

## A NEW LITERARY GENRE

### “IQBAL’S JOURNEY TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN LINES, NOT WORDS”

BY

DR. SHAFIQUE FAROOQI

Lines like words speak too, and they often speak well and even better. Words have sounds; sounds have meanings, and meanings lead to actions. And so do lines. Dr. Shafique’s “Journey of Line” is one such unique and heart-touching literary genre.

Dr. Shafique’s not-too-common and somewhat puzzlingly amazing feature in his Line-journey Masterpiece is that he artfully creates curves in lines with a view to extracting abstract, spiritual, philosophical, and stoical unity, and the presence of mutuality, and inter-dependence in an age of ego-centered individualism, leading artistically to the concept of co-existence. He artfully manifests this golden concept of mutualism and unity through the palpable images of “Whirling Dervishes”, and lines.

“Know Thyself”, is an old Greek Philosophical maxim inscribed upon the Temple of Apollo attributed to Socrates. True knowledge also is enshrined in self-awareness or **Taqwa**. Knowing oneself, indeed, is the most difficult act in life because it entails humility and a deep sense of self-awareness and self-analysis. Dr. Shafique’s clarion call through lines to mankind in general, and to Muslims in particular, in his masterpiece, *“Journey of Line”* is that we all essentially need that sense of awareness and realization- that **Vortex or Power-point, or that sense of essence** where all the essential spiritual and moral energy gets accumulated with a view to leading us solely to the stated human aim of mutuality and co-dependance.

The method used for this soul-searching self-analysis done through lines is named as, “Symbiosis”. It is a close blend of mutuality, and of give-and take in which two or more different biological species naturally depend on each other, and as a consequence benefit from each other. The best projection, presence, and application of this kind of artistic show of co- relationship is found in the Ocean, and in the botanical world. The arid desert offers many an example. It is the symbiotic mutuality that keeps Fungi survive on the stem-stored moisture of other plants; and the Dodder’s web depending heavily on the Nettle plants, and vice-versa. Mankind often lags behind in the application and display of this kind of artistic mutuality, and inter-dependence of relationships as it is manifestly present in the botanical world.

Dr. Shafique Farooqi draws human attention to this vital relationship-deficit in the human world through his ***Journey of Lines***. His lines are not just lines; in fact, they are in essence symbols of human connectivity and creativity. They speak loud and clear, reminding humans that they are inter-connected, and are inter-dependent, and are by design and method tied together with the

glue of Love, Humanism, cooperation, and mutualism. Their future and existence is intrinsically dependent upon the presence, and promotion of these virtues which are so manifestly practiced around us by the plants and animals. Humans need to learn from the desert Cactus what Symbiotic Relationship means. It is this kind of relationship that helps the two to survive in the harshness of the arid desert. Why can't humans! This is the outcry of the time, which is well-articulated by Dr. Shafiq Farooqi, not through lengthy speeches, but through simple lines.

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