

Abstract

Ethical criticism is one of the oldest criticism methods that apply moral values as criteria for assessing literary works. In this method, poems and remarks that are congruent with morality and wisdom are praised, and what contradicts morality is blamed. Sheikh Mohammad Ahli Shirazi is a great Iranian poet of 14th to 16th century AD who has frequently included moral points in his poems. Therefore, his poems deserve assessment in terms of ethical criticism. The present descriptive-analytical study attempts to evaluate Ahli Shirazi's poems from the moral viewpoint. The results indicate that, in his poems, virtues such as: praising the God, praising the Prophet of Islam and Shi'a Imams and Apostles as well as glorifying high moral virtues (modesty, magnanimity, loyalty, etc.) is frequently used. Of course, some moral vices such as drinking wine, pederasty and lauding some kings and Emirs can be observed in his poems that are not much prominent compared to the advantages of his words.

Key words: ethical criticism, Ahli Shirazi, moral virtues, moral vices



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