

Pigeon; the reflection of purity and peace

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Abstract: Purity, disencumbered and inoffensiveness are associated in the mind by seeing a dove. It was messenger and connector of humans in the time that there was no technology and it had mission of transferring messages in the past. In literary texts it is introduced as the carrier of messages. The role of the pigeon in the human' life and societies dates back to time of Noah since what narrated in the myths prove this claim. According to narrations, Noah commissioned pigeon for measuring the depth of water. In other hand by survey on Persian literature, prose and verse it becomes obvious that the purity and harmlessness of this bird have been considered by the writers and poets as its outstanding characteristics and this belief has continued until present so that in works of Professor Shafiei Kadkani pigeon manifests purity and nobility.

Key words: pigeon, purity, pigeon house, carrier pigeon

Definition:

Dove, pigeon, carrier, messenger (Nazemol Ateba). This bird makes its nest on most of wells and it is called *Columba livia*. It is from pigeon family with long wings and small and thin legs and weak beak. Pigeon has diverse species. It flies top in the sky and it is bigger than starling and smaller than partridge in the family of dove. The beak of this family is weak with intrusion in the base. There are seventy two species of pigeon and since they have been raised by human so they are diverse and it can be raised special species. This bird lives with its mate and female pigeon lays egg eight and ten days after mating and female and male doves lay on the eggs for eighteen days in turn (the male pigeon lays on the eggs only in the afternoons for several hours) after hatching they feed their chicks then the chicks fly away to find food. All doves eat seed, wheat, barley, rice, hemp seed, sesame, maize and other grains. Since pigeon finds its food on the farm it is held in the villages for using its meat. This bird can find directions easily so some doves are raised for carrying letters and they are called carrier pigeon and they offer services in cases of necessities. There are different species like *Columba oena*, *Streptopeliaturtur*, *Streptopelia senegalensis*, *Streptopelia Orientalis*, *Columba palumbus*, *Columba oenas*, *Columba livia*, *Columba eversmammi*, *Streptopelia dacaocto* and *Streptopelia tranquebarica* (Moein Dictionary). This bird likes its mate so that if it lost his mate it will be sad and shows its sadness (Dehkoda, 1998).

Pigeon or dove is famous for simple minded but in poetry it is symbol of love. The gentle movement of this bird has led to different interpretations. Symbolism of love can be seen explicitly in doves besides duck, swallow, heron and phoenix this love is powerful that the male bird lays on the eggs.

In ancient China there was frequency between Yen and Yung according to changing of seasons so that the hawk changed into pigeon and pigeon changed into hawk so pigeon was symbol of spring and its appearance was accompanied by equinox related to GAAR. Is accompaniment of pigeon and hawk in the proverbs and folklores resulted from this belief?

The pigeons and doves sit on the mausoleum of Muslims Imams as protector of villages but some people consider it ominous that cause to moaning of ghosts under agony (SERP:49).

In Christian and Jewish symbolism pigeon that is manifestation of Holy Spirit in New Testament is symbol of purity, simplicity and even when carries olive branch into Noah ship is symbol of peace, coordination, hope and happiness. In all drawings of winged animals with similar setting pigeons is image of exalted essence and love (DURS:135).

According to the ancient Greeks that emphasize on purity in different aspect pigeon is not in contrary to physical love but it is related to it. Indeed, pigeon is bird of Aphrodite is symbol of love action between lover and beloved.

These beliefs without any difference apparently lead to acceptance pigeon as a symbol of soul as eternal essence of human. Pigeon is seen on the Greek pots of dead body ash that drinks water from a container decorated by drawings (LAVD:258). This image has been entered into Christian iconography. In story of one of the saints (156-170) a pigeon is seen that arisen from dead body of this saint after his death.

It is obvious that this symbolism is resulted from beauty and magnificent of this bird particularly white dove and its song are considered. In common and particular speeches and in sonnets and poems pigeon is

universal metaphor for woman. As DANS refers when soul approaches to light it becomes beautiful and it changes to a pigeon under light and it is probable that here the lover asks his beloved and pigeon soul.

Pigeon is social bird that its symbolism positive values are emphasized.

Mythical Pigeon:

“In Greek and Roman myths Aphrodite is goddess of love and beauty that likes pigeon, sparrow and swan” (Hamilton, 2004).

Gradually, several mythical characters gain human figures and constitute goddess and demons but they are not ready for changing their animalistic faces like Greek Gods that got married with mortal women that got human like children .A pigeon in Africa got three children from its wife.

The myth of Noah pigeon:

According to “Myths encyclopedia”：“When Noah’s ship settled on the mountain and some water was taken by the ground at first Noah sent a raven to measure the depth of water on the ground but it engaged to eating dead corpus and did not return and he sent a pigeon and it sat on the ground and put its leg on the water. It lost hair of its leg and its leg became red and returned to Noah and said: “there is some water on the ground and Noah blessed it. According to other narratives, in the seventh day after storm Noah commissioned a pigeon and it brought a branch of olive. In other narratives pigeon carries a fig leaf in its beak and moss in its leg so it was tamed and received necklace”(Yahaggi, 1990).

Pigeon in Persian literature:

In the ancient texts pigeon was sometimes symbol of oppressed creature. According to Faraed al-Soluk tales about birds and eagle in this tale an eagle dominates on pigeon and eats its chicks and the pigeon does not protest it. In other tale of pigeon and fowl in Baharestan the pigeon is superior to fowl since it is neat and fowl eats everything. In Marzban Nameh in tale of pigeaon, mouse, raven and deer, pigeon is leader by different role and it solves problems. So, pigeon has different dimensions and play positive role in human beliefs.

Innocence Of Pigeon:

Attendance of pigeon besides eagle indicates it’s being oppressed .This innocent bird is represented as oppressed by other birds in Persian literature.

You are not bird of this prey seek other prey
Since other eagle hunts this pigeon (Vahshi:83)
You raise cat to catch pigeon
Wolf to tear out body of Yusuf (Boostan of Saadi:202)
The bird of heart seeks its prey
O, Pigeon be careful since falcon comes (Hafez:250)

Pigeon That Sits On The Rim Of Roof (loyal pigeon):

Of characteristics of pigeon is loyalty since when it sits on the rim of roof it never leave there. As the poet refers in this couplet effort to banish a pigeon is fruitless.

My heart is like a pigeon sitting on the rim of roof
Nobody could banish it from love (Vahshi:90)

The Heart Like A Pigeon:

The poet likens heart to pigeon due to difficulty and being anxious and stressed.
Is it admissible for heart to being enclosed?
Like a pigeon that encounters with difficulties but never give up (Hafez: 242)

Like a pigeon:

The poet likens his heart to a pigeon.
I have a heart like a pigeon
That I want to scarify it in feast (Khagani, divan: 350)

The Pigeons In The Holy Shrines:

The pigeon that sits on the holy shrines and it never be hunted (since killing human and animals around Kibble is unlawful).

The pigeon of harem came from kibble
And announced the bride of Saba like a procuress
When pigeon entered her harem
It become respected forever (Khagani, divan:814,840)

Pigeon of his harem never gives its nest
To cypress and tuba branch (Jami, divan: 158)
The heart that falls in love
It is free from oppression
Like a bird that is imprisoned in the cage it becomes pigeon of harem (Salim,divan:91)
The osprey sitting on cypress wishes to fly
Like harem pigeons around his garden (Iben Hessam, divan: 228)

Pigeon House:

Place where pigeons are nested on. It is allusion for safe and convenient place.
The Kibble is his court
The heaven is his pigeon's house
When the heaven became his pigeon house
The kibble became his court like pigeon (Khagani,divan:114)
This place is my pigeon house
And I fly there like a pigeon (Molana,Masnavi,6:386)

Holy Pigeon House:

It is allusion for sky that birds fly there.
The holy pigeon house is my destination (Khagani, divan: 319)

The Sky As Pigeon House:

The pigeon house means sky here and it is referred to carrying messages as characteristic of pigeon.
These messages came in secret
From pigeon house of the message carrier bird (Mojir Beilagani,divan:33)

Golden Pigeon:

It is allusion for sun. The sunrise is likened to golden pigeon.
The sun shines and illuminates the earth
Like a golden pigeon
Everywhere that it shines on it is its resort (Khagani,divan:82)

Resemblance To Pigeon:

Color like to pigeon and it is allusion for grey and darkness that it is likened to grey pigeon.
Make fire since
The sky is in color of pigeon (Khagani,divan:483)

The Pigeon Of Meaning:

It is allusion for real poet and artist. The poet compares meaningless words with meaningful words and likens it to pigeons that fly top in the sky.
The meaningless words are not spiritual
The words should be meaningful
The pigeons of meaning return to their pigeon house
The watch dog does not come for thief of words (Kalim,divan:220)

Carrier Pigeon:

A kind of pigeon was trained for carrying messages.
We are waiting for the carrier pigeon
That brings her message (Khagani,divan:539)
I accompany the carrier pigeon
And waiting for its messages (Khagani,divan:242)

Like A Pigeon:

In the poems of the great poets resemblance and likened to pigeon is seem repetitively. In this couplet the poet describes his heart as a pigeon.
The heart of Iben Yamin bits like a pigeon due to sorrow
It is like a famous parrot which demand sugar (Iben Yamin,divan:203)

Pigeon in the poems of Shafiei Kadkani:

Shafiei Kadkani as the contemporary poet knows pigeon as symbol of purity and nobility and compares it with darkness of life and depicts a scene of reconciliation of nobility and evil elements in the poem of “az miane roshanaeih va baran” and represents beautiful and peaceful society and in poem of “bodan” he puts pigeon beside raven and indicates peace between them and refers to darkness, light and dream.

Two lines of black and saturnine
Passing gently on the purple surface
The fly of a raven with a pigeon
May be toward light or dream (Ayneh:459).

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