he drew from successful artists before him, at first writing more violent plays. Following "Titus Andronicus," which features bloody scenes, he writes "Romeo and Juliet" – an unexpectedly successful piece of work at the time.

"Layla and Majnun" and "Romeo and Juliet" begin with the lives of their male characters. We are introduced to the character of Majnun at his birth, while we meet Romeo at a later point in his life but his psychological state and experiences are narrated. The most important turning point in any [love story](#) is the moment the lovers first meet, with both writers delivering this encounter in a striking way.

Before the first encounter, Fuzuli reveals these are not your run-of-the-mill lovers, garnering the admiration of the reader for the sweethearts. Majnun, his father's only son, meets Layla when he starts school.

In comparison, Romeo and Juliet meet at a ball for the first time and fall in love at first sight. Both sets of lovers are overcome with pure and innocent feelings of love in both stories and both must face obstacles put in their way by society and family.

Layla's love for Majnun and their meetings cause rumors, and as soon as her mother gets wind of the gossip, she withdraws Layla from school. Likewise, Romeo and Juliet also come from families that are at odds. These characters' communities' do not support their love, forcing the couples to confront and fight their families.

Majnun takes leave of his senses when not with Layla, and his father approaches Layla's family asking if the lovers can reunite. Layla's father agrees on the condition that Majnun comes to his senses. Majnun cannot break away from the situation he is in, and in the end, the lovers are not reunited.

Romeo and Juliet meet and marry in secret at a church. However, they can only be together for one night. A duel between the two families fuels hostilities again, and Romeo is guilty of accidentally killing Juliet's relative, Tybalt. Separation and exile in both stories

contribute to the impulsiveness of the characters' love – which is an intensified state of affection. In order for this intensification to occur, separation is required.

Majnun ends up in the desert as he suffers the pangs of love, living a life in exile as he cannot reunite with Layla. His love for her deepens every day and he tells the animals, mountains and valleys about his love for her, seeing her in everything.

Similarly, Romeo is banished as a penalty for his crime, forced to leave his love. He does not want to leave Juliet's side, and forcing him to would only fuel his passion.

In conclusion. In both stories, the female characters are loyal to their loves. Even when others pursue the women, they stay true to their partners throughout. As a result, neither story has a happy ending. In both scenarios, on receiving the news of their partners' death, the lovers' cannot bear to live. If they cannot be together in life, they hope to be reunited in death. Additionally, both stories end in tragedy. Romeo and Juliet take their own lives due to a series of misunderstandings and miscommunications, while Layla dies of heartbreak after being separated from Majnun. The deaths of the lovers serve as a poignant reminder of the destructive power of love when it is not allowed to flourish. Despite coming from different cultural backgrounds, Romeo and Juliet and Layla and Majnun share common themes of forbidden love, fate, and tragic endings. These timeless tales continue to captivate audiences around the world with their exploration of the complexities of human relationships.

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