



La-Net

ARA 206

ARABIC LITERATURE
IN THE PRE-ISLAMIC &
EARLY ISLAMIC PERIODS



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Course code: ARA 206

Course title: Arabic Literature in the Pre-Islamic & Early Islamic Periods

Course credit load: 2 Units

Series 1: General Overview of Pre-Islamic and Early Islamic Literature

- **Part 1.1: Pre-Islamic Arabic Literature and Its Context**
 - 1.1.1 Historical background of the Jahiliyyah period
 - 1.1.2 Major themes and functions of pre-Islamic poetry
 - 1.1.3 Oral tradition and preservation of poetry
- **Part 1.2: Early Islamic Arabic Literature and Transformation**
 - 1.2.1 Influence of Islam on Arabic literary expression
 - 1.2.2 Qur'anic style and its impact on Arabic prose and poetry
 - 1.2.3 Emergence of new literary themes in the early Islamic period
- **Part 1.3: Literary Genres Across the Two Periods**
 - 1.3.1 Poetry as the dominant genre in pre-Islamic Arabia
 - 1.3.2 Prose and religious texts in the early Islamic period
 - 1.3.3 Continuities and differences between the two periods
- **Part 1.4: Notable Literary Figures of the Two Periods**
 - 1.4.1 Famous pre-Islamic poets (e.g., Imru' al-Qays, Antarah ibn Shaddad)
 - 1.4.2 Early Islamic poets and prose writers
 - 1.4.3 Contribution of literary figures to Arabic cultural identity



Introduction

Arabic literature is deeply rooted in the cultural and historical experiences of the Arab people. Before the advent of Islam, poetry served as the primary medium of artistic expression, preserving tribal values, heroic deeds, and social norms. With the rise of Islam, literature underwent a transformation, as the Qur'an introduced a new style of eloquence and inspired fresh themes in both prose and poetry. Understanding these two periods is essential, as they form the foundation upon which later Arabic literary traditions were built.

The aim of this Series is to provide you with a clear overview of Arabic literature in the pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods. It will equip you with the knowledge to explain the historical context, identify major themes and genres, and recognise notable literary figures who shaped the development of Arabic literary culture.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the historical background of the Jahiliyyah period and examining the major themes and functions of pre-Islamic poetry. Next, we will consider how the rise of Islam influenced literary expression, focusing on the Qur'anic style and the emergence of new themes. Following that, we will study the literary genres across the two periods, highlighting continuities and differences. Finally, we will wrap up by introducing notable literary figures from both periods, showing how their works contributed to the preservation and enrichment of Arabic cultural identity.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 1.1** define the historical background of the Jahiliyyah period and its influence on pre-Islamic Arabic literature,
- **SLO 1.2** explain the major themes and social functions of pre-Islamic poetry,
- **SLO 1.3** describe the role of oral tradition in the preservation of pre-Islamic poetry,
- **SLO 1.4** analyse the impact of Islam on Arabic literary expression in the early Islamic period,



- **SLO 1.5** explain the stylistic features of the Qur'an and their influence on Arabic prose and poetry,
- **SLO 1.6** identify new literary themes that emerged in the early Islamic period,
- **SLO 1.7** distinguish between the dominant literary genres of the pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods,
- **SLO 1.8** compare continuities and differences in literary expression across the two periods,
- **SLO 1.9** describe the contributions of notable pre-Islamic poets such as Imru' al-Qays and Antarah ibn Shaddad,
- **SLO 1.10** explain the role of early Islamic poets and prose writers in shaping Arabic cultural identity.

1.1 Pre-Islamic Arabic Literature And Its Context

1.1.1 Historical background of the Jahiliyyah period

The **Jahiliyyah period** refers to the era in Arabia before the advent of Islam, often described as the “Age of Ignorance.” This term does not imply a lack of culture but rather highlights the absence of divine guidance prior to the Qur'an. During this time, tribal life dominated society, and poetry served as the main vehicle for preserving history, values, and traditions. Poetry was recited at tribal gatherings, markets, and festivals, making it central to Arab identity.

Fill in the blank: The Jahiliyyah period is often described as the “Age of _____.”



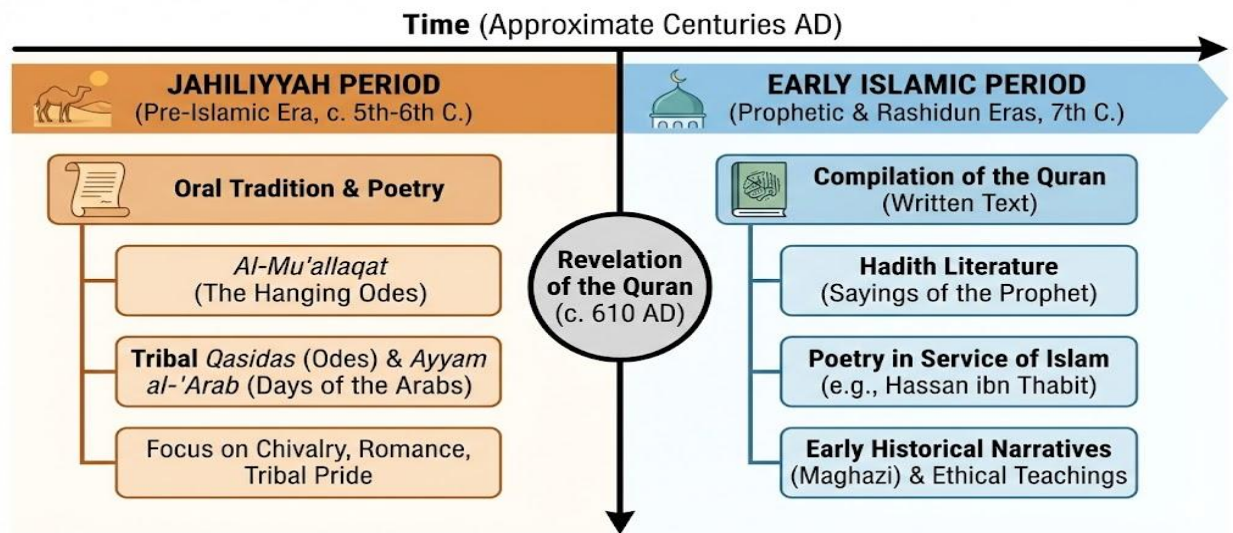


Figure 1.1: Timeline of Arabic literature before and after Islam

1.1.2 Major themes and functions of pre-Islamic poetry

Pre-Islamic poetry, known as **qasidah** (قصيدة), was a long ode composed in a highly structured form. It often began with a nostalgic prelude, followed by themes of travel, love, bravery, and tribal pride. The poetry functioned as a record of tribal achievements and a means of preserving collective memory. It also served as a tool for social cohesion, reinforcing values such as courage, generosity, and loyalty.

Fill in the blank: Pre-Islamic poetry was often composed in the form of a long structured ode called a _____.





Plate 1.1: Manuscript of a pre-Islamic qasidah

1.1.3 Oral tradition and preservation of poetry

The **oral tradition** refers to the practice of transmitting poetry and stories by word of mouth rather than writing. In pre-Islamic Arabia, poets memorised and recited verses, which were then passed down through generations. This oral culture ensured that poetry remained alive and accessible, even in the absence of widespread literacy. Later, scholars compiled these poems into collections, preserving them for future generations.

Fill in the blank: In pre-Islamic Arabia, poetry was preserved mainly through _____ tradition.

Feature	Explanation
Poetry Memorised and Recited at Tribal Gatherings	Oral poetry was performed at markets and tribal assemblies, serving as entertainment and cultural expression.
Transmission Across Generations Without Writing	Knowledge, stories, and poetry were passed down orally, ensuring continuity before widespread literacy.



Preservation of Tribal History and Values	Oral tradition safeguarded collective memory, recording genealogies, heroic deeds, and moral codes.
Later Compilation into Written Collections	With the rise of Islam and literacy, oral works were recorded, forming the basis of Arabic literary heritage.

Box 1.1: Features of oral tradition in pre-Islamic Arabia

Pilot questions 1.1

1. What does the term Jahiliyyah period mean in the context of Arabic literature?
2. Fill in the blank: The Jahiliyyah period is often described as the “Age of _____.”
3. What is a qasidah, and what themes did it typically include?
4. Fill in the blank: Pre-Islamic poetry was often composed in the form of a long structured ode called a _____.
5. How was poetry preserved in pre-Islamic Arabia?
6. Fill in the blank: In pre-Islamic Arabia, poetry was preserved mainly through _____ tradition.

1.2 Early Islamic Arabic Literature And Transformation

1.2.1 Influence of Islam on Arabic literary expression

With the advent of Islam in the 7th century, Arabic literature underwent a profound transformation. The **Qur'an**, revealed in Arabic, introduced a new level of eloquence and rhetorical power that became the benchmark for literary excellence. Its style combined rhythm, imagery, and moral guidance, inspiring poets and prose writers to adopt new themes centred on faith, morality, and community. Unlike pre-Islamic poetry, which often celebrated tribal pride and worldly pleasures, early Islamic literature emphasised spiritual values and collective identity.



Fill in the blank: The Qur'an introduced a new level of _____ and rhetorical power that became the benchmark for Arabic literary excellence.



Plate 1.2: Early Qur'anic manuscript illustrating literary transformation

1.2.2 Qur'anic style and its impact on Arabic prose and poetry

The **Qur'anic style** is characterised by its rhythmic prose, vivid imagery, and use of parables. This style influenced Arabic prose by encouraging writers to adopt clarity, brevity, and moral depth. It also shaped poetry, as poets began to incorporate religious themes and moral lessons into their verses. The Qur'an's linguistic features, such as parallelism and repetition, became models for later Arabic literature.

Fill in the blank: The Qur'anic style influenced Arabic prose by encouraging writers to adopt clarity, brevity, and _____ depth.





Figure 1.2: Key features of Qur'anic style and their influence

1.2.3 Emergence of new literary themes in the early Islamic period

Early Islamic literature introduced new **themes** such as monotheism, justice, compassion, and the unity of the Muslim community. Poetry began to reflect devotion to God, the Prophet Muhammad, and the values of the new faith. Prose writings included sermons, letters, and historical accounts that reinforced Islamic teachings. These themes marked a departure from the tribal focus of pre-Islamic poetry, creating a literature that was both spiritual and universal.

Fill in the blank: Early Islamic literature introduced new themes such as monotheism, justice, compassion, and the unity of the _____ community.

Theme	Explanation
Monotheism and Devotion to God	Central focus on the worship of one God (<i>tawhīd</i>), emphasising faith and submission.
Justice and Compassion	Literature promoted fairness, mercy, and ethical conduct in personal and communal life.



Unity of the Muslim Community	Stressed solidarity and cohesion among believers, reinforcing the concept of the <i>ummah</i> .
Moral and Spiritual Guidance	Provided instruction on righteous living, spiritual growth, and adherence to divine principles.
Praise of the Prophet Muhammad	Celebrated the Prophet's life, virtues, and role as a model for believers.

Box 1.2: Themes of early Islamic literature

Pilot questions 1.2

1. How did the Qur'an transform Arabic literary expression?
2. Fill in the blank: The Qur'an introduced a new level of _____ and rhetorical power that became the benchmark for Arabic literary excellence.
3. What are the main features of Qur'anic style that influenced Arabic prose and poetry?
4. Fill in the blank: The Qur'anic style influenced Arabic prose by encouraging writers to adopt clarity, brevity, and _____ depth.
5. What new themes emerged in early Islamic literature?
6. Fill in the blank: Early Islamic literature introduced new themes such as monotheism, justice, compassion, and the unity of the _____ community.

1.3 Literary Genres Across The Two Periods

1.3.1 Poetry as the dominant genre in pre-Islamic Arabia

In pre-Islamic Arabia, **poetry** was the most dominant literary genre. It was highly valued as a means of expressing tribal pride, recounting heroic deeds, and preserving cultural memory. The **qasidah** (ode) was the central form, often beginning with a nostalgic prelude before moving into



themes of travel, bravery, and tribal honour. Poetry was not only entertainment but also a tool of diplomacy and social commentary, giving poets significant influence within their communities.

Fill in the blank: In pre-Islamic Arabia, the most dominant literary genre was _____.



Plate 1.3: Poetry as the dominant genre in pre-Islamic Arabia

1.3.2 Prose and religious texts in the early Islamic period

With the rise of Islam, **prose** gained prominence alongside poetry. The Qur'an itself, though unique in style, influenced prose writing by introducing clarity, rhythm, and moral depth. Early Islamic prose included sermons, letters, and historical accounts, which reinforced Islamic teachings and guided the new community. Religious texts became central, shaping the intellectual and spiritual life of Muslims.

Fill in the blank: Early Islamic prose included sermons, letters, and _____ accounts.



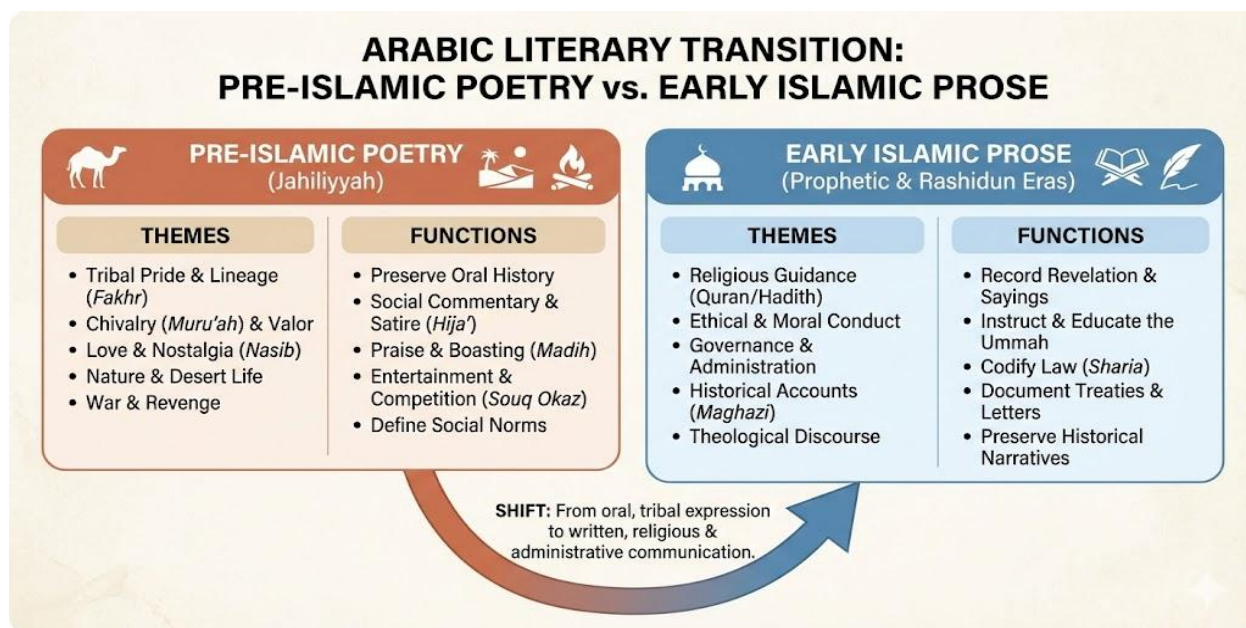


Figure 1.3: Comparison of pre-Islamic poetry and early Islamic prose

1.3.3 Continuities and differences between the two periods

Despite the transformation brought by Islam, there were **continuities** between pre-Islamic and early Islamic literature. The qasidah structure continued to be used, though its themes shifted from tribal pride to religious devotion. At the same time, significant **differences** emerged: prose became more prominent, and literature focused on universal values rather than tribal concerns. This blend of continuity and change ensured that Arabic literature remained dynamic and adaptable.

Fill in the blank: While the qasidah structure continued in the early Islamic period, its themes shifted from tribal pride to _____ devotion.

Aspect	Explanation
Continuity: Qasidah Structure	The traditional ode (<i>qasidah</i>) form, with its tripartite structure, remained central to poetic expression.
Continuity: Oral Tradition of Recitation	Poetry and prose continued to be memorised and performed aloud, preserving cultural transmission.



Difference: Shift from Tribal to Religious Themes	Early Islamic literature emphasised faith, morality, and devotion, moving away from purely tribal concerns.
Difference: Rise of Prose and Religious Texts	Sermons, Qur'anic exegesis, and hadith collections introduced new prose genres alongside poetry.
Difference: Focus on Universal Values	Literature began to highlight justice, compassion, and unity, transcending tribal boundaries.

Box 1.3: Continuities and differences in Arabic literature

Pilot questions 1.3

1. What was the dominant literary genre in pre-Islamic Arabia?
2. Fill in the blank: In pre-Islamic Arabia, the most dominant literary genre was _____.
3. What types of prose emerged in the early Islamic period?
4. Fill in the blank: Early Islamic prose included sermons, letters, and _____ accounts.
5. What continuities and differences can be identified between pre-Islamic and early Islamic literature?
6. Fill in the blank: While the qasidah structure continued in the early Islamic period, its themes shifted from tribal pride to _____ devotion.

1.4 Notable Literary Figures Of The Two Periods

1.4.1 Famous pre-Islamic poets

Pre-Islamic Arabia produced some of the most celebrated poets in Arabic literary history.

Among them was **Imru' al-Qays**, often regarded as the father of Arabic poetry, whose qasidahs combined vivid imagery with themes of love and adventure. Another notable figure was

Antarah ibn Shaddad, a warrior-poet whose verses reflected both his heroic exploits and his



struggles with social identity. These poets, along with others such as Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma and Labid ibn Rabi'ah, shaped the literary culture of the Jahiliyyah period by preserving tribal values and personal experiences in eloquent verse.

Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays is often regarded as the father of _____ poetry.



Plate 1.4: Manuscript of Imru' al-Qays's poetry

1.4.2 Early Islamic poets and prose writers

In the early Islamic period, poets and prose writers adapted their art to reflect the new religious and cultural environment. **Hassan ibn Thabit**, known as the “Poet of the Prophet,” composed verses in praise of Prophet Muhammad and defended Islam through poetry. Prose writers contributed through sermons, letters, and historical accounts that reinforced Islamic teachings. These figures ensured that literature became a tool for spreading faith and strengthening the unity of the Muslim community.

Fill in the blank: Hassan ibn Thabit was known as the “Poet of the _____.”



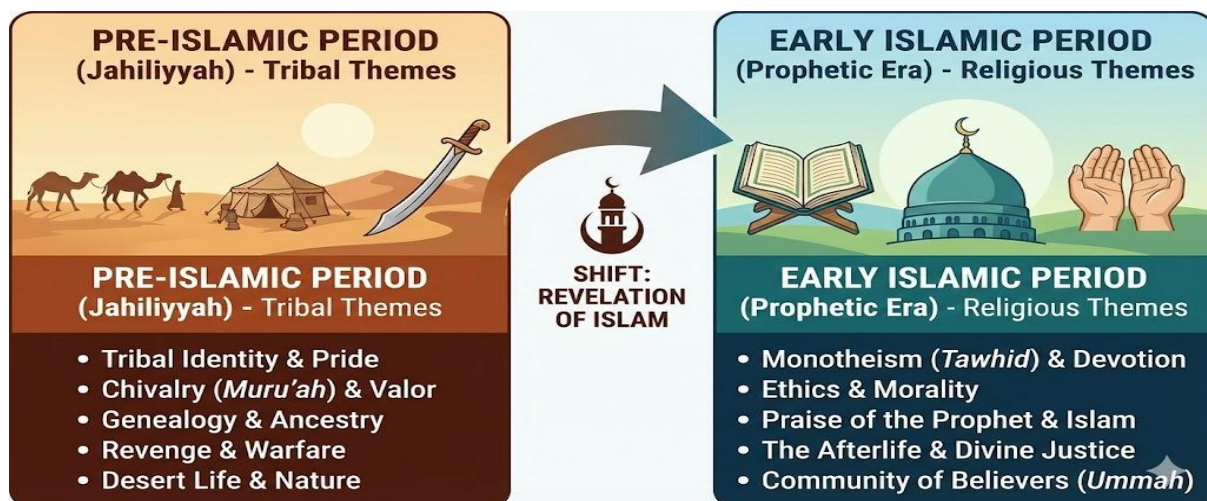


Figure 1.4: Shift in themes from pre-Islamic to early Islamic poetry

1.4.3 Contribution of literary figures to Arabic cultural identity

The contributions of these literary figures were vital in shaping **Arabic cultural identity**. Pre-Islamic poets preserved tribal values and oral traditions, while early Islamic poets and prose writers reinforced religious and moral ideals. Together, they ensured that Arabic literature reflected both continuity and transformation, linking the heritage of the past with the spiritual vision of Islam. Their works remain central to the study of Arabic literature, offering insights into the values, struggles, and aspirations of Arab society across two pivotal periods.

Fill in the blank: The contributions of literary figures were vital in shaping Arabic _____ identity.

Figure	Contribution
Imru' al-Qays	Renowned for vivid imagery and adventurous themes, his poetry exemplified the artistry of pre-Islamic verse.
Antarah ibn Shaddad	Celebrated for heroic exploits and reflections on social identity, his works conveyed courage and tribal pride.
Hassan ibn Thabit	Known as the "Poet of the Prophet," he composed poetry in praise of Muhammad and defended Islam through verse.



Early Prose Writers	Produced sermons, letters, and historical accounts that documented religious, political, and cultural life.
Collective Role	Together, these figures shaped Arabic cultural identity across the transition from pre-Islamic to early Islamic periods.

Box 1.4: Contributions of notable literary figures

Pilot questions 1.4

1. Who was Imru' al-Qays, and why is he significant in Arabic poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays is often regarded as the father of _____ poetry.
3. Who was Hassan ibn Thabit, and what was his role in early Islamic literature?
4. Fill in the blank: Hassan ibn Thabit was known as the "Poet of the _____."
5. How did literary figures contribute to shaping Arabic cultural identity?
6. Fill in the blank: The contributions of literary figures were vital in shaping Arabic _____ identity.

Series Summary

This Series has provided you with a broad overview of Arabic literature in the pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods, highlighting its importance as the foundation of later literary traditions. The purpose was to help you appreciate how literature reflected the cultural, social, and spiritual life of the Arab people across two pivotal eras. By examining the Jahiliyyah period, the transformation brought by Islam, the literary genres, and the notable figures, you have gained insight into the continuity and change that shaped Arabic literary identity.

We began with the historical background of the Jahiliyyah period, exploring the themes and functions of pre-Islamic poetry and the role of oral tradition. We then considered how Islam



transformed literary expression, focusing on the Qur’anic style and the emergence of new themes. Following that, we studied the genres across the two periods, noting both continuities and differences. Finally, we examined notable literary figures such as Imru’ al-Qays, Antarah ibn Shaddad, and Hassan ibn Thabit, and their contributions to Arabic cultural identity. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define the historical context, explain the themes and genres, analyse the impact of Islam, and describe the contributions of key literary figures to the development of Arabic literature.

Glossary of Terms

- **Antarah ibn Shaddad:** A famous pre-Islamic warrior-poet whose verses combined heroic exploits with themes of love and social identity.
- **Arabic cultural identity:** The shared values, traditions, and literary heritage that define Arab society, shaped by both pre-Islamic and early Islamic literature.
- **Hassan ibn Thabit:** An early Islamic poet known as the “Poet of the Prophet,” who composed verses in praise of Prophet Muhammad and defended Islam through poetry.
- **Imru’ al-Qays:** A celebrated pre-Islamic poet often regarded as the father of Arabic poetry, noted for his vivid imagery and adventurous themes.
- **Jahiliyyah period:** The era in Arabia before the advent of Islam, often called the “Age of Ignorance,” marked by tribal life and oral traditions.
- **Oral tradition:** The practice of transmitting poetry and stories by word of mouth, ensuring their preservation across generations before being compiled in written form.
- **Poetry (qasidah):** The dominant literary genre in pre-Islamic Arabia, usually structured as a long ode with themes of love, travel, bravery, and tribal pride.
- **Prose:** Written or spoken language in ordinary form, which gained prominence in the early Islamic period through sermons, letters, and historical accounts.
- **Qur’an:** The holy book of Islam revealed in Arabic, noted for its eloquent style, rhythm, imagery, and moral guidance, which transformed Arabic literary expression.



- **Qur’anic style:** The distinctive linguistic and rhetorical features of the Qur’an, including rhythmic prose, vivid imagery, repetition, and parables, which influenced later Arabic prose and poetry.
- **Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma:** A pre-Islamic poet known for his wisdom and moral themes, often reflecting values such as justice and reconciliation.

Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective questions

1. The Jahiliyyah period is often described as the “Age of _____.” (Linked to SLO 1.1)
2. The long structured ode that dominated pre-Islamic poetry is called a _____. (Linked to SLO 1.2)
3. In pre-Islamic Arabia, poetry was preserved mainly through _____ tradition. (Linked to SLO 1.3)
4. The Qur’an introduced a new level of _____ and rhetorical power to Arabic literature. (Linked to SLO 1.4)
5. Hassan ibn Thabit was known as the “Poet of the _____.” (Linked to SLO 1.10)

Short-answer questions

6. Define the Jahiliyyah period and explain its significance in Arabic literary history. (Linked to SLO 1.1)
7. Describe the main themes of pre-Islamic qasidah poetry. (Linked to SLO 1.2)
8. Explain how oral tradition contributed to the preservation of pre-Islamic poetry. (Linked to SLO 1.3)
9. Identify two stylistic features of Qur’anic style that influenced Arabic prose and poetry. (Linked to SLO 1.5)



10. Summarise the new literary themes that emerged in the early Islamic period. (Linked to SLO 1.6)
11. Compare the dominant genres of pre-Islamic and early Islamic literature. (Linked to SLO 1.7)
12. Name two famous pre-Islamic poets and briefly describe their contributions. (Linked to SLO 1.9)

Long-answer questions

13. Analyse the role of poetry in pre-Islamic Arabia, focusing on its social functions and cultural significance. (Linked to SLO 1.2–1.3)
14. Discuss the impact of the Qur'an on Arabic literary expression, highlighting its influence on both prose and poetry. (Linked to SLO 1.4–1.5)
15. Evaluate the continuities and differences between pre-Islamic and early Islamic literature. (Linked to SLO 1.7–1.8)
16. Assess the contributions of notable literary figures such as Imru' al-Qays, Antarah ibn Shaddad, and Hassan ibn Thabit to Arabic cultural identity. (Linked to SLO 1.9–1.10)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective questions

1. Ignorance
2. Qasidah
3. Oral
4. Eloquence
5. Prophet

Short-answer questions



6. The Jahiliyyah period refers to the era before Islam, marked by tribal life and oral traditions. It is significant because it produced the earliest Arabic poetry that preserved cultural values.
7. Pre-Islamic qasidah poetry often included themes of love, travel, bravery, and tribal pride.
8. Oral tradition preserved poetry through memorisation and recitation at tribal gatherings, ensuring continuity across generations.
9. Features include rhythmic prose and repetition, which influenced later Arabic prose and poetry.
10. Themes included monotheism, justice, compassion, and unity of the Muslim community.
11. Pre-Islamic literature was dominated by poetry, while early Islamic literature introduced prose and religious texts alongside poetry.
12. Imru' al-Qays contributed vivid imagery and adventurous themes, while Antarah ibn Shaddad reflected heroic exploits and social identity.

Long-answer questions

13. *Basic response:* Poetry in pre-Islamic Arabia served as a record of tribal achievements, reinforced values such as courage and generosity, and preserved cultural memory.
Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that poetry also functioned as a tool of diplomacy, social commentary, and identity formation, giving poets political and cultural influence.
14. *Basic response:* The Qur'an transformed Arabic literature by introducing eloquence, rhythm, and moral depth, influencing both prose and poetry.
Value-added response: Learners may extend this by noting that Qur'anic style set a benchmark for literary excellence, inspiring later writers and shaping Arabic rhetoric and aesthetics.
15. *Basic response:* Continuities included the qasidah structure and oral tradition, while differences included the rise of prose and the shift from tribal to religious themes.



Value-added response: Learners may add that these changes reflected broader social transformations, as literature moved from tribal identity to universal Islamic values.

16. *Basic response:* Imru' al-Qays, Antarah ibn Shaddad, and Hassan ibn Thabit contributed to Arabic cultural identity through their poetry, which preserved tribal values and promoted Islamic ideals.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by evaluating how these figures linked heritage with faith, ensuring literature remained both culturally rooted and spiritually relevant.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 1]

Part 1.1: Pre-Islamic Arabic Literature and Its Context

1. The Jahiliyyah period means the era before Islam, often described as the “Age of Ignorance.”
2. Ignorance
3. A qasidah is a long structured ode that included themes such as love, travel, bravery, and tribal pride.
4. Qasidah
5. Poetry was preserved through oral tradition, with memorisation and recitation at tribal gatherings.
6. Oral

Part 1.2: Early Islamic Arabic Literature and Transformation

1. The Qur'an transformed Arabic literary expression by introducing eloquence, rhythm, and moral depth.
2. Eloquence
3. Features include rhythmic prose, vivid imagery, parables, and repetition.



4. Moral
5. New themes included monotheism, justice, compassion, and unity of the Muslim community.
6. Muslim

Part 1.3: Literary Genres Across the Two Periods

1. Poetry
2. Poetry
3. Sermons, letters, and historical accounts.
4. Historical
5. Continuities included the qasidah structure and oral tradition, while differences included the rise of prose and religious themes.
6. Religious

Part 1.4: Notable Literary Figures of the Two Periods

1. Imru' al-Qays was a pre-Islamic poet regarded as the father of Arabic poetry, known for vivid imagery and adventurous themes.
2. Arabic
3. Hassan ibn Thabit was an early Islamic poet known as the "Poet of the Prophet," who praised Prophet Muhammad and defended Islam.
4. Prophet
5. Literary figures contributed by preserving tribal values, promoting Islamic ideals, and shaping Arabic cultural identity.
6. Cultural



References and Attributions [Series 1]

General References

- Imru' al-Qays. (1988). *Diwan Imru' al-Qays*. Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya.
- Labid ibn Rabi'ah. (1990). *Diwan Labid*. Cairo: Dar al-Ma'arif.
- Qur'an. (n.d.). *The Holy Qur'an*. Various editions.
- Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma. (1992). *Diwan Zuhayr*. Beirut: Dar el-Machreq.
- Antarah ibn Shaddad. (1983). *Diwan Antarah*. Cairo: Dar al-Fikr.
- Hassan ibn Thabit. (1995). *Diwan Hassan ibn Thabit*. Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya.

Illustrations

- *Figure 1.1: Timeline of Arabic literature before and after Islam*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a timeline diagram showing Arabic literature from the Jahiliyyah period to the early Islamic period.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “timeline Arabic literature Jahiliyyah early Islamic OER”
- *Plate 1.1: Manuscript of a pre-Islamic qasidah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of an ancient Arabic manuscript showing a qasidah poem in Arabic script.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “pre-Islamic qasidah manuscript Arabic poetry OER”
- *Box 1.1: Features of oral tradition in pre-Islamic Arabia*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.



- Prompt: “Generate a text box listing features of oral tradition in pre-Islamic Arabia, including memorisation, recitation, and preservation.”
- Suggested OER search string: “oral tradition pre-Islamic Arabic poetry OER”
- *Plate 1.2: Early Qur’anic manuscript illustrating literary transformation*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of an early Qur’anic manuscript with Arabic calligraphy showing eloquent style.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “early Qur’an manuscript Arabic calligraphy OER”
- *Figure 1.2: Key features of Qur’anic style and their influence*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing features of Qur’anic style such as rhythm, imagery, parables, and repetition.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Qur’an style features Arabic literature OER”
- *Box 1.2: Themes of early Islamic literature*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing themes of early Islamic literature including monotheism, justice, compassion, and unity.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “themes early Islamic Arabic literature OER”
- *Plate 1.3: Poetry as the dominant genre in pre-Islamic Arabia*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of a traditional Arab poet reciting verses in a tribal gathering.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “pre-Islamic Arab poet tribal gathering OER”
- *Figure 1.3: Comparison of pre-Islamic poetry and early Islamic prose*



- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate a diagram comparing pre-Islamic poetry with early Islamic prose, showing themes and functions.”
- Suggested OER search string: “comparison pre-Islamic poetry early Islamic prose OER”
- *Box 1.3: Continuities and differences in Arabic literature*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing continuities and differences between pre-Islamic and early Islamic literature.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “continuities differences Arabic literature pre-Islamic early Islamic OER”
- *Plate 1.4: Manuscript of Imru’ al-Qays’s poetry*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of an ancient Arabic manuscript attributed to Imru’ al-Qays.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Arabic poetry manuscript OER”
- *Figure 1.4: Shift in themes from pre-Islamic to early Islamic poetry*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the shift from tribal themes in pre-Islamic poetry to religious themes in early Islamic poetry.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “shift themes pre-Islamic early Islamic poetry OER”
- *Box 1.4: Contributions of notable literary figures*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.



- Prompt: “Generate a text box listing contributions of notable literary figures in pre-Islamic and early Islamic literature.”
- Suggested OER search string: “notable literary figures Arabic literature pre-Islamic early Islamic OER”



Series 2: Literary Genres And Notable Figures In The Two Periods

- **Part 2.1: Major Literary Genres in the Pre-Islamic Period**
 - 2.1.1 Poetry as the dominant genre and its social functions
 - 2.1.2 The qasidah structure and thematic divisions
 - 2.1.3 Oral tradition and its role in genre preservation
- **Part 2.2: Literary Genres in the Early Islamic Period**
 - 2.2.1 Qur'anic influence on prose and poetry
 - 2.2.2 Emergence of religious prose: sermons, letters, and historical accounts
 - 2.2.3 Continuity of poetic forms with new religious themes
- **Part 2.3: Notable Pre-Islamic Literary Figures**
 - 2.3.1 Imru' al-Qays and his contributions to Arabic poetry
 - 2.3.2 Antarah ibn Shaddad and the heroic tradition
 - 2.3.3 Other poets such as Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma and Labid ibn Rabi'ah
- **Part 2.4: Notable Early Islamic Literary Figures**
 - 2.4.1 Hassan ibn Thabit as the "Poet of the Prophet"
 - 2.4.2 Early prose writers and their role in Islamic society
 - 2.4.3 Contributions of literary figures to shaping Islamic cultural identity

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the general background of Arabic literature in the pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods, focusing on its historical context, themes, genres, and notable figures.

Building on that foundation, this Series will take you deeper into the specific literary genres and



the individuals who shaped them. Understanding these genres and figures is essential, as they represent the creative forms and voices through which Arab society expressed its values, struggles, and transformations across two pivotal eras.

The aim of this Series is to equip you with the ability to analyse the major literary genres of both the pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods, and to evaluate the contributions of notable poets and prose writers to Arabic cultural identity.

We shall commence this Series by examining the major literary genres of the pre-Islamic period, focusing on poetry, the qasidah structure, and the role of oral tradition. Next, we will move on to the literary genres of the early Islamic period, considering the influence of the Qur'an, the rise of religious prose, and the continuity of poetic forms. Following that, we will study notable pre-Islamic literary figures such as Imru' al-Qays, Antarah ibn Shaddad, Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma, and Labid ibn Rabi'ah. Finally, we will wrap up by exploring notable early Islamic figures, including Hassan ibn Thabit and early prose writers, and assessing their contributions to shaping Islamic cultural identity.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 2.1** define the major literary genres of the pre-Islamic period and explain their social functions,
- **SLO 2.2** describe the structure and thematic divisions of the qasidah,
- **SLO 2.3** explain the role of oral tradition in preserving pre-Islamic literary genres,
- **SLO 2.4** analyse the influence of the Qur'an on early Islamic prose and poetry,
- **SLO 2.5** identify the main forms of religious prose in the early Islamic period, including sermons, letters, and historical accounts,
- **SLO 2.6** explain how poetic forms continued in the early Islamic period with new religious themes,
- **SLO 2.7** describe the contributions of Imru' al-Qays to Arabic poetry,



- **SLO 2.8** explain the role of Antarah ibn Shaddad in shaping the heroic tradition,
- **SLO 2.9** identify the literary contributions of other pre-Islamic poets such as Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma and Labid ibn Rabi'ah,
- **SLO 2.10** evaluate the role of Hassan ibn Thabit as the “Poet of the Prophet,”
- **SLO 2.11** describe the contributions of early Islamic prose writers to Islamic society, and
- **SLO 2.12** assess how notable literary figures across both periods contributed to shaping Arabic cultural identity.

2.1 Major Literary Genres In The Pre-Islamic Period

2.1.1 Poetry as the dominant genre and its social functions

In pre-Islamic Arabia, **poetry** was the most dominant literary genre. Poetry served as the voice of the tribe, expressing pride, recounting heroic deeds, and preserving cultural memory. It was recited at tribal gatherings, markets, and festivals, making it central to Arab identity. Poets held a prestigious position in society, as their verses could inspire courage, resolve disputes, and immortalise tribal achievements.

Fill in the blank: In pre-Islamic Arabia, poetry was the most dominant _____ genre.



Plate 2.1: Poetry as the dominant genre in pre-Islamic Arabia



2.1.2 The qasidah structure and thematic divisions

The **qasidah** (قصيدة) was the hallmark of pre-Islamic poetry. It was a long ode composed in a highly structured form, often divided into three main sections. The opening, known as the **nasib**, expressed nostalgia for lost love or past experiences. The middle section, the **rahil**, described journeys, landscapes, or animals encountered during travel. The final section, the **madih**, praised the poet's tribe, celebrated bravery, or criticised rivals. This tripartite structure gave the qasidah both artistic unity and cultural significance.

Fill in the blank: The opening section of the qasidah, which expresses nostalgia, is called the _____.

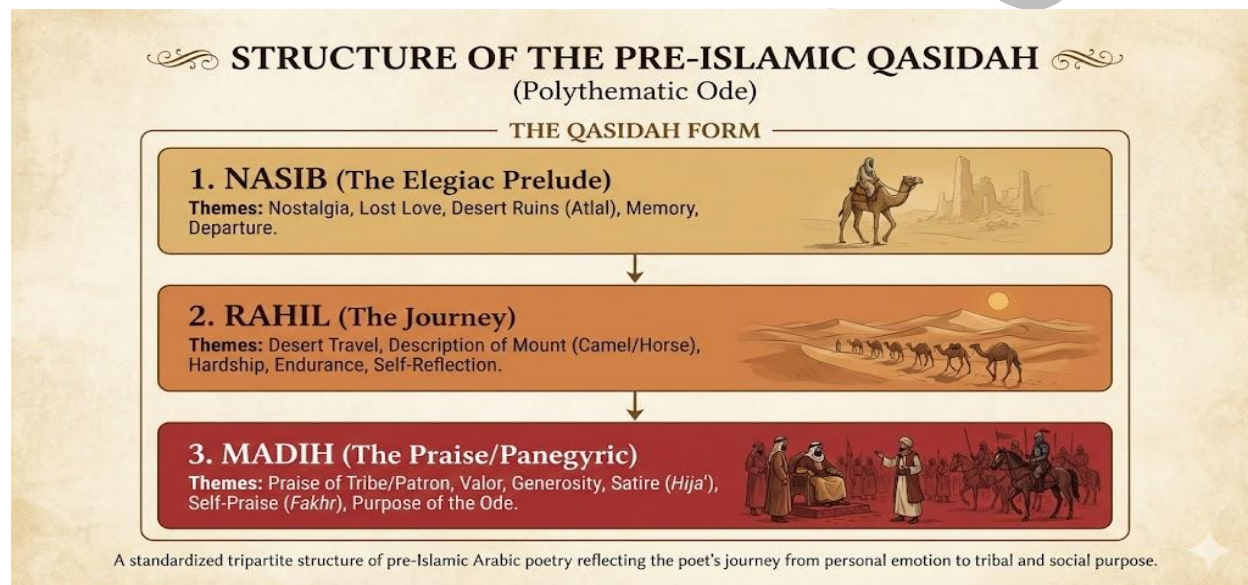


Figure 2.1: Structure of the pre-Islamic qasidah

2.1.3 Oral tradition and its role in genre preservation

The **oral tradition** was the primary means of preserving pre-Islamic poetry. Poets memorised and recited their verses, which were then transmitted across generations. This oral culture ensured that poetry remained alive and accessible, even in the absence of widespread literacy. Later, scholars compiled these poems into collections such as the **Mu'allaqat**, a group of seven celebrated odes that were regarded as masterpieces of Arabic poetry. Oral transmission thus safeguarded the continuity of Arabic literary heritage.



Fill in the blank: Pre-Islamic poetry was preserved mainly through _____ tradition.

Feature	Explanation
Poetry Memorised and Recited at Tribal Gatherings	Oral poetry was performed at markets and tribal assemblies, serving as entertainment and cultural expression.
Transmission Across Generations Without Writing	Knowledge, stories, and poetry were passed down orally, ensuring continuity before widespread literacy.
Preservation of Tribal History and Values	Oral tradition safeguarded collective memory, recording genealogies, heroic deeds, and moral codes.
Later Compilation into Collections such as the Mu‘allaqat	Famous odes were eventually written down, preserving pre-Islamic poetry and making it part of Arabic literary heritage.

Box 2.1: Features of oral tradition in pre-Islamic Arabia

Pilot questions 2.1

1. What was the most dominant literary genre in pre-Islamic Arabia?
2. Fill in the blank: In pre-Islamic Arabia, poetry was the most dominant _____ genre.
3. What is the qasidah, and what are its three main sections?
4. Fill in the blank: The opening section of the qasidah, which expresses nostalgia, is called the _____.
5. How was pre-Islamic poetry preserved across generations?
6. Fill in the blank: Pre-Islamic poetry was preserved mainly through _____ tradition.



2.2 Literary Genres In The Early Islamic Period

2.2.1 Qur'anic influence on prose and poetry

The **Qur'an**, revealed in Arabic, introduced a new standard of eloquence and rhetorical beauty that profoundly influenced both prose and poetry. Its rhythmic style, vivid imagery, and moral depth inspired writers to adopt clarity and precision in their works. Poets began to weave religious themes into their verses, while prose writers used Qur'anic expressions to strengthen sermons, letters, and historical accounts. This influence marked a turning point, as literature became a tool for spiritual guidance and community building.

Fill in the blank: The Qur'an introduced a new standard of _____ and rhetorical beauty in Arabic literature.

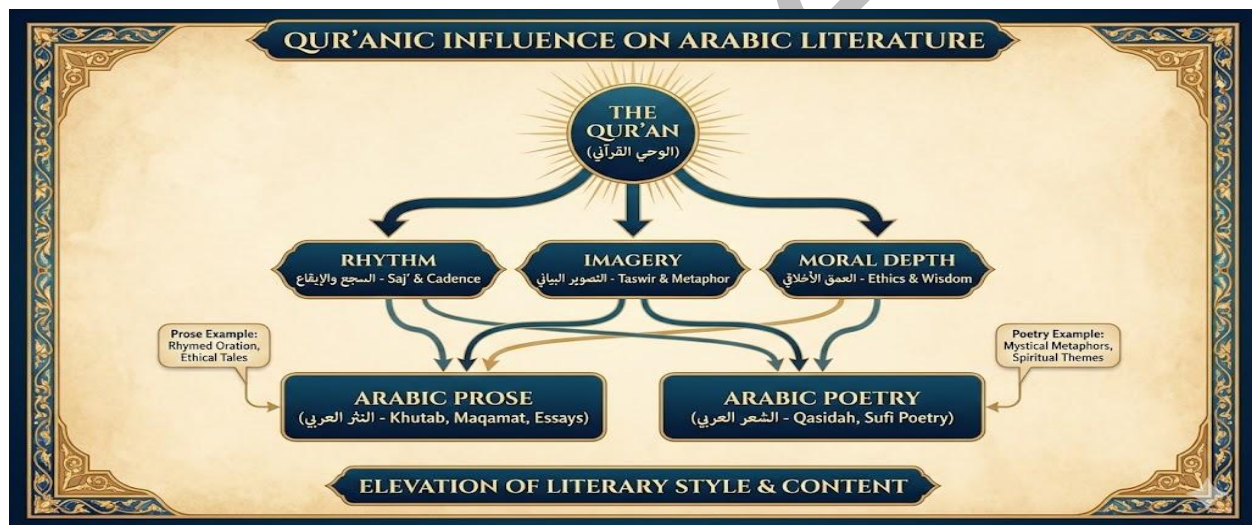


Figure 2.2: Qur'anic influence on Arabic literature

2.2.2 Emergence of religious prose: sermons, letters, and historical accounts

In the early Islamic period, **religious prose** became a vital genre. Sermons delivered by leaders guided the community in matters of faith and morality. Letters were used to communicate political and religious instructions, while historical accounts documented the life of the Prophet Muhammad and the early Muslim community. These prose forms were characterised by clarity, brevity, and a strong moral tone, reflecting the Qur'anic style and serving as instruments of teaching and governance.



Fill in the blank: Early Islamic prose included sermons, letters, and _____ accounts.

Form	Explanation
Sermons	Delivered in mosques and gatherings, offering moral and spiritual guidance to the community.
Letters	Used for political and religious instructions, often sent by leaders to governors, tribes, or neighbouring states.
Historical Accounts	Documented the life of the Prophet Muhammad and the early Muslim community, preserving events and teachings for posterity.

Box 2.2: Forms of religious prose in the early Islamic period

2.2.3 Continuity of poetic forms with new religious themes

Although prose gained prominence, **poetry** continued to flourish in the early Islamic period. The qasidah structure remained popular, but its themes shifted from tribal pride to religious devotion and moral reflection. Poets praised the Prophet Muhammad, celebrated Islamic victories, and expressed loyalty to the new faith. This continuity ensured that poetry retained its cultural importance while adapting to the spiritual and social changes brought by Islam.

Fill in the blank: In the early Islamic period, the qasidah structure continued but its themes shifted from tribal pride to _____ devotion.





Plate 2.2: Poetry with new religious themes in the early Islamic period

Pilot questions 2.2

1. How did the Qur'an influence Arabic prose and poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: The Qur'an introduced a new standard of _____ and rhetorical beauty in Arabic literature.
3. What forms of religious prose emerged in the early Islamic period?
4. Fill in the blank: Early Islamic prose included sermons, letters, and _____ accounts.
5. How did poetry continue in the early Islamic period despite the rise of prose?
6. Fill in the blank: In the early Islamic period, the qasidah structure continued but its themes shifted from tribal pride to _____ devotion.

2.3 Notable Pre-Islamic Literary Figures

2.3.1 Imru' al-Qays and his contributions to Arabic poetry



Imru' al-Qays is often regarded as the father of Arabic poetry. His qasidahs are celebrated for their vivid imagery, emotional depth, and adventurous themes. He pioneered the use of descriptive language to portray love, journeys, and landscapes, setting a stylistic standard for later poets. His works are included in the **Mu'allaqat**, a collection of pre-Islamic odes considered masterpieces of Arabic literature. Imru' al-Qays's influence extended beyond his time, shaping the aesthetics of Arabic poetry for centuries.

Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays is often regarded as the father of _____ poetry.

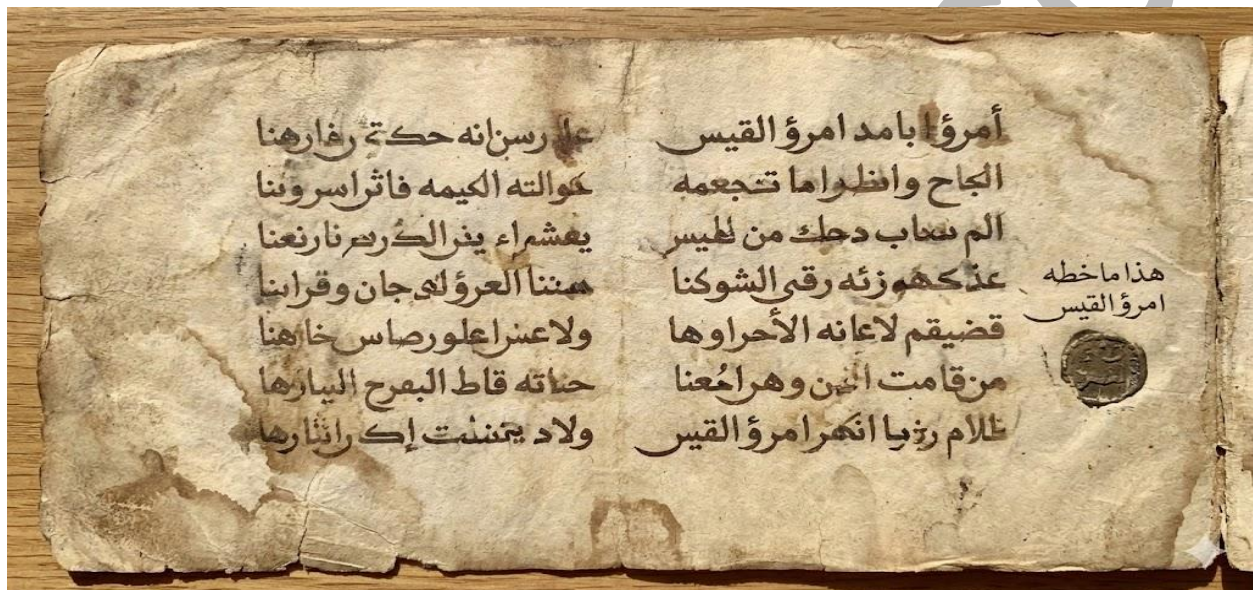


Plate 2.3: Manuscript of Imru' al-Qays's poetry

2.3.2 Antarah ibn Shaddad and the heroic tradition

Antarah ibn Shaddad was both a warrior and a poet, whose verses reflected his heroic exploits and struggles with social identity. Born to an Arab father and an enslaved mother, Antarah faced challenges of recognition within his tribe. His poetry combined themes of bravery, love, and resilience, making him a symbol of courage and determination. His works also appear in the Mu'allaqat, where his heroic voice continues to inspire readers of Arabic literature.

Fill in the blank: Antarah ibn Shaddad's poetry combined themes of bravery, love, and _____.



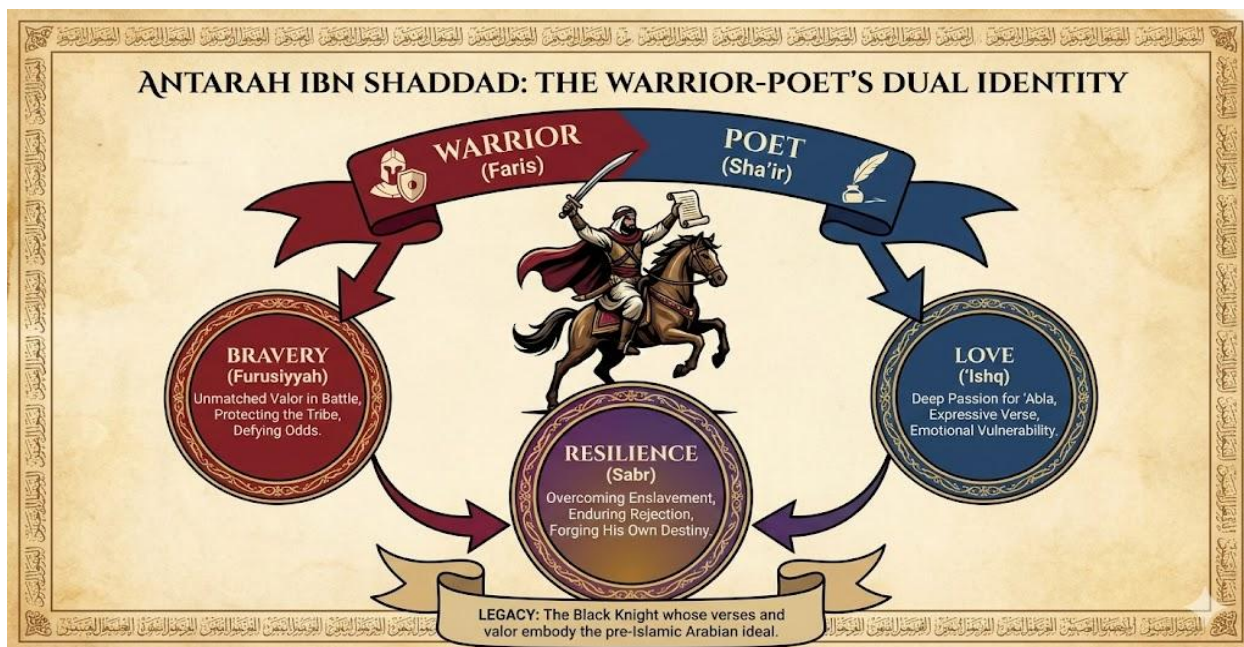


Figure 2.3: Antarah ibn Shaddad's heroic tradition

2.3.3 Other poets such as Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma and Labid ibn Rabi'ah

Beyond Imru' al-Qays and Antarah, other pre-Islamic poets made significant contributions.

Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma was known for his wisdom and moral themes, often promoting justice and reconciliation. **Labid ibn Rabi'ah**, another poet of the Mu'allaqat, later embraced Islam and became known for his piety. These poets enriched Arabic literature by offering diverse perspectives, from tribal honour to moral reflection, ensuring that pre-Islamic poetry was not only artistic but also socially meaningful.

Fill in the blank: Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma's poetry often promoted justice and _____.

Poet	Contribution
Imru' al-Qays	Celebrated for vivid imagery and adventurous themes, his poetry exemplified the artistry of the <i>Mu'allaqat</i> .
Antarah ibn Shaddad	Renowned for heroic exploits and resilience, his verses reflected courage, honour, and social identity.



Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma	Known for wisdom, justice, and reconciliation, his poetry conveyed moral reflection and tribal harmony.
Labid ibn Rabi'ah	Praised for poetic excellence, later remembered for his Islamic piety after embracing Islam.

Box 2.3: Contributions of notable pre-Islamic poets

Pilot questions 2.3

1. Who was Imru' al-Qays, and why is he significant in Arabic poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays is often regarded as the father of _____ poetry.
3. What themes are reflected in Antarah ibn Shaddad's poetry?
4. Fill in the blank: Antarah ibn Shaddad's poetry combined themes of bravery, love, and _____.
5. What contributions did Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma and Labid ibn Rabi'ah make to Arabic literature?
6. Fill in the blank: Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma's poetry often promoted justice and _____.

2.4 Notable Early Islamic Literary Figures

2.4.1 Hassan ibn Thabit as the "Poet of the Prophet"

Hassan ibn Thabit was one of the most prominent poets of the early Islamic period. He is often referred to as the "Poet of the Prophet" because of his verses in praise of Prophet Muhammad and his defence of Islam against its opponents. His poetry combined the traditional qasidah form with new religious themes, making him a bridge between pre-Islamic poetic traditions and Islamic values. Hassan's work reinforced the unity of the Muslim community and elevated poetry into a tool for faith and devotion.



Fill in the blank: Hassan ibn Thabit was known as the “Poet of the _____.”



Plate 2.4: Hassan ibn Thabit, the Poet of the Prophet

2.4.2 Early prose writers and their role in Islamic society

In addition to poets, early Islamic prose writers played a crucial role in shaping the intellectual and spiritual life of the community. Their works included **sermons**, which offered moral and spiritual guidance, **letters**, which communicated political and religious instructions, and **historical accounts**, which documented the life of the Prophet Muhammad and the early Muslim community. These prose writings were characterised by clarity, brevity, and a strong moral tone, reflecting the influence of Qur’anic style.

Fill in the blank: Early Islamic prose writings were characterised by clarity, brevity, and a strong _____ tone.

Contribution	Explanation
Sermons	Delivered in mosques and gatherings, offering moral and spiritual guidance to the Muslim community.
Letters	Written communications conveying political and religious instructions, often sent by leaders to governors, tribes, and neighbouring rulers.



Historical Accounts	Narratives documenting the life of the Prophet Muhammad and the early Muslim community, preserving events and teachings for posterity.
Collective Role	Together, these prose forms strengthened Islamic identity, reinforced governance, and ensured continuity of religious and cultural values.

Box 2.4: Contributions of early Islamic prose writers

2.4.3 Contributions of literary figures to shaping Islamic cultural identity

Together, poets and prose writers of the early Islamic period contributed significantly to **Islamic cultural identity**. Hassan ibn Thabit's poetry reinforced devotion to the Prophet and the values of Islam, while prose writers provided guidance, documentation, and governance. Their collective contributions ensured that literature became a vehicle for preserving faith, promoting unity, and shaping the moral and cultural framework of the Muslim community.

Fill in the blank: Poets and prose writers of the early Islamic period contributed significantly to shaping Islamic _____ identity.

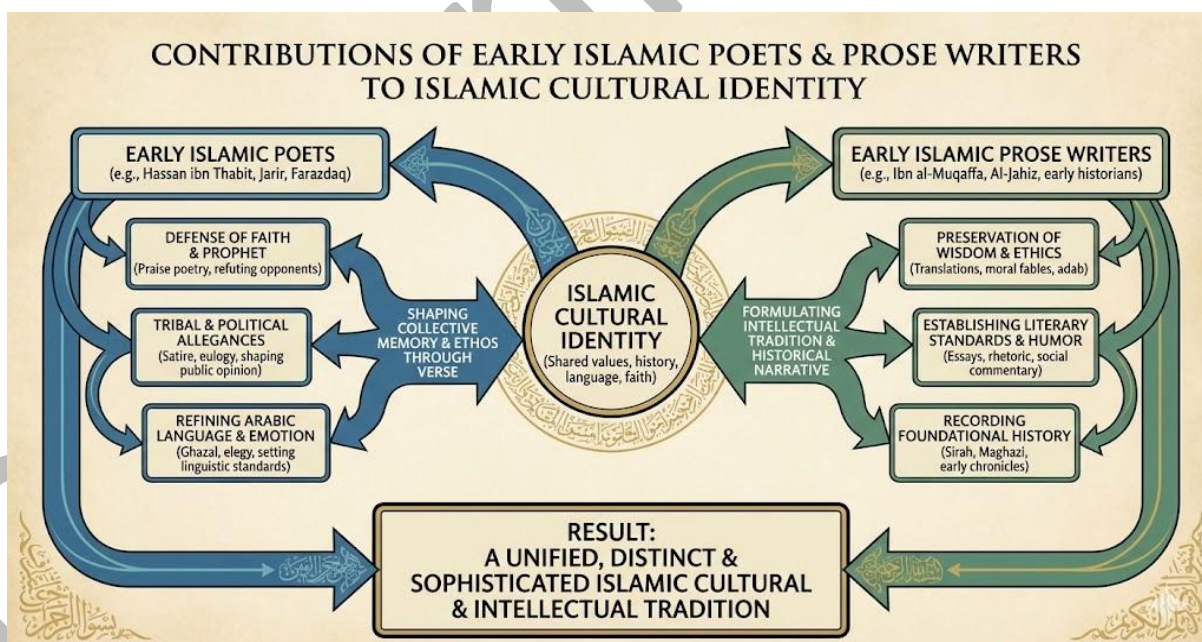


Figure 2.4: Contributions of early Islamic literary figures



Pilot questions 2.4

1. Who was Hassan ibn Thabit, and why is he called the “Poet of the Prophet”?
2. Fill in the blank: Hassan ibn Thabit was known as the “Poet of the _____.”
3. What types of prose writings were produced in the early Islamic period?
4. Fill in the blank: Early Islamic prose writings were characterised by clarity, brevity, and a strong _____ tone.
5. How did poets and prose writers contribute to shaping Islamic cultural identity?
6. Fill in the blank: Poets and prose writers of the early Islamic period contributed significantly to shaping Islamic _____ identity.

Series Summary

This Series has focused on the literary genres and notable figures of the pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods, building on the foundations established in the previous Series. Its purpose was to help you understand how specific genres developed and how individual poets and prose writers contributed to shaping Arabic cultural identity. By examining both the forms and the figures, you have gained a clearer picture of the continuity and transformation that characterise Arabic literature across these two eras.

We began by exploring the major genres of the pre-Islamic period, particularly poetry, the qasidah structure, and the role of oral tradition. We then moved on to the early Islamic period, where the Qur'an influenced prose and poetry, and new forms such as sermons, letters, and historical accounts emerged. Following that, we studied notable pre-Islamic poets including Imru' al-Qays, Antarah ibn Shaddad, Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma, and Labid ibn Rabi'ah, before concluding with early Islamic figures such as Hassan ibn Thabit and prose writers who reinforced Islamic values. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define and describe key genres, explain their structures and functions, analyse the Qur'an's influence, and evaluate the contributions of major literary figures to Arabic cultural identity.



Glossary of Terms

- **Antarah ibn Shaddad:** A pre-Islamic warrior-poet whose verses reflected bravery, love, and resilience. His works are part of the Mu‘allaqat and symbolise courage and determination.
- **Hassan ibn Thabit:** An early Islamic poet known as the “Poet of the Prophet,” who composed verses in praise of Prophet Muhammad and defended Islam through poetry.
- **Imru’ al-Qays:** A celebrated pre-Islamic poet often regarded as the father of Arabic poetry, noted for vivid imagery and adventurous themes.
- **Labid ibn Rabi‘ah:** A pre-Islamic poet included in the Mu‘allaqat, later known for his piety after embracing Islam.
- **Madih:** The final section of a qasidah, usually devoted to praising the poet’s tribe, celebrating bravery, or criticising rivals.
- **Mu‘allaqat:** A collection of seven famous pre-Islamic odes regarded as masterpieces of Arabic poetry.
- **Nasib:** The opening section of a qasidah, often expressing nostalgia for lost love or past experiences.
- **Oral tradition:** The practice of memorising and reciting poetry at tribal gatherings, ensuring its preservation across generations before being compiled in written form.
- **Qasidah:** A long structured ode in pre-Islamic poetry, typically divided into three sections: nasib, rahil, and madih.
- **Qur’an:** The holy book of Islam revealed in Arabic, noted for its eloquence, rhythm, imagery, and moral guidance, which transformed Arabic literary expression.
- **Qur’anic style:** The distinctive linguistic and rhetorical features of the Qur’an, including rhythmic prose, vivid imagery, repetition, and parables, which influenced later Arabic prose and poetry.



- **Rahil:** The middle section of a qasidah, often describing journeys, landscapes, or animals encountered during travel.
- **Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma:** A pre-Islamic poet known for wisdom and moral themes, often promoting justice and reconciliation.

Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective questions

1. The qasidah is a long structured _____ in pre-Islamic poetry. (Linked to SLO 2.2)
2. The opening section of the qasidah, which expresses nostalgia, is called the _____. (Linked to SLO 2.2)
3. Pre-Islamic poetry was preserved mainly through _____ tradition. (Linked to SLO 2.3)
4. The Qur'an introduced a new standard of _____ and rhetorical beauty in Arabic literature. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
5. Hassan ibn Thabit was known as the "Poet of the _____." (Linked to SLO 2.10)

Short-answer questions

6. Define the qasidah and describe its three main sections. (Linked to SLO 2.2)
7. Explain the role of oral tradition in preserving pre-Islamic poetry. (Linked to SLO 2.3)
8. Identify two stylistic features of Qur'anic style that influenced Arabic prose and poetry. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
9. Describe the main forms of religious prose in the early Islamic period. (Linked to SLO 2.5)
10. Summarise the contributions of Imru' al-Qays to Arabic poetry. (Linked to SLO 2.7)



11. Explain the role of Antarah ibn Shaddad in shaping the heroic tradition. (Linked to SLO 2.8)
12. Identify the literary contributions of Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma and Labid ibn Rabi'ah. (Linked to SLO 2.9)
13. Describe the contributions of early Islamic prose writers to Islamic society. (Linked to SLO 2.11)

Long-answer questions

14. Analyse the social functions of poetry in pre-Islamic Arabia. (Linked to SLO 2.1–2.3)
15. Discuss the impact of the Qur'an on Arabic literary genres in the early Islamic period. (Linked to SLO 2.4–2.6)
16. Evaluate the contributions of Imru' al-Qays and Antarah ibn Shaddad to pre-Islamic poetry. (Linked to SLO 2.7–2.8)
17. Assess the role of Hassan ibn Thabit and early prose writers in shaping Islamic cultural identity. (Linked to SLO 2.10–2.12)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective questions

1. Ode
2. Nasib
3. Oral
4. Eloquence
5. Prophet

Short-answer questions

6. The qasidah is a long structured ode in pre-Islamic poetry, divided into three sections: nasib (nostalgia), rahil (journey), and madih (praise).



7. Oral tradition preserved poetry through memorisation and recitation at tribal gatherings, ensuring continuity across generations.
8. Features include rhythmic prose and repetition, which influenced later Arabic prose and poetry.
9. Religious prose included sermons for moral guidance, letters for political and religious instructions, and historical accounts documenting the Prophet's life and the early Muslim community.
10. Imru' al-Qays contributed vivid imagery, emotional depth, and adventurous themes, setting a stylistic standard for Arabic poetry.
11. Antara ibn Shaddad combined themes of bravery, love, and resilience, symbolising courage and determination.
12. Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma promoted justice and reconciliation, while Labid ibn Rabi'ah contributed poetic excellence and later Islamic piety.
13. Early Islamic prose writers provided moral guidance, political instructions, and historical documentation, strengthening Islamic identity and governance.

Long-answer questions

14. *Basic response:* Poetry in pre-Islamic Arabia expressed tribal pride, preserved cultural memory, and celebrated heroic deeds.
Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that poetry also functioned as diplomacy, social commentary, and identity formation, giving poets political and cultural influence.
15. *Basic response:* The Qur'an influenced Arabic literature by introducing eloquence, rhythm, and moral depth, shaping both prose and poetry.
Value-added response: Learners may extend this by noting that Qur'anic style set a benchmark for literary excellence, inspiring later writers and shaping Arabic rhetoric and aesthetics.



16. *Basic response:* Imru' al-Qays pioneered vivid imagery and adventurous themes, while Antarah ibn Shaddad reflected heroic exploits and resilience.

Value-added response: Learners may add that both poets contributed to the Mu'allaqat, ensuring their works became models of Arabic poetic excellence and cultural identity.

17. *Basic response:* Hassan ibn Thabit reinforced devotion to the Prophet through poetry, while prose writers provided guidance and documentation.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by evaluating how these figures collectively shaped Islamic cultural identity, linking heritage with faith and ensuring literature remained both culturally rooted and spiritually relevant.



Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 2]

Part 2.1: Major Literary Genres in the Pre-Islamic Period

1. Poetry
2. Literary
3. The qasidah is a long structured ode divided into three sections: nasib (nostalgia), rahil (journey), and madih (praise).
4. Nasib
5. Through oral tradition, involving memorisation and recitation at tribal gatherings.
6. Oral

Part 2.2: Literary Genres in the Early Islamic Period

1. By introducing eloquence, rhythm, imagery, and moral depth, which influenced both prose and poetry.
2. Eloquence
3. Sermons, letters, and historical accounts.
4. Historical
5. Poetry continued using the qasidah structure but shifted its themes to religious devotion and moral reflection.
6. Religious

Part 2.3: Notable Pre-Islamic Literary Figures

1. Imru' al-Qays was a pre-Islamic poet regarded as the father of Arabic poetry, known for vivid imagery and adventurous themes.
2. Arabic
3. Bravery, love, and resilience.
4. Resilience



5. Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma promoted justice and reconciliation, while Labid ibn Rabi'ah contributed poetic excellence and later Islamic piety.
6. Reconciliation

Part 2.4: Notable Early Islamic Literary Figures

1. Hassan ibn Thabit was an early Islamic poet who praised Prophet Muhammad and defended Islam, earning the title "Poet of the Prophet."
2. Prophet
3. Sermons, letters, and historical accounts.
4. Moral
5. By reinforcing devotion to the Prophet, providing guidance, documenting history, and strengthening Islamic identity.
6. Cultural



References and Attributions [Series 2]

General References

- Imru' al-Qays. (1988). *Diwan Imru' al-Qays*. Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya.
- Antarah ibn Shaddad. (1983). *Diwan Antarah*. Cairo: Dar al-Fikr.
- Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma. (1992). *Diwan Zuhayr*. Beirut: Dar el-Machreq.
- Labid ibn Rabi'ah. (1990). *Diwan Labid*. Cairo: Dar al-Ma'arif.
- Hassan ibn Thabit. (1995). *Diwan Hassan ibn Thabit*. Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya.
- Qur'an. (n.d.). *The Holy Qur'an*. Various editions.

Illustrations

- *Plate 2.1: Poetry as the dominant genre in pre-Islamic Arabia*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate an image of a traditional Arab poet reciting verses in a tribal gathering."
 - Suggested OER search string: "pre-Islamic Arab poet tribal gathering OER"
- *Figure 2.1: Structure of the pre-Islamic qasidah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate a diagram showing the structure of the pre-Islamic qasidah with nasib, rahil, and madih sections."
 - Suggested OER search string: "qasidah structure nasib rahil madih Arabic poetry OER"
- *Box 2.1: Features of oral tradition in pre-Islamic Arabia*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate a text box listing features of oral tradition in pre-Islamic Arabia, including memorisation, recitation, and preservation."



- Suggested OER search string: “oral tradition pre-Islamic Arabic poetry Mu‘allaqat OER”
- *Figure 2.2: Qur’anic influence on Arabic literature*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Qur’anic influence on Arabic prose and poetry, highlighting rhythm, imagery, and moral depth.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Qur’an influence Arabic prose poetry OER”
- *Box 2.2: Forms of religious prose in the early Islamic period*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing forms of religious prose in the early Islamic period, including sermons, letters, and historical accounts.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “early Islamic prose sermons letters historical accounts OER”
- *Plate 2.2: Poetry with new religious themes in the early Islamic period*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of an early Islamic poet reciting verses in praise of the Prophet Muhammad.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “early Islamic poetry Prophet Muhammad praise OER”
- *Plate 2.3: Manuscript of Imru’ al-Qays’ poetry*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of an ancient Arabic manuscript attributed to Imru’ al-Qays.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Arabic poetry manuscript OER”
- *Figure 2.3: Antarah ibn Shaddad’s heroic tradition*



- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Antarah ibn Shaddad’s dual identity as warrior and poet, highlighting bravery, love, and resilience.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Antarah ibn Shaddad warrior poet Arabic literature OER”
- *Box 2.3: Contributions of notable pre-Islamic poets*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing contributions of notable pre-Islamic poets including Imru’ al-Qays, Antarah ibn Shaddad, Zuhayr ibn Abi Sulma, and Labid ibn Rabi’ah.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “notable pre-Islamic poets Arabic literature Mu‘allaqat OER”
- *Plate 2.4: Hassan ibn Thabit, the Poet of the Prophet*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Hassan ibn Thabit reciting poetry in praise of the Prophet Muhammad.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Hassan ibn Thabit Poet of the Prophet Arabic poetry OER”
- *Box 2.4: Contributions of early Islamic prose writers*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing contributions of early Islamic prose writers including sermons, letters, and historical accounts.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “early Islamic prose writers sermons letters historical accounts OER”
- *Figure 2.4: Contributions of early Islamic literary figures*



- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing contributions of early Islamic poets and prose writers to Islamic cultural identity.”
- Suggested OER search string: “early Islamic poets prose writers contributions Islamic identity OER”



Series 3: Detailed Study Of One Of The Seven Odes

Part 3.1 Background And Significance Of The Mu‘allaqat

- 3.1.1 Historical context of the Seven Odes
- 3.1.2 Cultural importance of the Mu‘allaqat in pre-Islamic Arabia
- 3.1.3 Selection of the chosen ode for detailed study (e.g., Imru’ al-Qays’s ode)

Part 3.2 Structural And Thematic Analysis Of The Ode

- 3.2.1 Examination of the qasidah structure (nasib, rahil, madih) within the chosen ode
- 3.2.2 Key themes such as love, journey, tribal pride, and moral reflection
- 3.2.3 Stylistic devices: imagery, metaphor, rhythm, and diction

Part 3.3 Literary And Cultural Contributions Of The Ode

- 3.3.1 The poet’s role in shaping Arabic literary tradition
- 3.3.2 Influence of the ode on later Arabic poetry and prose
- 3.3.3 Enduring relevance of the ode in Arabic cultural identity

Part 3.4 Comparative Reflections And Transition To Islamic Literature

- 3.4.1 Continuities between the ode and early Islamic literary themes
- 3.4.2 Differences in values and focus between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature
- 3.4.3 The ode’s place in the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the literary genres and notable figures of the pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods, gaining insight into how poetry and prose shaped Arab society and cultural identity. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to a detailed study of one of the celebrated



Mu‘allaqat, the Seven Odes that represent the pinnacle of pre-Islamic poetry. These odes are not only artistic masterpieces but also cultural documents that preserve the values, struggles, and imagination of Arab life before Islam.

The aim of this Series is to guide you through a close reading of one selected ode, helping you to analyse its structure, themes, and stylistic devices, while also appreciating its contribution to Arabic literary tradition and its enduring relevance.

We shall commence this Series by examining the background and significance of the Mu‘allaqat, including their historical context and cultural importance, before identifying the chosen ode for detailed study. Next, we will move on to a structural and thematic analysis of the ode, focusing on the qasidah form and its key themes. Following that, we will consider the literary and cultural contributions of the ode, highlighting the poet’s role and its influence on later Arabic literature. Finally, we will wrap up with comparative reflections, connecting the ode to early Islamic literary themes and situating it within the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 3.1** define the historical context and cultural significance of the Mu‘allaqat in pre-Islamic Arabia,
- **SLO 3.2** explain why the chosen ode is regarded as one of the Seven Odes,
- **SLO 3.3** analyse the qasidah structure within the selected ode, identifying its nasib, rahil, and madih sections,
- **SLO 3.4** describe the key themes expressed in the ode, such as love, journey, tribal pride, and moral reflection,
- **SLO 3.5** identify and illustrate the stylistic devices used in the ode, including imagery, metaphor, rhythm, and diction,
- **SLO 3.6** evaluate the poet’s role in shaping Arabic literary tradition through the selected ode,



- **SLO 3.7** assess the influence of the ode on later Arabic poetry and prose,
- **SLO 3.8** explain the enduring relevance of the ode in Arabic cultural identity,
- **SLO 3.9** compare continuities between the ode and early Islamic literary themes, and
- **SLO 3.10** distinguish the differences in values and focus between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature as reflected in the ode.

3.1 Background And Significance Of The Mu‘allaqat

3.1.1 Historical context of the Seven Odes

The **Mu‘allaqat** (المعلقات) are a celebrated collection of seven long pre-Islamic odes, regarded as masterpieces of Arabic poetry. The term *Mu‘allaqat* literally means “the suspended ones,” and tradition holds that these poems were so highly esteemed that they were hung on the walls of the Ka‘bah in Makkah. They represent the finest achievements of pre-Islamic poets and provide a window into the values, struggles, and imagination of Arab society before Islam.

Fill in the blank: The Mu‘allaqat are traditionally described as the “_____ ones,” referring to their esteemed status.





Plate 3.1: Manuscript of the Mu'allaqat

3.1.2 Cultural importance of the Mu'allaqat in pre-Islamic Arabia

The Mu'allaqat were more than literary works; they were cultural treasures. Each ode reflected themes such as love, bravery, tribal pride, and moral reflection. They were recited at tribal gatherings and festivals, serving as a record of Arab values and identity. The poets of the Mu'allaqat were revered figures whose words carried authority and influence. Their works preserved the oral tradition and ensured that the spirit of pre-Islamic Arabia was passed down through generations.

Fill in the blank: The Mu'allaqat reflected themes such as love, bravery, tribal pride, and _____.

Aspect	Explanation
Preserved Arab Values and Traditions	The poems safeguarded tribal customs, honour codes, and social ideals, ensuring continuity across generations.
Celebrated Bravery, Love, and Tribal Pride	Themes of courage, romantic devotion, and loyalty to tribe reflected the lived experiences of pre-Islamic Arabs.



Served as Cultural Records of Pre-Islamic Society	The Mu‘allaqat captured everyday life, desert landscapes, and social relations, acting as historical testimony.
Elevated Poets as Influential Figures in Tribal Life	Poets held prestige as spokesmen of their tribes, shaping identity and reputation through eloquence.

Box 3.1: Cultural significance of the Mu‘allaqat

3.1.3 Selection of the chosen ode for detailed study

For this Series, we will focus on the ode of **Imru’ al-Qays**, one of the most famous poets of the Mu‘allaqat. His poetry is celebrated for its vivid imagery, emotional depth, and adventurous themes. Imru’ al-Qays’s ode exemplifies the qasidah structure, beginning with nostalgic reflections in the *nasib*, moving through descriptions of journeys in the *rahil*, and concluding with praise and tribal pride in the *madih*. Studying this ode in detail will allow us to appreciate both the artistry of the poet and the cultural values embedded in his work.

Fill in the blank: The chosen ode for detailed study in this Series is attributed to _____ al-Qays.

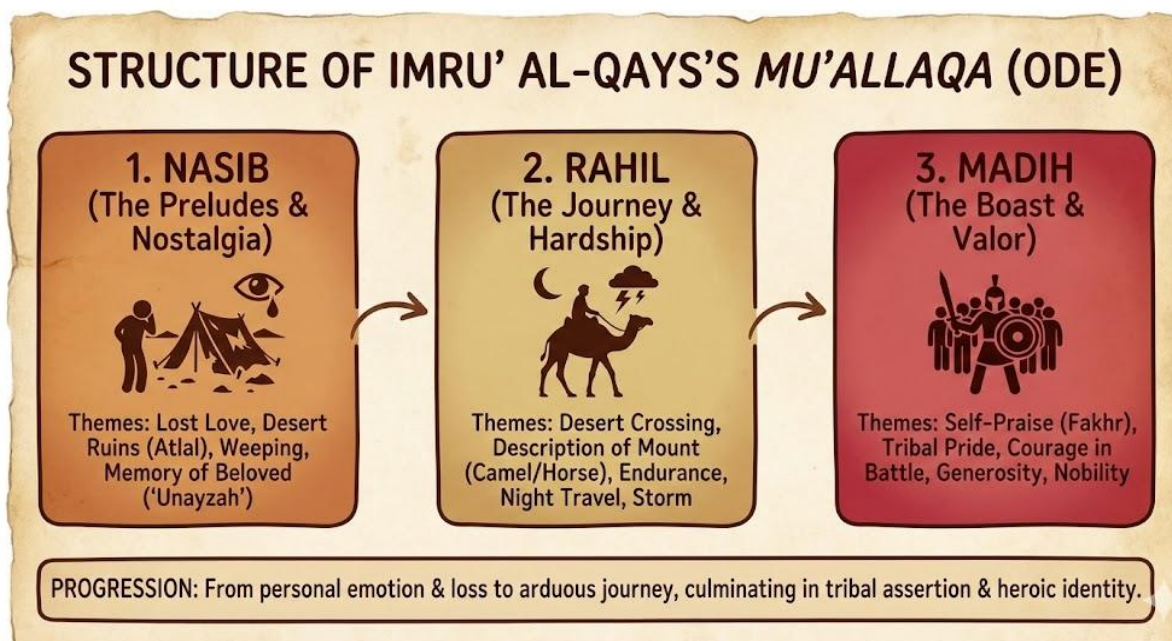


Figure 3.1: Structure of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode in the Mu‘allaqat



Pilot questions 3.1

1. What are the Mu‘allaqat, and why are they significant in Arabic literature?
2. Fill in the blank: The Mu‘allaqat are traditionally described as the “_____ ones.”
3. What cultural themes are reflected in the Mu‘allaqat?
4. Fill in the blank: The Mu‘allaqat reflected themes such as love, bravery, tribal pride, and _____.
5. Which poet’s ode has been selected for detailed study in this Series?
6. Fill in the blank: The chosen ode for detailed study in this Series is attributed to _____ al-Qays.

3.2 Structural And Thematic Analysis Of The Ode

3.2.1 Examination of the qasidah structure

The chosen ode of **Imru’ al-Qays** follows the traditional **qasidah** structure, which is divided into three main sections. The **nasib** opens the poem with nostalgic reflections, often centred on love or memories of a departed beloved. The **rahil** then shifts to descriptions of journeys, landscapes, and encounters with animals, showcasing the poet’s skill in vivid imagery. Finally, the **madih** concludes the ode with praise for the poet’s tribe or expressions of pride and honour. This tripartite structure provided unity and balance, making the qasidah a hallmark of pre-Islamic poetry.

Fill in the blank: The final section of the qasidah, which praises the tribe, is called the _____.



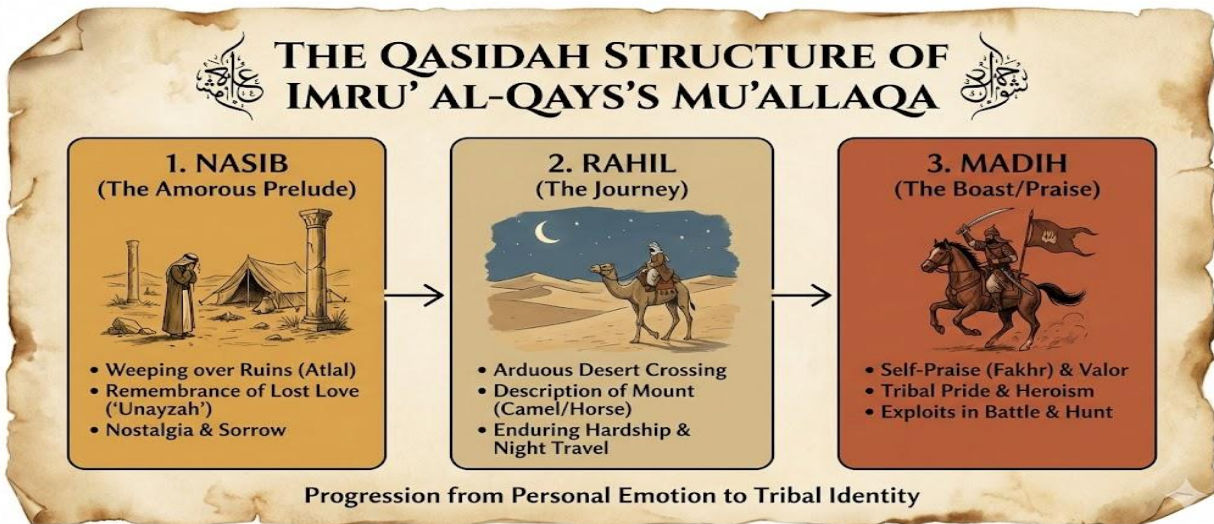


Figure 3.2: Qasidah structure in Imru' al-Qays's ode

3.2.2 Key themes in the ode

Imru' al-Qays's ode reflects several important themes. The **nasib** conveys longing and emotional depth through memories of love and loss. The **rahil** highlights the harshness of desert journeys, the beauty of nature, and the endurance of the traveller. The **madih** celebrates tribal pride, bravery, and the poet's social identity. Together, these themes illustrate the values of pre-Islamic society, where love, resilience, and honour were central to cultural expression.

Fill in the blank: The nasib section of the ode conveys longing and emotional depth through memories of _____.

Section of the Ode	Theme
Nasib (Opening)	Love and nostalgia, reflecting longing for past relationships and emotional memory.
Rahil (Journey)	Journey and endurance, depicting travel across deserts, resilience, and vivid natural imagery.



Madih (Praise)	Tribal pride and honour, celebrating courage, lineage, and the prestige of his people.
-----------------------	--

Box 3.2: Key themes in Imru' al-Qays's ode

3.2.3 Stylistic devices in the ode

The ode is rich in **stylistic devices** that enhance its artistry. **Imagery** is used to paint vivid pictures of landscapes, animals, and emotions. **Metaphor** conveys abstract ideas through concrete comparisons, while **rhythm** and **diction** give the poem musicality and memorability. These devices not only demonstrate the poet's skill but also ensure the ode's enduring appeal across generations.

Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode uses vivid _____ to describe landscapes, animals, and emotions.





Plate 3.2 Calligraphic representation of Imru' al-Qays's ode

Plate 3.2: Calligraphic representation of Imru' al-Qays's ode

Pilot questions 3.2

1. What are the three main sections of the qasidah structure in Imru' al-Qays's ode?
2. Fill in the blank: The final section of the qasidah, which praises the tribe, is called the _____.
3. What themes are expressed in the nasib, rahil, and madih sections of the ode?
4. Fill in the blank: The nasib section of the ode conveys longing and emotional depth through memories of _____.
5. What stylistic devices are used in Imru' al-Qays's ode?



6. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode uses vivid _____ to describe landscapes, animals, and emotions.

3.3 Literary And Cultural Contributions Of The Ode

3.3.1 The poet's role in shaping Arabic literary tradition

Imru' al-Qays's ode is often considered a cornerstone of Arabic literary tradition. His mastery of the **qasidah** form and his innovative use of imagery set a benchmark for later poets. By blending personal emotion with tribal values, he demonstrated how poetry could serve both individual expression and collective identity. His role as a pioneer ensured that Arabic poetry became a respected art form, influencing generations of poets who followed.

Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's mastery of the qasidah form and innovative use of _____ set a benchmark for later poets.

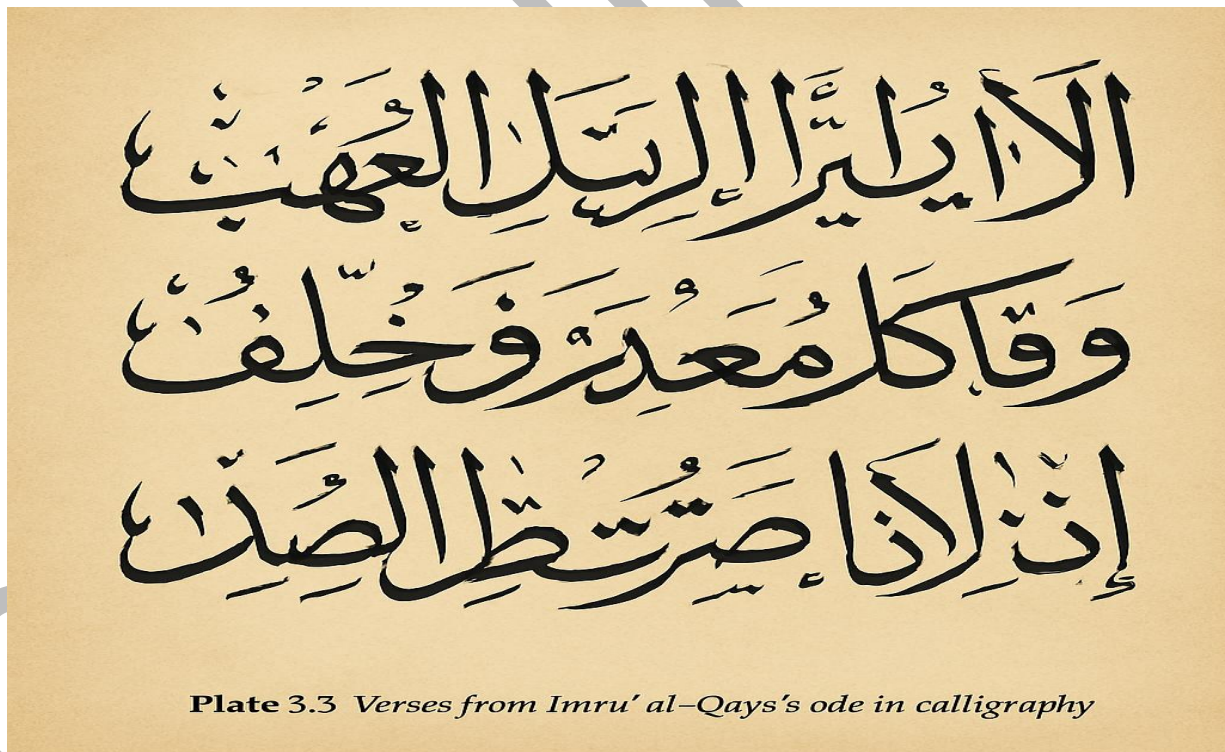


Plate 3.3: Verses from Imru' al-Qays's ode in calligraphy



3.3.2 Influence of the ode on later Arabic poetry and prose

The influence of Imru' al-Qays's ode extended well beyond his time. Later poets adopted his stylistic devices, such as vivid imagery and rhythmic diction, while prose writers drew inspiration from his descriptive power. His themes of love, journey, and tribal honour resonated across centuries, shaping the evolution of Arabic literature. The ode became a model for poetic excellence, studied and imitated by scholars and poets alike.

Fill in the blank: Later poets adopted Imru' al-Qays's stylistic devices, such as vivid _____ and rhythmic diction.

Influence	Explanation
Inspired Later Poets with Imagery and Rhythm	His vivid descriptions and musical flow became models for subsequent poets seeking expressive power.
Provided Models for Prose Writers in Descriptive Power	The richness of his imagery influenced prose writers, especially in crafting detailed and evocative narratives.
Resonated with Themes of Love, Journey, and Honour	These universal themes ensured his poetry remained relevant and inspirational across generations.
Became a Standard of Poetic Excellence in Arabic Tradition	His ode set benchmarks for artistry, structure, and eloquence, establishing enduring literary standards.

Box 3.3: Influence of Imru' al-Qays's ode

3.3.3 Enduring relevance of the ode in Arabic cultural identity

Imru' al-Qays's ode continues to hold relevance in Arabic cultural identity. It is studied not only for its artistic merit but also for its reflection of pre-Islamic values and experiences. The ode preserves the spirit of Arab life before Islam, offering insights into themes of resilience, honour, and emotional depth. Its endurance demonstrates how literature can serve as a cultural bridge, connecting past traditions with present identity.

Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode preserves the spirit of Arab life before _____.





Figure 3.3: Enduring relevance of Imru' al-Qays's ode

Pilot questions 3.3

1. How did Imru' al-Qays shape Arabic literary tradition?
2. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's mastery of the qasidah form and innovative use of _____ set a benchmark for later poets.
3. In what ways did his ode influence later Arabic poetry and prose?
4. Fill in the blank: Later poets adopted Imru' al-Qays's stylistic devices, such as vivid _____ and rhythmic diction.
5. Why does Imru' al-Qays's ode remain relevant in Arabic cultural identity today?
6. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode preserves the spirit of Arab life before _____.



3.4 Comparative Reflections And Transition To Islamic Literature

3.4.1 Continuities between the ode and early Islamic literary themes

Imru' al-Qays's ode, like other Mu'allaqat, demonstrates themes that continued into early Islamic literature. The emphasis on **imagery** and **eloquence** remained central, as the Qur'an itself set a new standard for linguistic beauty. The ode's exploration of human emotions, journeys, and moral reflection resonates with early Islamic writings, which also valued clarity, depth, and cultural identity. This continuity shows how pre-Islamic poetry provided a foundation upon which Islamic literature could build.

Fill in the blank: The Qur'an set a new standard for linguistic beauty and _____ in Arabic literature.

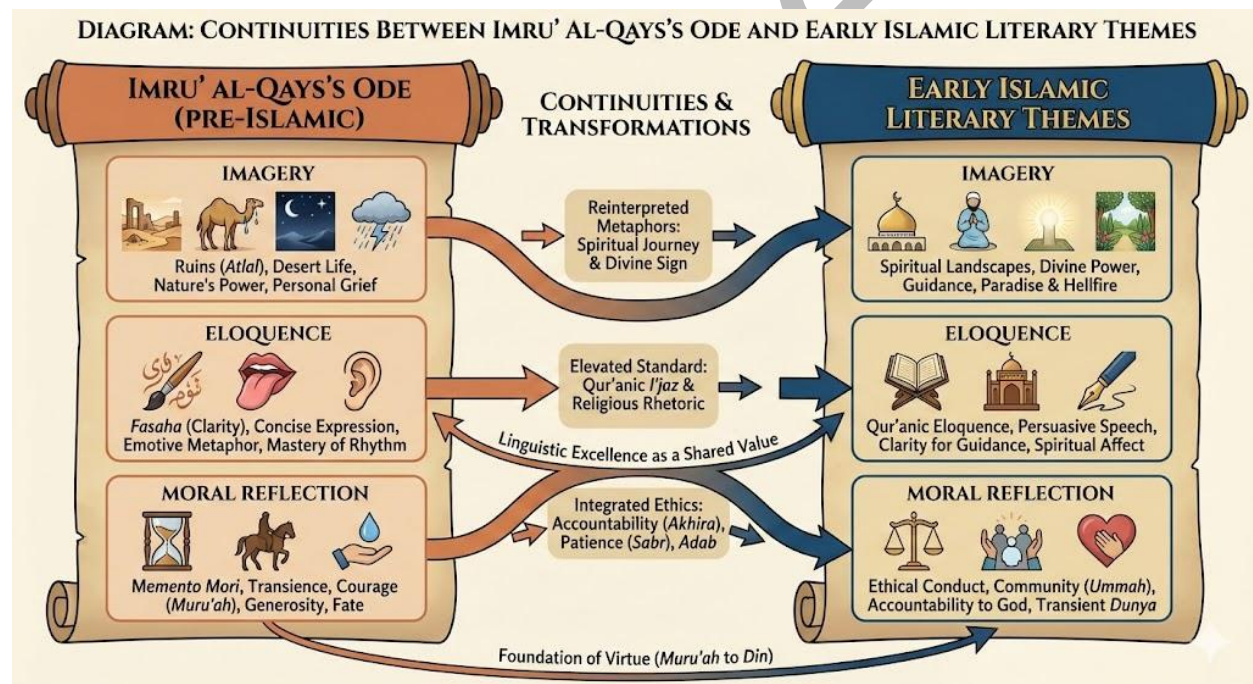


Figure 3.4: Continuities between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature

3.4.2 Differences in values and focus between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature

While there are continuities, there are also clear differences. Pre-Islamic poetry often celebrated tribal pride, worldly love, and heroic exploits. In contrast, early Islamic literature shifted focus to **faith, spiritual devotion, and moral guidance**. The Qur'an and early prose writings emphasised



divine authority and communal unity, moving away from tribal rivalry and personal glory. This difference highlights the transformation of Arabic literature as Islam reshaped cultural priorities.

Fill in the blank: Early Islamic literature shifted focus from tribal pride to _____ devotion.

Period	Themes and Focus
Pre-Islamic Literature	Centred on tribal pride, worldly love, and heroic exploits, reflecting the values of desert life and tribal identity.
Islamic Literature	Emphasised faith, spiritual devotion, and moral guidance, aligning literature with religious and ethical principles.
Overall Shift	Moved from celebrating personal glory and tribal honour to promoting communal unity, justice, and devotion to God.

Box 3.4: Differences between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature

3.4.3 The ode's place in the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history

Imru' al-Qays's ode occupies a significant place in the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history. It represents the height of pre-Islamic poetic achievement and serves as a cultural bridge to Islamic literature. By studying the ode, learners can trace how Arabic literature evolved from tribal traditions to religious devotion, while retaining its artistic richness. The ode thus stands as both a historical document and a timeless work of art, linking past and present in Arabic cultural identity.

Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode serves as a cultural _____ between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature.



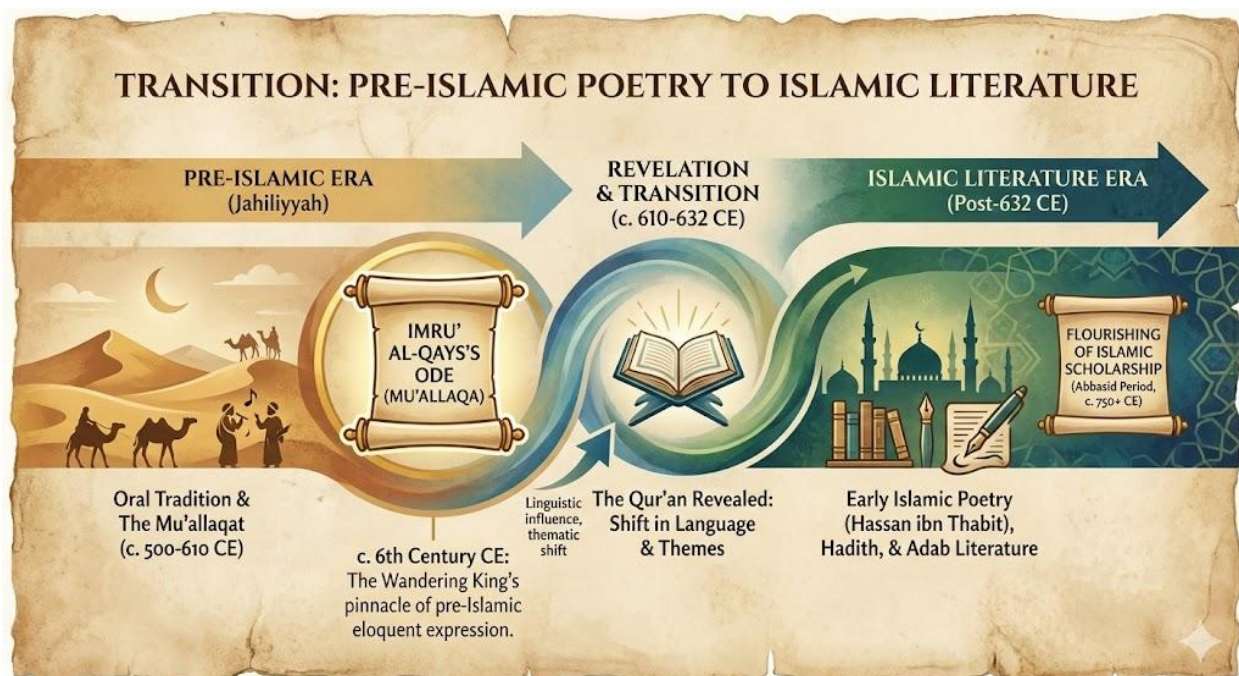


Plate 3.4: The ode's place in Arabic literary history

Pilot questions 3.4

1. What continuities exist between Imru' al-Qays's ode and early Islamic literary themes?
2. Fill in the blank: The Qur'an set a new standard for linguistic beauty and _____ in Arabic literature.
3. What differences in values and focus distinguish pre-Islamic poetry from Islamic literature?
4. Fill in the blank: Early Islamic literature shifted focus from tribal pride to _____ devotion.
5. What is the broader significance of Imru' al-Qays's ode in Arabic literary history?
6. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode serves as a cultural _____ between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature.



Series Summary

This Series has focused on a detailed study of one of the Seven Odes, the Mu‘allaqat, with particular attention to the ode of Imru’ al-Qays. Its purpose was to help you appreciate the background and cultural significance of these masterpieces, while also equipping you with the skills to analyse their structure, themes, and stylistic devices. By situating the ode within its historical context, you have seen how it reflects the values of pre-Islamic Arabia and why it remains central to Arabic literary heritage.

We began with the background and significance of the Mu‘allaqat, then examined the qasidah structure and thematic divisions of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode. Following that, we explored the poet’s contributions to Arabic literary tradition and the influence of his work on later poetry and prose. Finally, we considered comparative reflections, identifying continuities and differences between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define the historical context of the Mu‘allaqat, analyse the structure and themes of the chosen ode, identify its stylistic devices, evaluate its literary and cultural contributions, and assess its place in the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history.

Glossary of Terms

- **Imru’ al-Qays:** A pre-Islamic poet whose ode in the Mu‘allaqat is celebrated for vivid imagery, emotional depth, and adventurous themes. Often regarded as a pioneer of Arabic poetry.
- **Madih:** The concluding section of a qasidah, usually devoted to praising the poet’s tribe, celebrating bravery, or expressing pride and honour.
- **Mu‘allaqat:** A famous collection of seven pre-Islamic odes considered masterpieces of Arabic poetry. The name means “the suspended ones,” reflecting their esteemed status.
- **Nasib:** The opening section of a qasidah, often expressing nostalgia, longing, or memories of love and loss.
- **Qasidah:** A long structured ode in Arabic poetry, typically divided into three sections: nasib (nostalgia), rahil (journey), and madih (praise).



- **Rahil:** The middle section of a qasidah, usually describing journeys, landscapes, and encounters with animals, highlighting endurance and resilience.
- **Stylistic devices:** Literary techniques used to enhance poetry, including imagery (vivid descriptions), metaphor (comparisons to convey meaning), rhythm (musical flow of words), and diction (choice of words).

Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

1. The Mu‘allaqat are traditionally described as the “_____ ones.” (Linked to SLO 3.1)
2. The opening section of a qasidah, which expresses nostalgia, is called the _____. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
3. The final section of a qasidah, which praises the tribe, is called the _____. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
4. Imru’ al-Qays’s ode uses vivid _____ to describe landscapes, animals, and emotions. (Linked to SLO 3.5)
5. Early Islamic literature shifted focus from tribal pride to _____ devotion. (Linked to SLO 3.10)

Short-answer questions

6. Define the Mu‘allaqat and explain their cultural significance in pre-Islamic Arabia. (Linked to SLO 3.1)
7. Describe the three sections of the qasidah structure in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
8. Identify two key themes expressed in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode. (Linked to SLO 3.4)



9. Explain how Imru' al-Qays contributed to shaping Arabic literary tradition. (Linked to SLO 3.6)
10. Summarise the influence of Imru' al-Qays's ode on later Arabic poetry and prose. (Linked to SLO 3.7)
11. Describe why Imru' al-Qays's ode remains relevant in Arabic cultural identity today. (Linked to SLO 3.8)
12. Compare one continuity between Imru' al-Qays's ode and early Islamic literary themes. (Linked to SLO 3.9)
13. Distinguish one difference in values between pre-Islamic poetry and Islamic literature. (Linked to SLO 3.10)

Long-answer questions

14. Analyse the cultural importance of the Mu'allaqat in pre-Islamic society. (Linked to SLO 3.1–3.2)
15. Discuss the structural and thematic features of Imru' al-Qays's ode. (Linked to SLO 3.3–3.4)
16. Evaluate the literary and cultural contributions of Imru' al-Qays's ode. (Linked to SLO 3.6–3.8)
17. Assess the continuities and differences between Imru' al-Qays's ode and early Islamic literature. (Linked to SLO 3.9–3.10)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

1. Suspended
2. Nasib
3. Madih



4. Imagery
5. Religious

Short-answer questions

6. The Mu‘allaqat are seven pre-Islamic odes regarded as masterpieces of Arabic poetry. They were culturally significant as they preserved Arab values, celebrated bravery and love, and elevated poets as influential figures.
7. The qasidah structure has three sections: nasib (nostalgia and love), rahil (journey and endurance), and madih (praise and tribal pride).
8. Themes include love and nostalgia in the nasib, and tribal pride in the madih.
9. Imru’ al-Qays shaped Arabic literary tradition through his mastery of the qasidah form and innovative use of imagery.
10. His ode influenced later poets with stylistic devices such as vivid imagery and rhythm, and inspired prose writers with descriptive power.
11. The ode remains relevant as it reflects pre-Islamic values and preserves Arab cultural identity.
12. One continuity is the emphasis on eloquence and imagery, which carried into Islamic literature.
13. Pre-Islamic poetry emphasised tribal pride, while Islamic literature emphasised faith and spiritual devotion.

Long-answer questions

14. *Basic response:* The Mu‘allaqat were culturally important as they preserved Arab traditions, celebrated bravery, and recorded tribal values.
Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that they also functioned as cultural archives, shaping identity and serving as a bridge to later Islamic literature.
15. *Basic response:* Imru’ al-Qays’s ode follows the qasidah structure with nasib, rahil, and madih, expressing themes of love, journey, and tribal pride.



Value-added response: Learners may extend this by analysing how stylistic devices such as imagery, metaphor, and rhythm enhance the poem's artistry.

16. *Basic response:* Imru' al-Qays contributed to Arabic literary tradition by pioneering imagery and setting standards for poetic excellence.

Value-added response: Learners may add that his ode influenced later poets and prose writers, and continues to shape Arabic cultural identity today.

17. *Basic response:* Continuities include the use of imagery and eloquence, while differences include a shift from tribal pride to religious devotion.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by evaluating how the ode serves as a cultural bridge, linking pre-Islamic traditions with Islamic values and literary forms.



Part 3.1: Background and significance of the Mu‘allaqat

1. The Mu‘allaqat are seven pre-Islamic odes regarded as masterpieces of Arabic poetry, significant for preserving Arab values and cultural identity.
2. Suspended
3. Love, bravery, tribal pride, and moral reflection
4. Moral reflection
5. Imru’ al-Qays
6. Imru’ al-Qays

Part 3.2: Structural and thematic analysis of the ode

1. Nasib, rahil, and madih
2. Madih
3. Nasib expresses nostalgia and love, rahil describes journeys and endurance, and madih celebrates tribal pride and honour.
4. Love
5. Imagery, metaphor, rhythm, and diction
6. Imagery

Part 3.3: Literary and cultural contributions of the ode

1. He shaped Arabic literary tradition by mastering the qasidah form and pioneering vivid imagery.
2. Imagery
3. His ode influenced later poets with stylistic devices and inspired prose writers with descriptive power.
4. Imagery



5. It remains relevant as it reflects pre-Islamic values and preserves Arab cultural identity.
6. Islam

Part 3.4: Comparative reflections and transition to Islamic literature

1. Continuities include the use of imagery, eloquence, and moral reflection.
2. Eloquence
3. Pre-Islamic poetry emphasised tribal pride and worldly love, while Islamic literature emphasised faith, devotion, and moral guidance.
4. Religious
5. It represents the height of pre-Islamic poetic achievement and serves as a cultural bridge to Islamic literature.
6. Bridge



General References

- Imru' al-Qays. (1988). *Diwan Imru' al-Qays*. Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya.
- Stetkevych, S. (1993). *The Mute Immortals Speak: Pre-Islamic Poetry and the Poetics of Ritual*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Jones, A. (1992). *The Mu'allaqat: Translations and Studies*. Leiden: Brill.
- Qur'an. (n.d.). *The Holy Qur'an*. Various editions.

Illustrations

- *Plate 3.1: Manuscript of the Mu'allaqat*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate an image of an ancient Arabic manuscript showing verses from the Mu'allaqat hung in the Ka'bah."
 - Suggested OER search string: "Mu'allaqat manuscript Ka'bah Arabic poetry OER"
- *Box 3.1: Cultural significance of the Mu'allaqat*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate a text box listing the cultural significance of the Mu'allaqat in pre-Islamic Arabia."
 - Suggested OER search string: "Mu'allaqat cultural significance pre-Islamic poetry OER"
- *Figure 3.1: Structure of Imru' al-Qays's ode in the Mu'allaqat*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate a diagram showing the structure of Imru' al-Qays's ode in the Mu'allaqat, divided into nasib, rahil, and madih."



- Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat ode structure qasidah OER”
- *Figure 3.2: Qasidah structure in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the qasidah structure in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode, divided into nasib, rahil, and madih.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “qasidah structure Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat OER”
- *Box 3.2: Key themes in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing key themes in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode, including love, journey, and tribal pride.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat ode themes OER”
- *Plate 3.2: Calligraphic representation of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic calligraphy illustrating verses from Imru’ al-Qays’s ode in the Mu‘allaqat.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat Arabic calligraphy OER”
- *Plate 3.3: Verses from Imru’ al-Qays’s ode in calligraphy*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic calligraphy highlighting verses from Imru’ al-Qays’s ode in the Mu‘allaqat.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat Arabic calligraphy OER”
- *Box 3.3: Influence of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*



- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate a text box listing the influence of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode on later Arabic poetry and prose.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays influence Arabic poetry prose OER”
- *Figure 3.3: Enduring relevance of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the enduring relevance of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode in Arabic cultural identity, linking past traditions with present identity.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat cultural identity relevance OER”
- *Figure 3.4: Continuities between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing continuities between Imru’ al-Qays’s ode and early Islamic literary themes, highlighting imagery, eloquence, and moral reflection.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “continuities pre-Islamic ode Islamic literature OER”
- *Box 3.4: Differences between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing differences between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature, contrasting tribal pride with faith and devotion.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “differences pre-Islamic Islamic literature themes OER”
- *Plate 3.4: The ode’s place in Arabic literary history*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.



- Prompt: “Generate an image of a timeline showing the transition from pre-Islamic poetry to Islamic literature, highlighting Imru’ al-Qays’s ode.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Arabic literature timeline pre-Islamic to Islamic OER”



Series 3: Detailed Study Of One Of The Seven Odes

Part 3.1 Background And Significance Of The Mu‘allaqat

- 3.1.1 Historical context of the Seven Odes
- 3.1.2 Cultural importance of the Mu‘allaqat in pre-Islamic Arabia
- 3.1.3 Selection of the chosen ode for detailed study (e.g., Imru’ al-Qays’s ode)

Part 3.2 Structural And Thematic Analysis Of The Ode

- 3.2.1 Examination of the qasidah structure (nasib, rahil, madih) within the chosen ode
- 3.2.2 Key themes such as love, journey, tribal pride, and moral reflection
- 3.2.3 Stylistic devices: imagery, metaphor, rhythm, and diction

Part 3.3 Literary And Cultural Contributions Of The Ode

- 3.3.1 The poet’s role in shaping Arabic literary tradition
- 3.3.2 Influence of the ode on later Arabic poetry and prose
- 3.3.3 Enduring relevance of the ode in Arabic cultural identity

Part 3.4 Comparative Reflections And Transition To Islamic Literature

- 3.4.1 Continuities between the ode and early Islamic literary themes
- 3.4.2 Differences in values and focus between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature
- 3.4.3 The ode’s place in the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the literary genres and notable figures of the pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods, gaining insight into how poetry and prose shaped Arab society and cultural identity. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to a detailed study of one of the celebrated



Mu‘allaqat, the Seven Odes that represent the pinnacle of pre-Islamic poetry. These odes are not only artistic masterpieces but also cultural documents that preserve the values, struggles, and imagination of Arab life before Islam.

The aim of this Series is to guide you through a close reading of one selected ode, helping you to analyse its structure, themes, and stylistic devices, while also appreciating its contribution to Arabic literary tradition and its enduring relevance.

We shall commence this Series by examining the background and significance of the Mu‘allaqat, including their historical context and cultural importance, before identifying the chosen ode for detailed study. Next, we will move on to a structural and thematic analysis of the ode, focusing on the qasidah form and its key themes. Following that, we will consider the literary and cultural contributions of the ode, highlighting the poet’s role and its influence on later Arabic literature. Finally, we will wrap up with comparative reflections, connecting the ode to early Islamic literary themes and situating it within the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 3.1** define the historical context and cultural significance of the Mu‘allaqat in pre-Islamic Arabia,
- **SLO 3.2** explain why the chosen ode is regarded as one of the Seven Odes,
- **SLO 3.3** analyse the qasidah structure within the selected ode, identifying its nasib, rahil, and madih sections,
- **SLO 3.4** describe the key themes expressed in the ode, such as love, journey, tribal pride, and moral reflection,
- **SLO 3.5** identify and illustrate the stylistic devices used in the ode, including imagery, metaphor, rhythm, and diction,
- **SLO 3.6** evaluate the poet’s role in shaping Arabic literary tradition through the selected ode,



- SLO 3.7 assess the influence of the ode on later Arabic poetry and prose,
- SLO 3.8 explain the enduring relevance of the ode in Arabic cultural identity,
- SLO 3.9 compare continuities between the ode and early Islamic literary themes, and
- SLO 3.10 distinguish the differences in values and focus between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature as reflected in the ode.

3.1 Background And Significance Of The Mu‘allaqat

3.1.1 Historical context of the Seven Odes

The **Mu‘allaqat** (المعلقات) are a celebrated collection of seven long pre-Islamic odes, regarded as masterpieces of Arabic poetry. The term *Mu‘allaqat* literally means “the suspended ones,” and tradition holds that these poems were so highly esteemed that they were hung on the walls of the Ka‘bah in Makkah. They represent the finest achievements of pre-Islamic poets and provide a window into the values, struggles, and imagination of Arab society before Islam.

Fill in the blank: The Mu‘allaqat are traditionally described as the “_____ ones,” referring to their esteemed status.



Plate 3.1: Manuscript of the Mu‘allaqat



3.1.2 Cultural importance of the Mu‘allaqat in pre-Islamic Arabia

The Mu‘allaqat were more than literary works; they were cultural treasures. Each ode reflected themes such as love, bravery, tribal pride, and moral reflection. They were recited at tribal gatherings and festivals, serving as a record of Arab values and identity. The poets of the Mu‘allaqat were revered figures whose words carried authority and influence. Their works preserved the oral tradition and ensured that the spirit of pre-Islamic Arabia was passed down through generations.

Fill in the blank: The Mu‘allaqat reflected themes such as love, bravery, tribal pride, and _____.

Aspect	Explanation
Preserved Arab Values and Traditions	The poems safeguarded tribal customs, honour codes, and social ideals, ensuring continuity across generations.
Celebrated Bravery, Love, and Tribal Pride	Themes of courage, romantic devotion, and loyalty to tribe reflected the lived experiences of pre-Islamic Arabs.
Served as Cultural Records of Pre-Islamic Society	The Mu‘allaqat captured everyday life, desert landscapes, and social relations, acting as historical testimony.
Elevated Poets as Influential Figures in Tribal Life	Poets held prestige as spokesmen of their tribes, shaping identity and reputation through eloquence.

Box 3.1: Cultural significance of the Mu‘allaqat

3.1.3 Selection of the chosen ode for detailed study

For this Series, we will focus on the ode of **Imru’ al-Qays**, one of the most famous poets of the Mu‘allaqat. His poetry is celebrated for its vivid imagery, emotional depth, and adventurous themes. Imru’ al-Qays’s ode exemplifies the qasidah structure, beginning with nostalgic reflections in the nasib, moving through descriptions of journeys in the rahil, and concluding with praise and tribal pride in the madih. Studying this ode in detail will allow us to appreciate both the artistry of the poet and the cultural values embedded in his work.



Fill in the blank: The chosen ode for detailed study in this Series is attributed to _____ al-Qays.

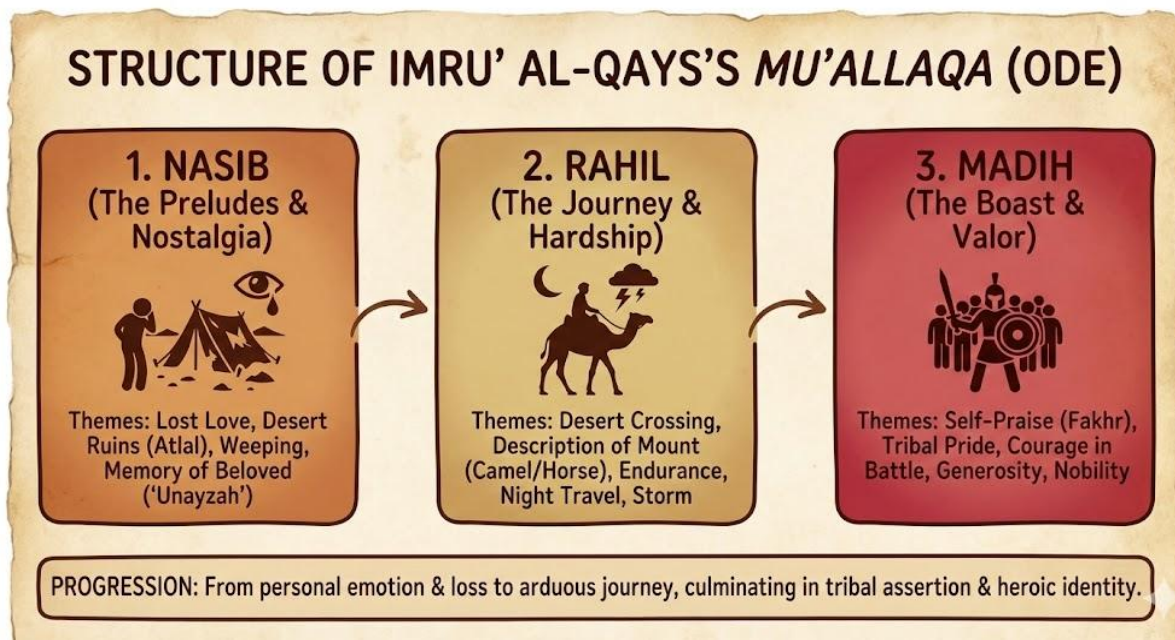


Figure 3.1: Structure of Imru' al-Qays's ode in the Mu'allaqat

Pilot questions 3.1

7. What are the Mu'allaqat, and why are they significant in Arabic literature?
8. Fill in the blank: The Mu'allaqat are traditionally described as the "_____ ones."
9. What cultural themes are reflected in the Mu'allaqat?
10. Fill in the blank: The Mu'allaqat reflected themes such as love, bravery, tribal pride, and _____.
11. Which poet's ode has been selected for detailed study in this Series?
12. Fill in the blank: The chosen ode for detailed study in this Series is attributed to _____ al-Qays.



3.2 Structural And Thematic Analysis Of The Ode

3.2.1 Examination of the qasidah structure

The chosen ode of **Imru' al-Qays** follows the traditional **qasidah** structure, which is divided into three main sections. The **nasib** opens the poem with nostalgic reflections, often centred on love or memories of a departed beloved. The **rahil** then shifts to descriptions of journeys, landscapes, and encounters with animals, showcasing the poet's skill in vivid imagery. Finally, the **madih** concludes the ode with praise for the poet's tribe or expressions of pride and honour. This tripartite structure provided unity and balance, making the qasidah a hallmark of pre-Islamic poetry.

Fill in the blank: The final section of the qasidah, which praises the tribe, is called the _____.

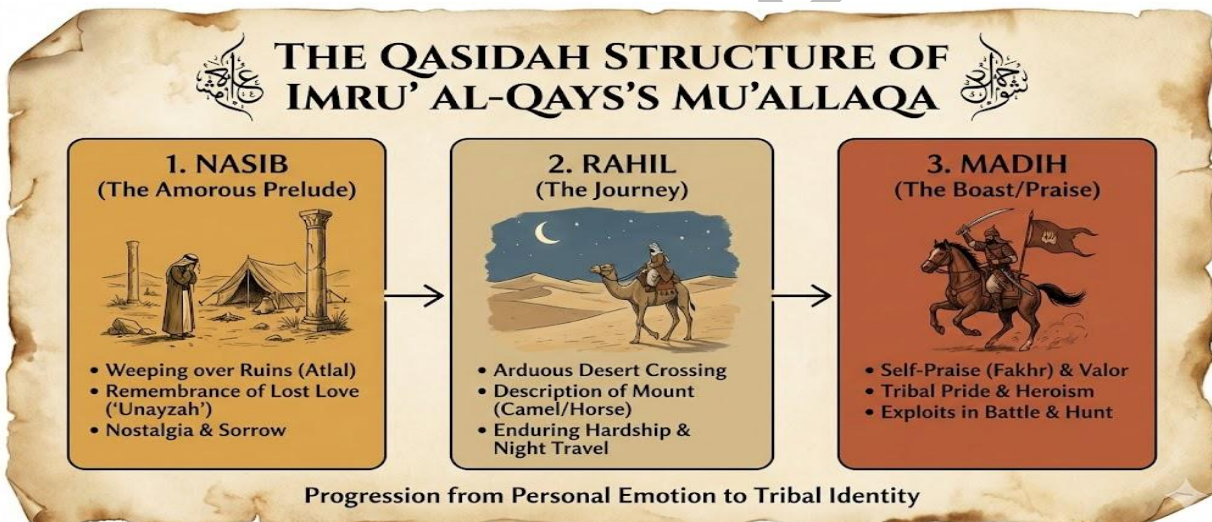


Figure 3.2: Qasidah structure in Imru' al-Qays's ode

3.2.2 Key themes in the ode

Imru' al-Qays's ode reflects several important themes. The **nasib** conveys longing and emotional depth through memories of love and loss. The **rahil** highlights the harshness of desert journeys, the beauty of nature, and the endurance of the traveller. The **madih** celebrates tribal pride, bravery, and the poet's social identity. Together, these themes illustrate the values of pre-Islamic society, where love, resilience, and honour were central to cultural expression.



Fill in the blank: The nasib section of the ode conveys longing and emotional depth through memories of _____.

Section of the Ode	Theme
Nasib (Opening)	Love and nostalgia, reflecting longing for past relationships and emotional memory.
Rahil (Journey)	Journey and endurance, depicting travel across deserts, resilience, and vivid natural imagery.
Madih (Praise)	Tribal pride and honour, celebrating courage, lineage, and the prestige of his people.

Box 3.2: Key themes in Imru' al-Qays's ode

3.2.3 Stylistic devices in the ode

The ode is rich in **stylistic devices** that enhance its artistry. **Imagery** is used to paint vivid pictures of landscapes, animals, and emotions. **Metaphor** conveys abstract ideas through concrete comparisons, while **rhythm** and **diction** give the poem musicality and memorability. These devices not only demonstrate the poet's skill but also ensure the ode's enduring appeal across generations.

Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode uses vivid _____ to describe landscapes, animals, and emotions.





Plate 3.2 Calligraphic representation of Imru' al-Qays's ode

Plate 3.2: Calligraphic representation of Imru' al-Qays's ode

Pilot questions 3.2

7. What are the three main sections of the qasidah structure in Imru' al-Qays's ode?
8. Fill in the blank: The final section of the qasidah, which praises the tribe, is called the _____.
9. What themes are expressed in the nasib, rahil, and madih sections of the ode?
10. Fill in the blank: The nasib section of the ode conveys longing and emotional depth through memories of _____.
11. What stylistic devices are used in Imru' al-Qays's ode?



12. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode uses vivid _____ to describe landscapes, animals, and emotions.

3.3 Literary And Cultural Contributions Of The Ode

3.3.1 The poet's role in shaping Arabic literary tradition

Imru' al-Qays's ode is often considered a cornerstone of Arabic literary tradition. His mastery of the **qasidah** form and his innovative use of imagery set a benchmark for later poets. By blending personal emotion with tribal values, he demonstrated how poetry could serve both individual expression and collective identity. His role as a pioneer ensured that Arabic poetry became a respected art form, influencing generations of poets who followed.

Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's mastery of the qasidah form and innovative use of _____ set a benchmark for later poets.

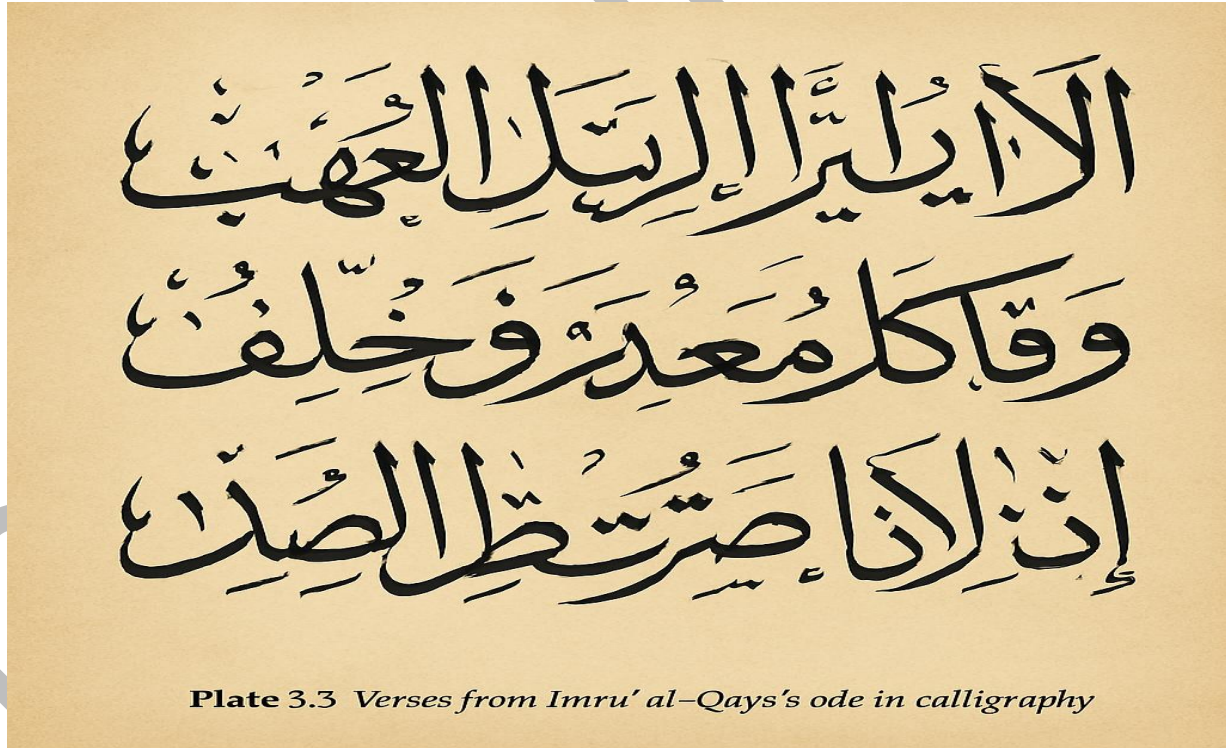


Plate 3.3: Verses from Imru' al-Qays's ode in calligraphy



3.3.2 Influence of the ode on later Arabic poetry and prose

The influence of Imru' al-Qays's ode extended well beyond his time. Later poets adopted his stylistic devices, such as vivid imagery and rhythmic diction, while prose writers drew inspiration from his descriptive power. His themes of love, journey, and tribal honour resonated across centuries, shaping the evolution of Arabic literature. The ode became a model for poetic excellence, studied and imitated by scholars and poets alike.

Fill in the blank: Later poets adopted Imru' al-Qays's stylistic devices, such as vivid _____ and rhythmic diction.

Influence	Explanation
Inspired Later Poets with Imagery and Rhythm	His vivid descriptions and musical flow became models for subsequent poets seeking expressive power.
Provided Models for Prose Writers in Descriptive Power	The richness of his imagery influenced prose writers, especially in crafting detailed and evocative narratives.
Resonated with Themes of Love, Journey, and Honour	These universal themes ensured his poetry remained relevant and inspirational across generations.
Became a Standard of Poetic Excellence in Arabic Tradition	His ode set benchmarks for artistry, structure, and eloquence, establishing enduring literary standards.

Box 3.3: Influence of Imru' al-Qays's ode

3.3.3 Enduring relevance of the ode in Arabic cultural identity

Imru' al-Qays's ode continues to hold relevance in Arabic cultural identity. It is studied not only for its artistic merit but also for its reflection of pre-Islamic values and experiences. The ode preserves the spirit of Arab life before Islam, offering insights into themes of resilience, honour, and emotional depth. Its endurance demonstrates how literature can serve as a cultural bridge, connecting past traditions with present identity.



Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode preserves the spirit of Arab life before _____.



Figure 3.3: Enduring relevance of Imru' al-Qays's ode

Pilot questions 3.3

7. How did Imru' al-Qays shape Arabic literary tradition?
8. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's mastery of the qasidah form and innovative use of _____ set a benchmark for later poets.
9. In what ways did his ode influence later Arabic poetry and prose?
10. Fill in the blank: Later poets adopted Imru' al-Qays's stylistic devices, such as vivid _____ and rhythmic diction.
11. Why does Imru' al-Qays's ode remain relevant in Arabic cultural identity today?
12. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode preserves the spirit of Arab life before _____.

3.4 Comparative Reflections And Transition To Islamic Literature



3.4.1 Continuities between the ode and early Islamic literary themes

Imru' al-Qays's ode, like other Mu'allaqat, demonstrates themes that continued into early Islamic literature. The emphasis on **imagery** and **eloquence** remained central, as the Qur'an itself set a new standard for linguistic beauty. The ode's exploration of human emotions, journeys, and moral reflection resonates with early Islamic writings, which also valued clarity, depth, and cultural identity. This continuity shows how pre-Islamic poetry provided a foundation upon which Islamic literature could build.

Fill in the blank: The Qur'an set a new standard for linguistic beauty and _____ in Arabic literature.

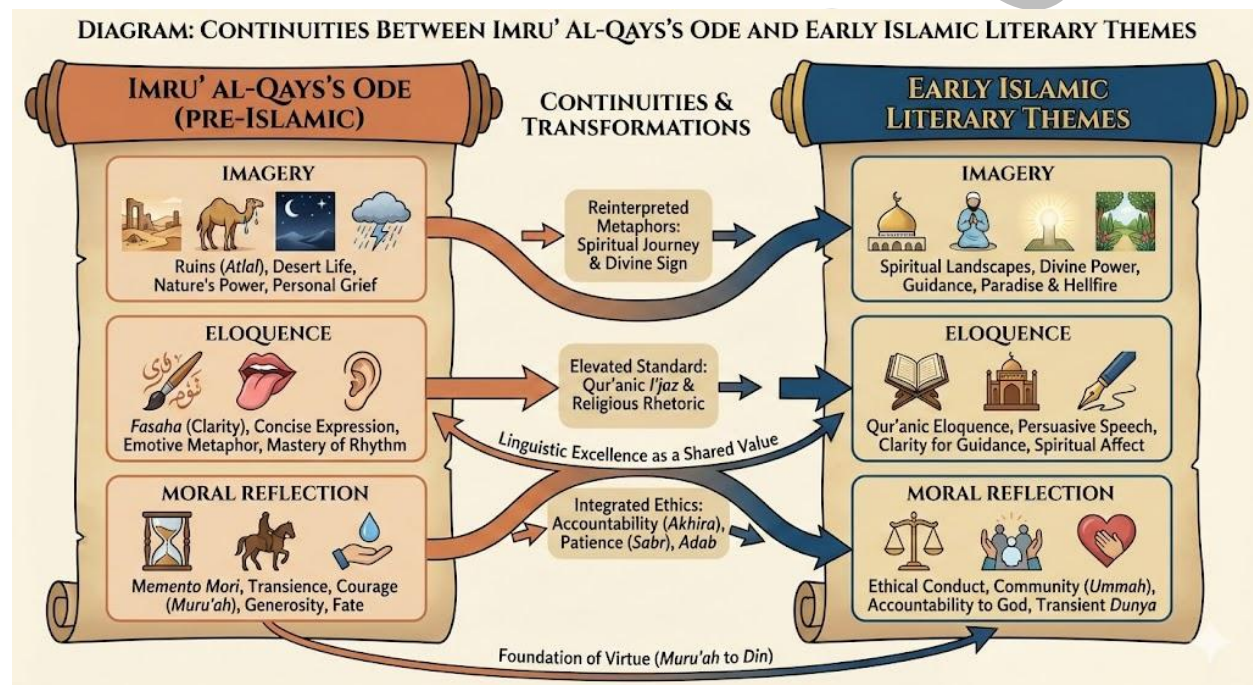


Figure 3.4: Continuities between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature

3.4.2 Differences in values and focus between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature

While there are continuities, there are also clear differences. Pre-Islamic poetry often celebrated tribal pride, worldly love, and heroic exploits. In contrast, early Islamic literature shifted focus to **faith, spiritual devotion, and moral guidance**. The Qur'an and early prose writings emphasised divine authority and communal unity, moving away from tribal rivalry and personal glory. This difference highlights the transformation of Arabic literature as Islam reshaped cultural priorities.



Fill in the blank: Early Islamic literature shifted focus from tribal pride to _____ devotion.

Period	Themes and Focus
Pre-Islamic Literature	Centred on tribal pride, worldly love, and heroic exploits, reflecting the values of desert life and tribal identity.
Islamic Literature	Emphasised faith, spiritual devotion, and moral guidance, aligning literature with religious and ethical principles.
Overall Shift	Moved from celebrating personal glory and tribal honour to promoting communal unity, justice, and devotion to God.

Box 3.4: Differences between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature

3.4.3 The ode's place in the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history

Imru' al-Qays's ode occupies a significant place in the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history. It represents the height of pre-Islamic poetic achievement and serves as a cultural bridge to Islamic literature. By studying the ode, learners can trace how Arabic literature evolved from tribal traditions to religious devotion, while retaining its artistic richness. The ode thus stands as both a historical document and a timeless work of art, linking past and present in Arabic cultural identity.

Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode serves as a cultural _____ between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature.



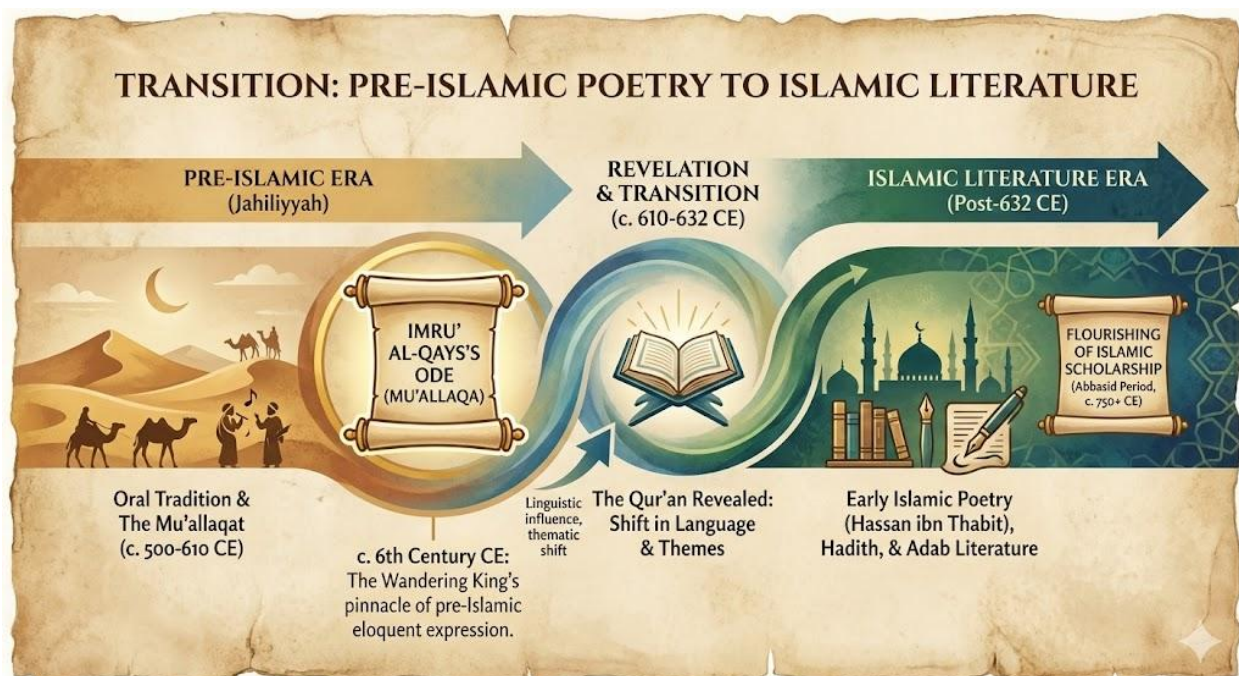


Plate 3.4: The ode's place in Arabic literary history

Pilot questions 3.4

7. What continuities exist between Imru' al-Qays's ode and early Islamic literary themes?
8. Fill in the blank: The Qur'an set a new standard for linguistic beauty and _____ in Arabic literature.
9. What differences in values and focus distinguish pre-Islamic poetry from Islamic literature?
10. Fill in the blank: Early Islamic literature shifted focus from tribal pride to _____ devotion.
11. What is the broader significance of Imru' al-Qays's ode in Arabic literary history?
12. Fill in the blank: Imru' al-Qays's ode serves as a cultural _____ between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature.



Series Summary

This Series has focused on a detailed study of one of the Seven Odes, the Mu‘allaqat, with particular attention to the ode of Imru’ al-Qays. Its purpose was to help you appreciate the background and cultural significance of these masterpieces, while also equipping you with the skills to analyse their structure, themes, and stylistic devices. By situating the ode within its historical context, you have seen how it reflects the values of pre-Islamic Arabia and why it remains central to Arabic literary heritage.

We began with the background and significance of the Mu‘allaqat, then examined the qasidah structure and thematic divisions of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode. Following that, we explored the poet’s contributions to Arabic literary tradition and the influence of his work on later poetry and prose. Finally, we considered comparative reflections, identifying continuities and differences between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define the historical context of the Mu‘allaqat, analyse the structure and themes of the chosen ode, identify its stylistic devices, evaluate its literary and cultural contributions, and assess its place in the broader trajectory of Arabic literary history.

Glossary of Terms

- **Imru’ al-Qays:** A pre-Islamic poet whose ode in the Mu‘allaqat is celebrated for vivid imagery, emotional depth, and adventurous themes. Often regarded as a pioneer of Arabic poetry.
- **Madih:** The concluding section of a qasidah, usually devoted to praising the poet’s tribe, celebrating bravery, or expressing pride and honour.
- **Mu‘allaqat:** A famous collection of seven pre-Islamic odes considered masterpieces of Arabic poetry. The name means “the suspended ones,” reflecting their esteemed status.



- **Nasib:** The opening section of a qasidah, often expressing nostalgia, longing, or memories of love and loss.
- **Qasidah:** A long structured ode in Arabic poetry, typically divided into three sections: nasib (nostalgia), rahil (journey), and madih (praise).
- **Rahil:** The middle section of a qasidah, usually describing journeys, landscapes, and encounters with animals, highlighting endurance and resilience.
- **Stylistic devices:** Literary techniques used to enhance poetry, including imagery (vivid descriptions), metaphor (comparisons to convey meaning), rhythm (musical flow of words), and diction (choice of words).

Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

6. The Mu‘allaqat are traditionally described as the “_____ ones.” (Linked to SLO 3.1)
7. The opening section of a qasidah, which expresses nostalgia, is called the _____. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
8. The final section of a qasidah, which praises the tribe, is called the _____. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
9. Imru’ al-Qays’s ode uses vivid _____ to describe landscapes, animals, and emotions. (Linked to SLO 3.5)
10. Early Islamic literature shifted focus from tribal pride to _____ devotion. (Linked to SLO 3.10)

Short-answer questions

14. Define the Mu‘allaqat and explain their cultural significance in pre-Islamic Arabia. (Linked to SLO 3.1)



15. Describe the three sections of the qasidah structure in Imru' al-Qays's ode. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
16. Identify two key themes expressed in Imru' al-Qays's ode. (Linked to SLO 3.4)
17. Explain how Imru' al-Qays contributed to shaping Arabic literary tradition. (Linked to SLO 3.6)
18. Summarise the influence of Imru' al-Qays's ode on later Arabic poetry and prose. (Linked to SLO 3.7)
19. Describe why Imru' al-Qays's ode remains relevant in Arabic cultural identity today. (Linked to SLO 3.8)
20. Compare one continuity between Imru' al-Qays's ode and early Islamic literary themes. (Linked to SLO 3.9)
21. Distinguish one difference in values between pre-Islamic poetry and Islamic literature. (Linked to SLO 3.10)

Long-answer questions

18. Analyse the cultural importance of the Mu'allaqat in pre-Islamic society. (Linked to SLO 3.1–3.2)
19. Discuss the structural and thematic features of Imru' al-Qays's ode. (Linked to SLO 3.3–3.4)
20. Evaluate the literary and cultural contributions of Imru' al-Qays's ode. (Linked to SLO 3.6–3.8)
21. Assess the continuities and differences between Imru' al-Qays's ode and early Islamic literature. (Linked to SLO 3.9–3.10)



Objective questions

6. Suspended
7. Nasib
8. Madih
9. Imagery
10. Religious

Short-answer questions

14. The Mu‘allaqat are seven pre-Islamic odes regarded as masterpieces of Arabic poetry. They were culturally significant as they preserved Arab values, celebrated bravery and love, and elevated poets as influential figures.
15. The qasidah structure has three sections: nasib (nostalgia and love), rahil (journey and endurance), and madih (praise and tribal pride).
16. Themes include love and nostalgia in the nasib, and tribal pride in the madih.
17. Imru’ al-Qays shaped Arabic literary tradition through his mastery of the qasidah form and innovative use of imagery.
18. His ode influenced later poets with stylistic devices such as vivid imagery and rhythm, and inspired prose writers with descriptive power.
19. The ode remains relevant as it reflects pre-Islamic values and preserves Arab cultural identity.
20. One continuity is the emphasis on eloquence and imagery, which carried into Islamic literature.
21. Pre-Islamic poetry emphasised tribal pride, while Islamic literature emphasised faith and spiritual devotion.

Long-answer questions



18. *Basic response:* The Mu‘allaqat were culturally important as they preserved Arab traditions, celebrated bravery, and recorded tribal values.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that they also functioned as cultural archives, shaping identity and serving as a bridge to later Islamic literature.

19. *Basic response:* Imru’ al-Qays’s ode follows the qasidah structure with nasib, rahil, and madih, expressing themes of love, journey, and tribal pride.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by analysing how stylistic devices such as imagery, metaphor, and rhythm enhance the poem’s artistry.

20. *Basic response:* Imru’ al-Qays contributed to Arabic literary tradition by pioneering imagery and setting standards for poetic excellence.

Value-added response: Learners may add that his ode influenced later poets and prose writers, and continues to shape Arabic cultural identity today.

21. *Basic response:* Continuities include the use of imagery and eloquence, while differences include a shift from tribal pride to religious devotion.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by evaluating how the ode serves as a cultural bridge, linking pre-Islamic traditions with Islamic values and literary forms.



Part 3.1: Background and significance of the Mu‘allaqat

7. The Mu‘allaqat are seven pre-Islamic odes regarded as masterpieces of Arabic poetry, significant for preserving Arab values and cultural identity.
8. Suspended
9. Love, bravery, tribal pride, and moral reflection
10. Moral reflection
11. Imru’ al-Qays
12. Imru’ al-Qays

Part 3.2: Structural and thematic analysis of the ode

7. Nasib, rahil, and madih
8. Madih
9. Nasib expresses nostalgia and love, rahil describes journeys and endurance, and madih celebrates tribal pride and honour.
10. Love
11. Imagery, metaphor, rhythm, and diction
12. Imagery

Part 3.3: Literary and cultural contributions of the ode

7. He shaped Arabic literary tradition by mastering the qasidah form and pioneering vivid imagery.
8. Imagery
9. His ode influenced later poets with stylistic devices and inspired prose writers with descriptive power.
10. Imagery



11. It remains relevant as it reflects pre-Islamic values and preserves Arab cultural identity.

12. Islam

Part 3.4: Comparative reflections and transition to Islamic literature

7. Continuities include the use of imagery, eloquence, and moral reflection.

8. Eloquence

9. Pre-Islamic poetry emphasised tribal pride and worldly love, while Islamic literature emphasised faith, devotion, and moral guidance.

10. Religious

11. It represents the height of pre-Islamic poetic achievement and serves as a cultural bridge to Islamic literature.

12. Bridge



General References

- Imru' al-Qays. (1988). *Diwan Imru' al-Qays*. Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya.
- Stetkevych, S. (1993). *The Mute Immortals Speak: Pre-Islamic Poetry and the Poetics of Ritual*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Jones, A. (1992). *The Mu'allaqat: Translations and Studies*. Leiden: Brill.
- Qur'an. (n.d.). *The Holy Qur'an*. Various editions.

Illustrations

- *Plate 3.1: Manuscript of the Mu'allaqat*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate an image of an ancient Arabic manuscript showing verses from the Mu'allaqat hung in the Ka'bah."
 - Suggested OER search string: "Mu'allaqat manuscript Ka'bah Arabic poetry OER"
- *Box 3.1: Cultural significance of the Mu'allaqat*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate a text box listing the cultural significance of the Mu'allaqat in pre-Islamic Arabia."
 - Suggested OER search string: "Mu'allaqat cultural significance pre-Islamic poetry OER"
- *Figure 3.1: Structure of Imru' al-Qays's ode in the Mu'allaqat*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: "Generate a diagram showing the structure of Imru' al-Qays's ode in the Mu'allaqat, divided into nasib, rahil, and madih."



- Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat ode structure qasidah OER”
- *Figure 3.2: Qasidah structure in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the qasidah structure in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode, divided into nasib, rahil, and madih.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “qasidah structure Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat OER”
- *Box 3.2: Key themes in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing key themes in Imru’ al-Qays’s ode, including love, journey, and tribal pride.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat ode themes OER”
- *Plate 3.2: Calligraphic representation of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic calligraphy illustrating verses from Imru’ al-Qays’s ode in the Mu‘allaqat.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat Arabic calligraphy OER”
- *Plate 3.3: Verses from Imru’ al-Qays’s ode in calligraphy*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic calligraphy highlighting verses from Imru’ al-Qays’s ode in the Mu‘allaqat.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat Arabic calligraphy OER”
- *Box 3.3: Influence of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*



- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate a text box listing the influence of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode on later Arabic poetry and prose.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays influence Arabic poetry prose OER”
- *Figure 3.3: Enduring relevance of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the enduring relevance of Imru’ al-Qays’s ode in Arabic cultural identity, linking past traditions with present identity.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Imru al-Qays Mu‘allaqat cultural identity relevance OER”
- *Figure 3.4: Continuities between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing continuities between Imru’ al-Qays’s ode and early Islamic literary themes, highlighting imagery, eloquence, and moral reflection.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “continuities pre-Islamic ode Islamic literature OER”
- *Box 3.4: Differences between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing differences between pre-Islamic and Islamic literature, contrasting tribal pride with faith and devotion.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “differences pre-Islamic Islamic literature themes OER”
- *Plate 3.4: The ode’s place in Arabic literary history*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.



- Prompt: “Generate an image of a timeline showing the transition from pre-Islamic poetry to Islamic literature, highlighting Imru’ al-Qays’s ode.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Arabic literature timeline pre-Islamic to Islamic OER”



Series 5: Selected Poems From The *Hamāsah* And *Jamharah* Collections

Part 5.1 Background And Significance Of The *Hamāsah* And *Jamharah*

- 5.1.1 Historical context of both anthologies
- 5.1.2 Abū Tammām and his role in compiling the *Hamāsah*
- 5.1.3 Ibn Durayd and his role in compiling the *Jamharah*
- 5.1.4 Cultural importance of these collections in preserving Arabic poetic traditions

Part 5.2 Thematic And Structural Features Of Selected Poems

- 5.2.1 Common themes in the *Hamāsah* (bravery, endurance, tribal honour)
- 5.2.2 Common themes in the *Jamharah* (love, wisdom, moral reflection)
- 5.2.3 Structural features of the qasidah and other poetic forms represented
- 5.2.4 Stylistic devices employed by poets in both collections

Part 5.3 Literary Contributions Of Selected Poets

- 5.3.1 Contributions of Abū Tammām as a compiler and poet
- 5.3.2 Contributions of Ibn Durayd as a compiler and scholar
- 5.3.3 Contributions of notable poets represented in the *Hamāsah*
- 5.3.4 Contributions of notable poets represented in the *Jamharah*

Part 5.4 Comparative Reflections And Influence On Later Arabic Literature

- 5.4.1 Continuities between the *Hamāsah*, *Jamharah*, and earlier anthologies (Mu‘allaqat, Mufaddaliyyat)
- 5.4.2 Differences in focus compared to early Islamic poetry
- 5.4.3 Influence of the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* on later Arabic literary development



Introduction

In the last Series, we explored selected poems from the *Mufaddaliyyat* collection and discovered how diverse poetic voices enriched Arabic literary heritage. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to two other significant anthologies: the *Hamāsah*, compiled by Abū Tammām, and the *Jamharah*, compiled by Ibn Durayd. These collections are celebrated for preserving poems that highlight bravery, endurance, love, wisdom, and moral reflection, offering learners a deeper understanding of the breadth of Arabic poetry and its role in shaping cultural identity.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to selected poems from the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* collections, guiding you to analyse their themes, structures, and stylistic devices, and to evaluate the contributions of the compilers and poets represented. By doing so, you will gain insight into how these anthologies complement earlier collections and influence later Arabic literary development.

We shall commence this Series by examining the background and significance of both anthologies, including the roles of Abū Tammām and Ibn Durayd. Next, we will explore the thematic and structural features of selected poems, focusing on motifs such as bravery, love, and moral reflection. Following that, we will consider the literary contributions of the compilers themselves and the poets represented in each collection. Finally, we will wrap up with comparative reflections, identifying continuities with earlier anthologies, differences from early Islamic poetry, and the influence of the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* on later Arabic literature.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 5.1** define the historical context and cultural significance of the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* collections,
- **SLO 5.2** explain the role of Abū Tammām in compiling the *Hamāsah*,
- **SLO 5.3** explain the role of Ibn Durayd in compiling the *Jamharah*,
- **SLO 5.4** analyse the common themes found in selected poems from the *Hamāsah*,



- **SLO 5.5** analyse the common themes found in selected poems from the *Jamharah*,
- **SLO 5.6** describe the structural features of the qasidah and other poetic forms represented in these collections,
- **SLO 5.7** identify stylistic devices employed by poets in the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah*,
- **SLO 5.8** evaluate the literary contributions of Abū Tammām as both compiler and poet,
- **SLO 5.9** evaluate the literary contributions of Ibn Durayd as compiler and scholar,
- **SLO 5.10** assess the contributions of notable poets represented in the *Hamāsah*,
- **SLO 5.11** assess the contributions of notable poets represented in the *Jamharah*,
- **SLO 5.12** compare the continuities between the *Hamāsah*, *Jamharah*, and earlier anthologies such as the *Mu‘allaqat* and *Mufaddaliyyat*,
- **SLO 5.13** distinguish the differences in focus between these collections and early Islamic poetry, and
- **SLO 5.14** evaluate the influence of the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* on later Arabic literary development.

5.1 Background And Significance Of The Hamāsah And Jamharah

5.1.1 Historical context of both anthologies

The **Hamāsah** (الحماسة) is a celebrated anthology compiled by **Abū Tammām**, a renowned Abbasid poet, while the **Jamharah** (الجمهرة) was compiled by **Ibn Durayd**, a distinguished scholar and lexicographer. Both anthologies were created during the Abbasid period, a time when Arabic literary culture flourished and scholars sought to preserve the poetic heritage of earlier generations. The *Hamāsah* is particularly valued for its focus on themes of bravery and endurance, while the *Jamharah* is notable for its breadth, including poems on love, wisdom, and moral reflection. Together, they provide learners with a comprehensive view of Arabic poetry beyond the *Mu‘allaqat* and *Mufaddaliyyat*.



Fill in the blank: The Hamāsah was compiled by _____ and the Jamharah was compiled by _____.



Plate 5.1: Manuscripts of the Hamāsah and Jamharah anthologies

5.1.2 Abū Tammām and his role in compiling the Hamāsah

Abū Tammām was a celebrated Abbasid poet and anthologist. His compilation of the Hamāsah was motivated by a desire to preserve poems that exemplified courage, endurance, and tribal honour. The anthology includes works from pre-Islamic and early Islamic poets, arranged thematically to highlight the values admired in Arab society. Abū Tammām's role was not only that of a compiler but also of a literary curator, selecting poems that reflected the spirit of resilience and bravery.

Fill in the blank: Abū Tammām's Hamāsah emphasised themes of courage, endurance, and _____.

Contribution	Explanation
Preserved Poems on Bravery and Endurance	Selected verses that celebrated courage, resilience, and the heroic spirit of Arab culture.



Highlighted Tribal Honour and Resilience	Emphasised values of loyalty, pride, and perseverance central to Arab identity.
Curated Works from Pre-Islamic and Early Islamic Poets	Brought together diverse voices, blending ancient traditions with Islamic-era perspectives.
Strengthened Arabic Literary Heritage during the Abbasid Period	His anthology became a cornerstone of Arabic literature, studied and admired for its cultural depth.

Box 5.1: Role of Abū Tammām in the Hamāsah

5.1.3 Ibn Durayd and his role in compiling the Jamharah

Ibn Durayd was a respected scholar, lexicographer, and anthologist. His compilation of the Jamharah was broader in scope than the Hamāsah, including poems on love, wisdom, moral reflection, and tribal pride. Ibn Durayd’s scholarly background influenced his approach, as he sought to preserve not only poetic artistry but also linguistic richness. The Jamharah thus serves both as a literary and linguistic resource, reflecting the diversity of Arabic poetic traditions.

Fill in the blank: Ibn Durayd’s Jamharah included poems on love, wisdom, moral reflection, and _____.

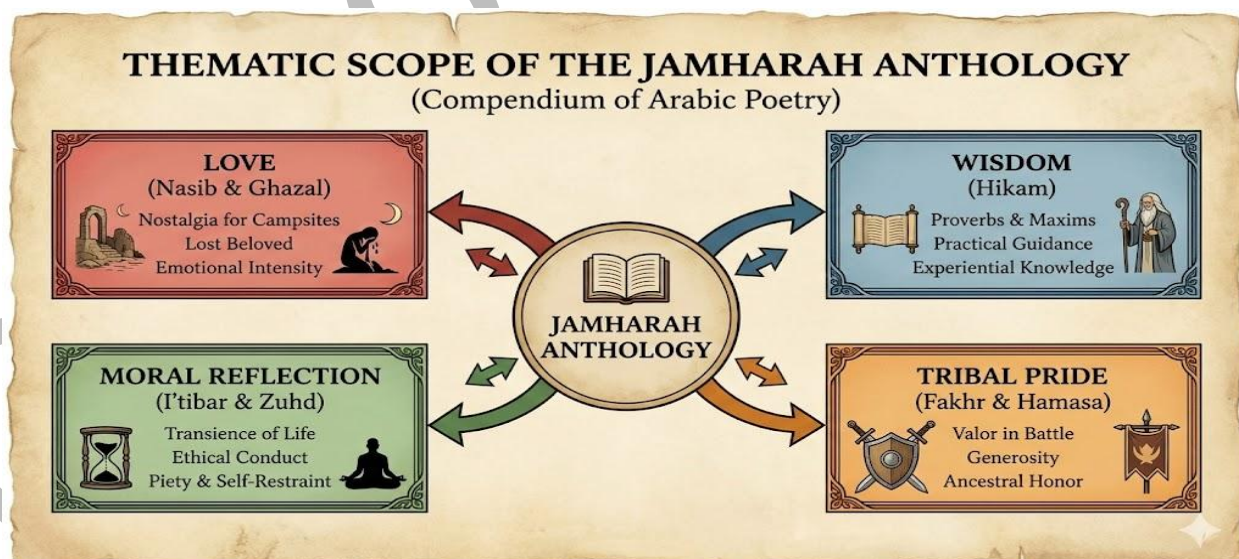


Figure 5.1: Thematic scope of the Jamharah



5.1.4 Cultural importance of these collections in preserving Arabic poetic traditions

The Hamāsah and Jamharah are culturally significant because they preserved poems that might otherwise have been lost. They reflect the values and imagination of Arab society, while also broadening the literary canon by including diverse voices. The Hamāsah reinforced ideals of bravery and endurance, while the Jamharah highlighted wisdom and moral reflection. Together, they complement earlier anthologies such as the Mu‘allaqat and Mufaddaliyyat, ensuring that Arabic poetry remained a vital resource for cultural identity and literary development.

Fill in the blank: The Hamāsah reinforced ideals of bravery and endurance, while the Jamharah highlighted _____ and moral reflection.

Contribution	Explanation
Preserved Diverse Poetic Voices	Compiled works from both pre-Islamic and early Islamic poets, safeguarding oral traditions in written form.
Reinforced Values of Bravery, Endurance, Wisdom, and Love	Highlighted central themes of Arab identity, ensuring continuity of cultural ideals across generations.
Broadened the Arabic Literary Canon	Expanded the scope of Arabic poetry beyond earlier collections, enriching literary heritage.
Complemented Earlier Anthologies	Built upon the legacy of the <i>Mu‘allaqat</i> and <i>Mufaddaliyyat</i> , offering new perspectives and thematic depth.

Box 5.2: Cultural importance of the Hamāsah and Jamharah

Pilot questions 5.1

1. Who compiled the Hamāsah and who compiled the Jamharah?
2. Fill in the blank: The Hamāsah was compiled by _____ and the Jamharah was compiled by _____.



3. What themes did Abū Tammām emphasise in the Hamāsah?
4. Fill in the blank: Abū Tammām's Hamāsah emphasised themes of courage, endurance, and _____.
5. What themes did Ibn Durayd include in the Jamharah?
6. Fill in the blank: Ibn Durayd's Jamharah included poems on love, wisdom, moral reflection, and _____.
7. Why are the Hamāsah and Jamharah culturally important in Arabic literary history?
8. Fill in the blank: The Hamāsah reinforced ideals of bravery and endurance, while the Jamharah highlighted _____ and moral reflection.

5.2 Thematic And Structural Features Of Selected Poems

5.2.1 Common themes in the Hamāsah

The **Hamāsah** is renowned for its emphasis on themes of **bravery**, **endurance**, and **tribal honour**. Abū Tammām carefully selected poems that celebrated resilience in battle, loyalty to one's tribe, and the courage to face adversity. These themes reflected the values admired in Arab society and served as moral exemplars for later generations. The anthology thus became a cultural repository of heroic ideals.

Fill in the blank: The Hamāsah is especially valued for its emphasis on bravery, endurance, and _____.

Theme	Explanation
Bravery in Battle	Poems celebrate courage, heroism, and martial skill, reflecting the warrior ethos of Arab society.
Endurance in Hardship	Verses highlight resilience in facing poverty, exile, or natural challenges, portraying strength of character.



Tribal Honour and Loyalty	Loyalty to tribe and kin is praised as a defining virtue, reinforcing collective identity and solidarity.
Resilience in Adversity	Poetry emphasizes perseverance in the face of misfortune, elevating endurance as a moral and cultural ideal.

Box 5.3: Common themes in the Hamāsah

5.2.2 Common themes in the Jamharah

The **Jamharah** presents a broader thematic scope than the Hamāsah. Compiled by Ibn Durayd, it includes poems on **love, wisdom, moral reflection, and tribal pride**. These themes highlight the diversity of Arabic poetic traditions, moving beyond heroic ideals to encompass personal emotions and philosophical insights. The Jamharah thus provides learners with a more varied perspective on Arab cultural identity.

Fill in the blank: The Jamharah includes poems on love, wisdom, moral reflection, and _____.

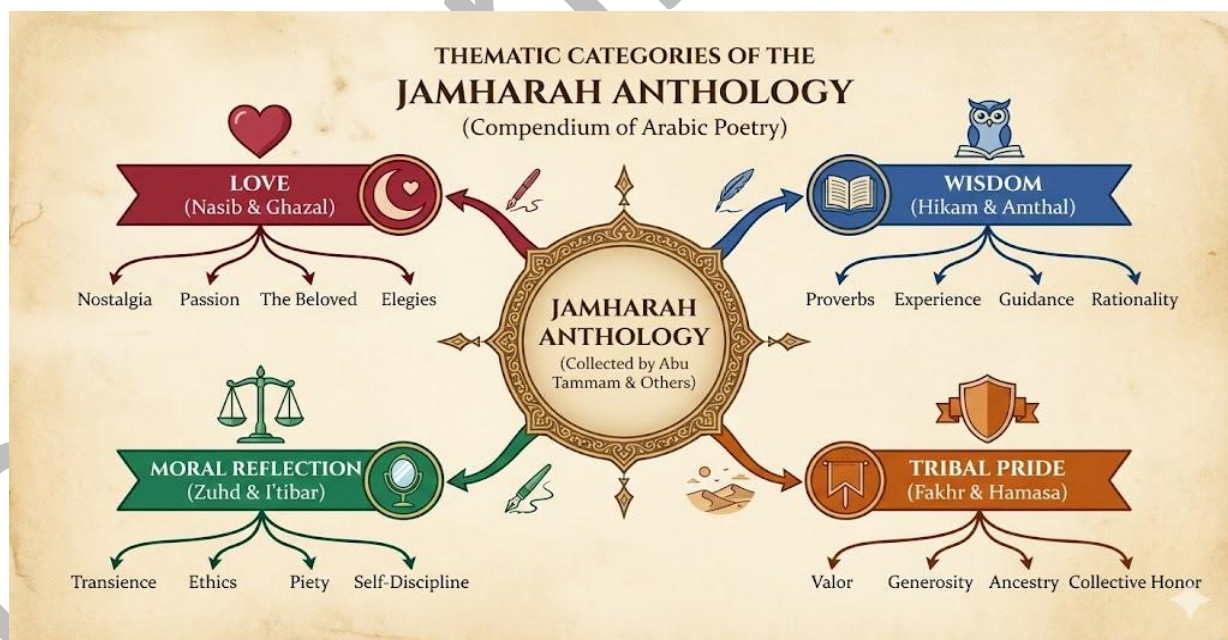


Figure 5.2: Thematic categories in the Jamharah



5.2.3 Structural features of the qasidah and other poetic forms represented

Both the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* contain poems that follow the **qasidah** structure, a traditional Arabic ode divided into **nasib** (nostalgia), **rahil** (journey), and **madih** (praise). However, these anthologies also include shorter poetic forms, such as fragments and gnomic verses, which capture concise expressions of wisdom or emotion. This variety demonstrates the flexibility of Arabic poetry and its ability to adapt to different contexts and audiences.

Fill in the blank: The qasidah structure consists of nasib, rahil, and _____.

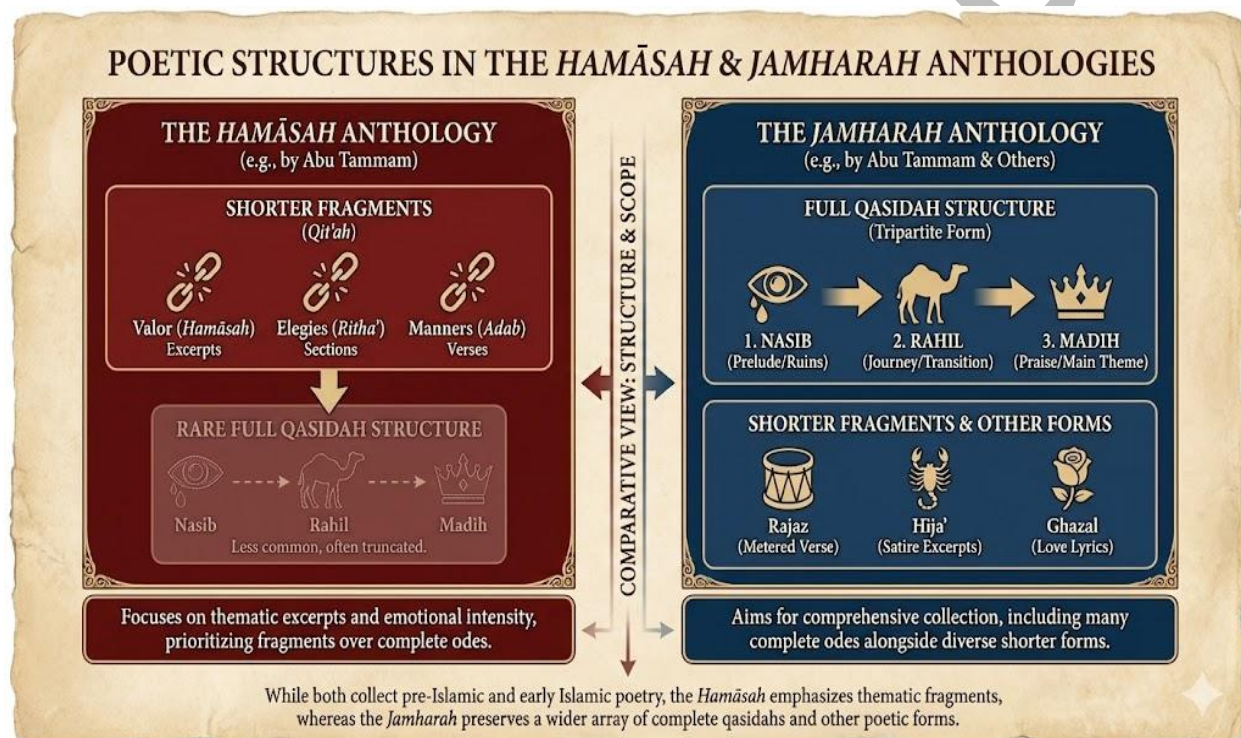


Figure 5.3: Structural features of poems in the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah*

5.2.4 Stylistic devices employed by poets in both collections

The poets represented in the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* employed a range of **stylistic devices** to enhance their work. **Imagery** was used to depict battles, journeys, and emotions vividly.

Metaphor conveyed abstract ideas through concrete comparisons. **Rhythm** and **diction** gave the



poems musicality, making them memorable in oral recitation. These devices ensured that the poems resonated with audiences and preserved their relevance across generations.

Fill in the blank: The use of _____ allowed poets to depict battles, journeys, and emotions vividly.

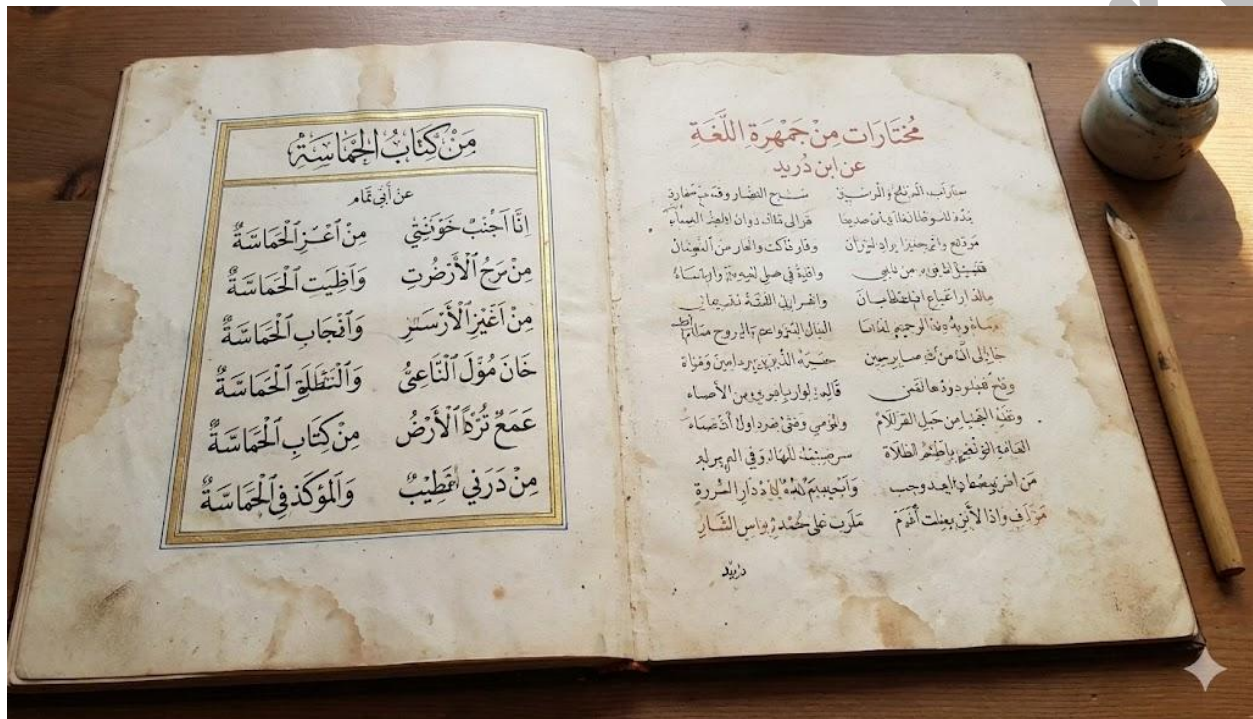


Plate 5.2: Calligraphic representation of selected verses from the Hamāsah and Jamharah

Pilot questions 5.2

1. What themes are emphasised in the Hamāsah?
2. Fill in the blank: The Hamāsah is especially valued for its emphasis on bravery, endurance, and _____.
3. What themes are emphasised in the Jamharah?
4. Fill in the blank: The Jamharah includes poems on love, wisdom, moral reflection, and _____.
5. What is the qasidah structure?



6. Fill in the blank: The qasidah structure consists of nasib, rahil, and _____.
7. What stylistic devices were employed by poets in the Hamāsah and Jamharah?
8. Fill in the blank: The use of _____ allowed poets to depict battles, journeys, and emotions vividly.

5.3 Literary Contributions Of Selected Poets

5.3.1 Contributions of Abū Tammām as a compiler and poet

Abū Tammām (أبو تمام) was not only the compiler of the *Hamāsah* but also a distinguished poet in his own right. His literary skill allowed him to curate poems that exemplified bravery, endurance, and tribal honour. As a poet, he was known for his innovative use of metaphor and complex imagery, which influenced later Arabic poetry. His dual role as compiler and creator ensured that the *Hamāsah* became both a repository of earlier traditions and a reflection of his own artistic vision.

Fill in the blank: Abū Tammām's poetry was known for its innovative use of _____ and complex imagery.





Plate 5.3: Verses of Abū Tammām in calligraphy

5.3.2 Contributions of Ibn Durayd as a compiler and scholar

Ibn Durayd (ابن دريد) was a respected lexicographer and anthologist whose compilation of the *Jamharah* broadened the scope of Arabic poetry. His scholarly background meant that he valued linguistic richness as much as poetic artistry. By including poems on love, wisdom, and moral reflection, he ensured that the anthology captured the intellectual and emotional diversity of Arab society. His work contributed significantly to both literary and linguistic studies in the Abbasid period.

Fill in the blank: Ibn Durayd's scholarly background influenced his compilation of the *Jamharah* by emphasising _____ richness.

Contribution	Explanation
Preserved Diverse Themes	Included poems on love, wisdom, bravery, and moral reflection, showcasing the breadth of Arabic poetic tradition.



Emphasised Linguistic Richness	Paid close attention to the artistry of language, preserving vocabulary, idioms, and stylistic elegance.
Broadened the Arabic Literary Canon	Expanded the scope of anthologies beyond earlier collections, incorporating a wider range of poets and themes.
Strengthened Abbasid Intellectual Heritage	His work contributed to the flourishing of literary scholarship and cultural identity during the Abbasid period.

Box 5.4: Contributions of Ibn Durayd in the Jamharah

5.3.3 Contributions of notable poets represented in the Hamāsah

The *Hamāsah* includes works from many pre-Islamic and early Islamic poets whose verses exemplify courage and endurance. These poets contributed to the anthology by providing vivid depictions of battle scenes, tribal loyalty, and resilience in hardship. Their works reinforced the heroic ideals admired in Arab society and ensured that such values were transmitted to later generations.

Fill in the blank: The poets represented in the *Hamāsah* reinforced heroic ideals such as courage, loyalty, and _____.



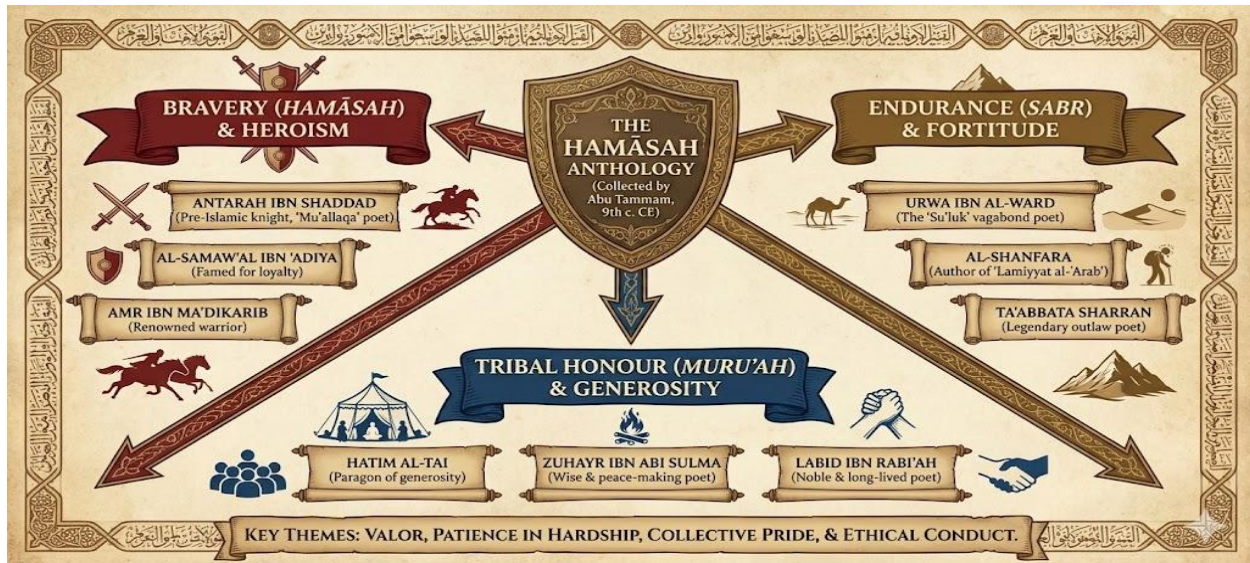


Figure 5.4: Contributions of poets in the Hamāsah

5.3.4 Contributions of notable poets represented in the Jamharah

The *Jamharah* features poets who explored themes of love, wisdom, and moral reflection. Their contributions enriched the anthology by offering perspectives beyond tribal honour, focusing instead on personal emotions and philosophical insights. These poets ensured that the *Jamharah* reflected the diversity of Arabic poetic traditions and provided learners with a broader understanding of Arab cultural identity.

Fill in the blank: The poets represented in the *Jamharah* enriched the anthology by exploring themes of love, wisdom, and _____.



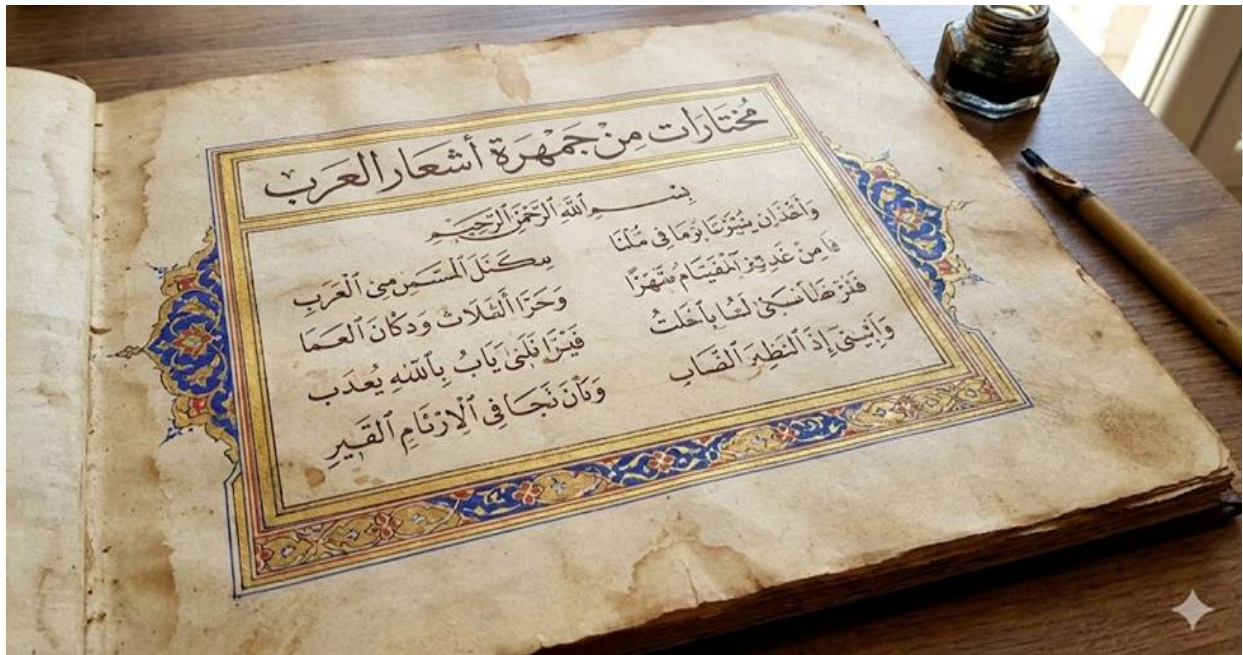


Plate 5.4: Verses from poets in the Jamharah

Pilot questions 5.3

1. What were Abū Tammām's contributions as both compiler and poet?
2. Fill in the blank: Abū Tammām's poetry was known for its innovative use of _____ and complex imagery.
3. What were Ibn Durayd's contributions as compiler and scholar?
4. Fill in the blank: Ibn Durayd's scholarly background influenced his compilation of the Jamharah by emphasising _____ richness.
5. What contributions did the poets represented in the Hamāsah make to the anthology?
6. Fill in the blank: The poets represented in the Hamāsah reinforced heroic ideals such as courage, loyalty, and _____.
7. What contributions did the poets represented in the Jamharah make to the anthology?
8. Fill in the blank: The poets represented in the Jamharah enriched the anthology by exploring themes of love, wisdom, and _____.



5.4 Comparative Reflections And Influence On Later Arabic Literature

5.4.1 Continuities between the Hamāsah, Jamharah, and earlier anthologies

The *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* share important continuities with earlier anthologies such as the *Mu‘allaqat* and *Mufaddaliyyat*. They preserve the **qasidah** form, with its tripartite structure of *nasib*, *rahil*, and *madih*, and they highlight similar themes such as bravery, love, and moral reflection. These continuities demonstrate that the compilers were consciously building upon established traditions, ensuring that the values of Arab society remained central to literary heritage.

Fill in the blank: Both the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* preserve the _____ form with its tripartite structure.

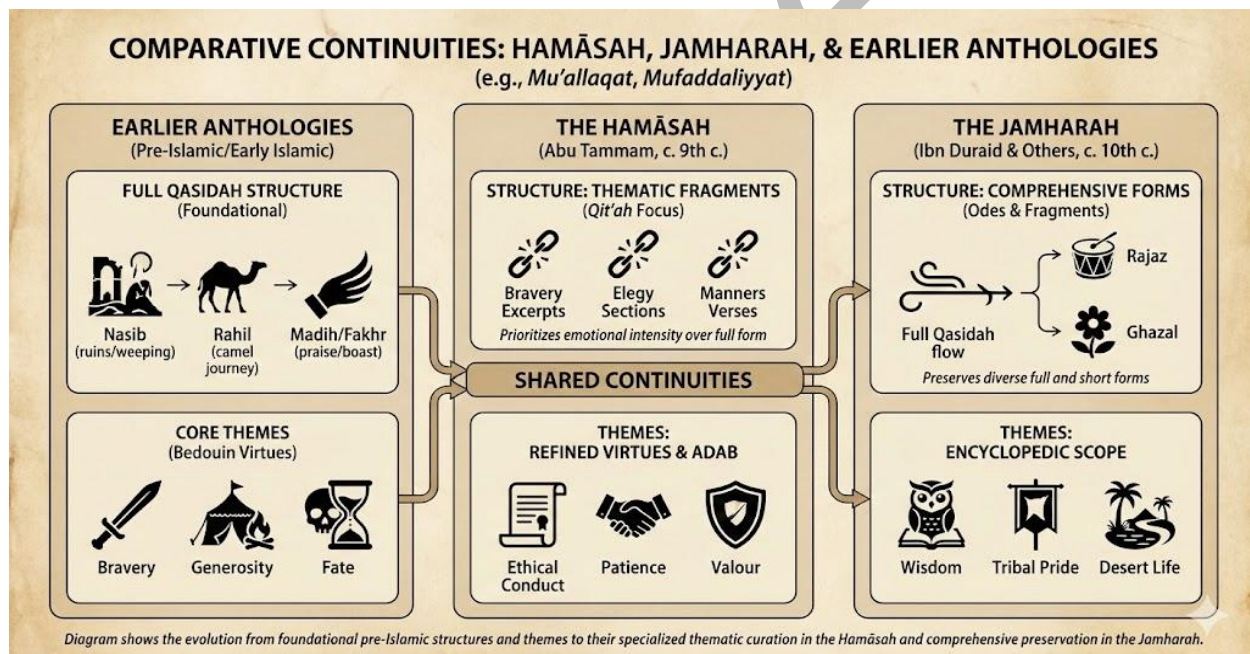


Figure 5.5: Continuities between the *Hamāsah*, *Jamharah*, and earlier anthologies

5.4.2 Differences in focus compared to early Islamic poetry

While the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* reflect pre-Islamic and early Abbasid values, early Islamic poetry shifted towards themes of **faith**, **spiritual devotion**, and **moral guidance**. The tribal pride and worldly love celebrated in these anthologies gave way to a focus on communal unity and



divine authority in Islamic literature. This difference illustrates how Arabic poetry evolved in response to the cultural transformation brought by Islam, moving from tribal identity to religious identity.

Fill in the blank: Early Islamic poetry shifted focus from tribal pride to _____ devotion.

Collection / Period	Themes and Focus
Hamāsah	Bravery in battle, endurance in hardship, and tribal honour, reflecting the heroic ethos of Arab society.
Jamharah	Love, wisdom, and moral reflection, broadening the poetic canon with diverse human experiences.
Early Islamic Poetry	Faith, spiritual devotion, and moral guidance, aligning literature with Qur’anic values and communal unity.
Overall Shift	Transition from tribal identity and personal glory to religious identity and collective spiritual purpose.

Box 5.5: Differences between the Hamāsah, Jamharah, and early Islamic poetry

5.4.3 Influence of the Hamāsah and Jamharah on later Arabic literary development

The *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* played a significant role in shaping later Arabic literature. By preserving diverse poetic voices, they provided models of style, diction, and imagery that influenced poets and prose writers in subsequent centuries. Their inclusion of both famous and lesser-known poets broadened the literary canon, ensuring that Arabic literature developed with a rich foundation. These anthologies remain vital resources for scholars and learners, connecting pre-Islamic traditions with later literary achievements.

Fill in the blank: The Hamāsah and Jamharah broadened the literary canon by including both famous and _____ poets.



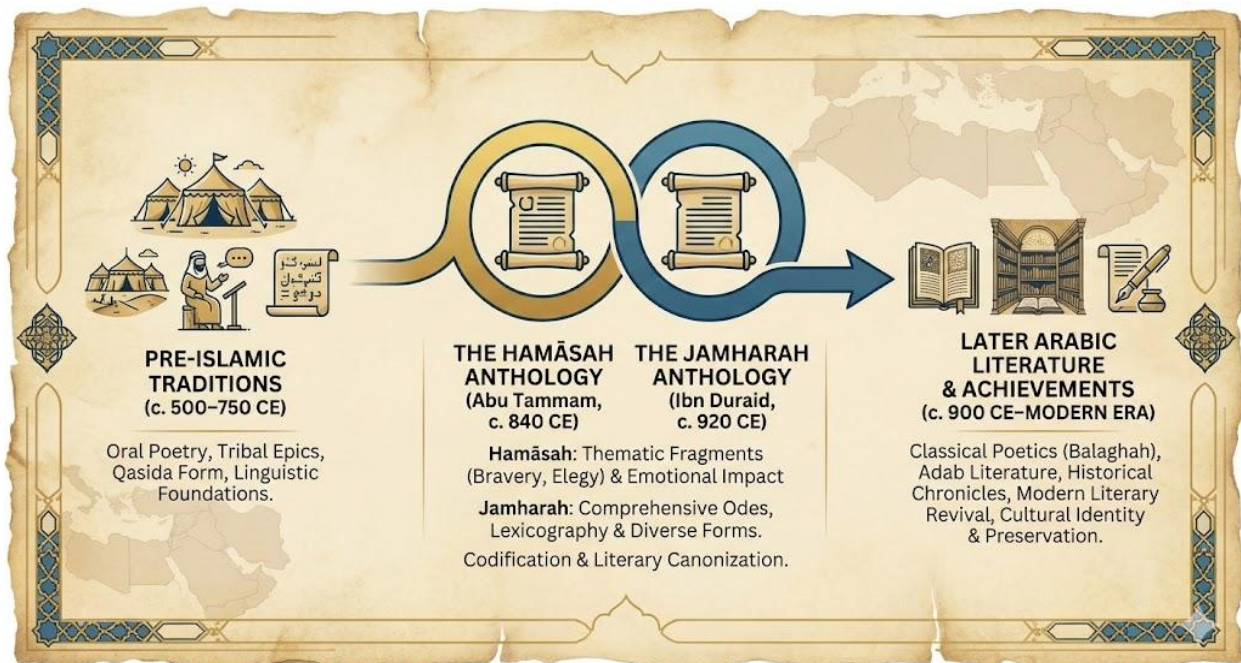


Plate 5.5: Influence of the Hamāsah and Jamharah on Arabic literary development

Pilot questions 5.4

1. What continuities exist between the Hamāsah, Jamharah, and earlier anthologies?
2. Fill in the blank: Both the Hamāsah and Jamharah preserve the _____ form with its tripartite structure.
3. What differences in focus distinguish the Hamāsah and Jamharah from early Islamic poetry?
4. Fill in the blank: Early Islamic poetry shifted focus from tribal pride to _____ devotion.
5. How did the Hamāsah and Jamharah influence later Arabic literary development?
6. Fill in the blank: The Hamāsah and Jamharah broadened the literary canon by including both famous and _____ poets.



Series Summary

This Series has explored selected poems from the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* collections, two anthologies that broadened the scope of Arabic poetry during the Abbasid period. Its purpose was to highlight how Abū Tammām and Ibn Durayd preserved diverse poetic voices, ensuring that themes of bravery, endurance, love, wisdom, and moral reflection were transmitted across generations. By studying these works, you have gained insight into the cultural significance of these anthologies and their role in complementing earlier collections such as the *Mu‘allaqat* and *Mufaddaliyyat*.

We began by examining the background and significance of both anthologies, including the contributions of their compilers. We then analysed the thematic and structural features of selected poems, noting the use of the qasidah form and stylistic devices such as imagery and metaphor. Following that, we considered the literary contributions of Abū Tammām, Ibn Durayd, and the poets represented in each collection. Finally, we reflected on continuities with earlier anthologies, differences from early Islamic poetry, and the influence of the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* on later Arabic literature. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define the historical context of these anthologies, explain their thematic scope, analyse their structures and stylistic devices, evaluate the contributions of compilers and poets, and assess their lasting impact on Arabic literary development.

Glossary of Terms

- **Abū Tammām:** An Abbasid poet and anthologist who compiled the *Hamāsah*. He was known for his innovative use of metaphor and imagery, and his anthology emphasised bravery, endurance, and tribal honour.
- **Endurance:** A recurring theme in Arabic poetry, especially in the *Hamāsah*, referring to resilience and the ability to withstand hardship or adversity.
- **Hamāsah:** An anthology of Arabic poetry compiled by Abū Tammām, focusing on themes of bravery, endurance, and tribal honour.



- **Ibn Durayd:** A respected Abbasid scholar and lexicographer who compiled the *Jamharah*. His anthology included poems on love, wisdom, and moral reflection, broadening the scope of Arabic poetry.
- **Imagery:** A stylistic device used by poets to create vivid pictures in the reader's mind, often depicting battles, journeys, emotions, or landscapes.
- **Jamharah:** An anthology of Arabic poetry compiled by Ibn Durayd, notable for its diverse themes including love, wisdom, moral reflection, and tribal pride.
- **Madih:** The concluding section of a qasidah, usually devoted to praise, often celebrating tribal honour or leadership.
- **Metaphor:** A literary device where abstract ideas are expressed through concrete comparisons, widely used in Arabic poetry to enrich meaning.
- **Nasib:** The opening section of a qasidah, often expressing nostalgia, longing, or memories of love and loss.
- **Qasidah:** A traditional Arabic ode with a tripartite structure consisting of nasib (nostalgia), rahil (journey), and madih (praise).
- **Rahil:** The middle section of a qasidah, typically describing journeys, landscapes, and endurance, often highlighting the harshness of desert life.
- **Stylistic devices:** Techniques used by poets to enhance their work, including imagery, metaphor, rhythm, and diction.
- **Tribal honour:** A central theme in Arabic poetry, especially in the *Hamāsah*, reflecting loyalty, pride, and the defence of one's tribe.
- **Wisdom:** A theme found in the *Jamharah*, where poets expressed moral lessons, reflections on life, and philosophical insights.



Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective questions

1. The *Hamāsah* was compiled by _____. (Linked to SLO 5.2)
2. The *Jamharah* was compiled by _____. (Linked to SLO 5.3)
3. The *Hamāsah* is especially valued for its emphasis on bravery, endurance, and _____. (Linked to SLO 5.4)
4. The *Jamharah* includes poems on love, wisdom, moral reflection, and _____. (Linked to SLO 5.5)
5. The qasidah structure consists of nasib, rahil, and _____. (Linked to SLO 5.6)
6. Abū Tammām's poetry was known for its innovative use of _____ and complex imagery. (Linked to SLO 5.8)
7. Ibn Durayd's scholarly background influenced his compilation of the *Jamharah* by emphasising _____ richness. (Linked to SLO 5.9)
8. Early Islamic poetry shifted focus from tribal pride to _____ devotion. (Linked to SLO 5.13)

Short-answer questions

9. Define the *Hamāsah* and explain its cultural significance. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
10. Define the *Jamharah* and explain its cultural significance. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
11. Explain the role of Abū Tammām in compiling the *Hamāsah*. (Linked to SLO 5.2)
12. Explain the role of Ibn Durayd in compiling the *Jamharah*. (Linked to SLO 5.3)
13. Identify two common themes found in the *Hamāsah*. (Linked to SLO 5.4)
14. Identify two common themes found in the *Jamharah*. (Linked to SLO 5.5)
15. Describe the structural features of the qasidah form. (Linked to SLO 5.6)



16. List two stylistic devices employed by poets in the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah*. (Linked to SLO 5.7)
17. Summarise the contributions of Abū Tammām as compiler and poet. (Linked to SLO 5.8)
18. Summarise the contributions of Ibn Durayd as compiler and scholar. (Linked to SLO 5.9)
19. What contributions did the poets represented in the *Hamāsah* make to the anthology? (Linked to SLO 5.10)
20. What contributions did the poets represented in the *Jamharah* make to the anthology? (Linked to SLO 5.11)
21. Compare one continuity between the *Hamāsah*, *Jamharah*, and earlier anthologies. (Linked to SLO 5.12)
22. Distinguish one difference in focus between the *Hamāsah*, *Jamharah*, and early Islamic poetry. (Linked to SLO 5.13)
23. Explain how the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* influenced later Arabic literary development. (Linked to SLO 5.14)

Long-answer questions

24. Analyse the historical context and cultural significance of the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah*. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
25. Discuss the thematic and structural features of selected poems in the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah*. (Linked to SLO 5.4–5.6)
26. Evaluate the literary contributions of Abū Tammām and Ibn Durayd. (Linked to SLO 5.8–5.9)
27. Assess the contributions of poets represented in the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah*. (Linked to SLO 5.10–5.11)
28. Compare the continuities and differences between the *Hamāsah*, *Jamharah*, and early Islamic poetry. (Linked to SLO 5.12–5.13)



29. Examine the influence of the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* on later Arabic literary development. (Linked to SLO 5.14)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective questions

1. Abū Tammām
2. Ibn Durayd
3. Tribal honour
4. Tribal pride
5. Madih
6. Metaphor
7. Linguistic
8. Religious

Short-answer questions

9. The *Hamāsah* is an anthology compiled by Abū Tammām, focusing on bravery, endurance, and tribal honour. It is culturally significant because it preserved heroic ideals admired in Arab society.
10. The *Jamharah* is an anthology compiled by Ibn Durayd, including poems on love, wisdom, and moral reflection. It is culturally significant because it broadened the scope of Arabic poetry and preserved linguistic richness.



11. Abū Tammām compiled the *Hamāsah* to preserve poems that exemplified courage and endurance, curating works from pre-Islamic and early Islamic poets.
12. Ibn Durayd compiled the *Jamharah* to preserve diverse themes and linguistic richness, reflecting his scholarly background.
13. Bravery and endurance.
14. Love and wisdom.
15. The qasidah structure consists of nasib (nostalgia), rahil (journey), and madih (praise).
16. Imagery and metaphor.
17. Abū Tammām contributed by curating heroic poems and influencing later poetry with his innovative style.
18. Ibn Durayd contributed by broadening the literary canon and emphasising linguistic richness.
19. Poets in the *Hamāsah* reinforced heroic ideals such as courage, loyalty, and resilience.
20. Poets in the *Jamharah* enriched the anthology by exploring themes of love, wisdom, and moral reflection.
21. Both anthologies preserve the qasidah form and highlight themes such as bravery and moral reflection.
22. The *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* emphasised tribal honour and worldly themes, while early Islamic poetry emphasised faith and spiritual devotion.
23. They influenced later Arabic literature by broadening the canon, preserving diverse voices, and providing stylistic models.

Long-answer questions

24. *Basic response:* The *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* were compiled during the Abbasid period to preserve pre-Islamic and early Islamic poetry. They are culturally significant because



they safeguarded oral traditions and reflected Arab values.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that they also broadened the literary canon by including lesser-known poets, ensuring inclusivity in Arabic poetic heritage.

25. *Basic response:* The *Hamāsah* emphasised bravery and endurance, while the *Jamharah* included love, wisdom, and moral reflection. Both used the qasidah structure.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by analysing how stylistic devices such as imagery and metaphor enhanced the artistry and memorability of the poems.

26. *Basic response:* Abū Tammām contributed by compiling heroic poetry and innovating with metaphor, while Ibn Durayd contributed by compiling diverse themes and emphasising linguistic richness.

Value-added response: Learners may add that their works set stylistic and scholarly standards for later poets and anthologists.

27. *Basic response:* Poets in the *Hamāsah* reinforced heroic ideals, while poets in the *Jamharah* explored love, wisdom, and moral reflection.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by evaluating how these contributions reflect the diversity of Arab cultural identity.

28. *Basic response:* Continuities include the preservation of the qasidah form and shared themes. Differences include the shift in early Islamic poetry towards faith and spiritual devotion.

Value-added response: Learners may extend this by assessing how these differences reflect broader cultural transformations from tribal identity to religious identity.

29. *Basic response:* The *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* influenced later Arabic literature by preserving diverse voices and providing stylistic models.

Value-added response: Learners may add that they served as bridges between pre-Islamic traditions and later literary achievements, ensuring continuity in Arabic cultural identity.



Part 5.1: Background and significance of the *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah*

1. Abū Tammām compiled the *Hamāsah* and Ibn Durayd compiled the *Jamharah*.
2. Abū Tammām; Ibn Durayd
3. Courage, endurance, and tribal honour
4. Tribal honour
5. Love, wisdom, moral reflection, and tribal pride
6. Tribal pride
7. They preserved diverse poetic voices, reinforced cultural values, broadened the literary canon, and complemented earlier anthologies.
8. Wisdom

Part 5.2: Thematic and structural features of selected poems

1. Bravery, endurance, and tribal honour
2. Tribal honour
3. Love, wisdom, moral reflection, and tribal pride
4. Tribal pride
5. Nasib, rahil, and madih
6. Madih
7. Imagery, metaphor, rhythm, and diction
8. Imagery

Part 5.3: Literary contributions of selected poets



1. He compiled the *Hamāsah* and contributed as a poet, known for innovative metaphor and complex imagery.
2. Metaphor
3. He compiled the *Jamharah*, emphasised linguistic richness, and broadened the literary canon.
4. Linguistic
5. They reinforced heroic ideals such as courage, loyalty, and resilience.
6. Resilience
7. They enriched the anthology by exploring themes of love, wisdom, and moral reflection.
8. Moral reflection

Part 5.4: Comparative reflections and influence on later Arabic literature

1. They preserved the qasidah form and highlighted themes such as bravery, love, and moral reflection.
2. Qasidah
3. The *Hamāsah* and *Jamharah* emphasised tribal honour and worldly themes, while early Islamic poetry emphasised faith, spiritual devotion, and moral guidance.
4. Religious
5. They broadened the literary canon, preserved diverse voices, and influenced later poets and prose writers with stylistic models.
6. Lesser-known



General References

- ## Illustrations

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- Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
- Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the thematic scope of the Jamharah anthology, including love, wisdom, moral reflection, and tribal pride.”
- Suggested OER search string: “Jamharah anthology themes Ibn Durayd OER”
- *Box 5.2: Cultural importance of the Hamāsah and Jamharah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing the cultural importance of the Hamāsah and Jamharah in preserving Arabic poetic traditions.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Hamāsah Jamharah cultural importance Arabic poetry OER”
- *Box 5.3: Common themes in the Hamāsah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing common themes in the Hamāsah, including bravery, endurance, and tribal honour.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Hamāsah themes Arabic poetry OER”
- *Figure 5.2: Thematic categories in the Jamharah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing thematic categories in the Jamharah anthology, including love, wisdom, moral reflection, and tribal pride.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Jamharah anthology themes Arabic poetry OER”
- *Figure 5.3: Structural features of poems in the Hamāsah and Jamharah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing the qasidah structure and other poetic forms in the Hamāsah and Jamharah, including nasib, rahil, madih, and shorter fragments.”



- Suggested OER search string: “qasidah structure Hamāsah Jamharah Arabic poetry OER”
- *Plate 5.2: Calligraphic representation of selected verses from the Hamāsah and Jamharah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic calligraphy illustrating selected verses from the Hamāsah and Jamharah anthologies.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Hamāsah Jamharah Arabic calligraphy poetry OER”
- *Plate 5.3: Verses of Abū Tammām in calligraphy*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic calligraphy illustrating verses attributed to Abū Tammām from the Hamāsah.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Abū Tammām Hamāsah Arabic poetry calligraphy OER”
- *Box 5.4: Contributions of Ibn Durayd in the Jamharah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing the contributions of Ibn Durayd in compiling the Jamharah.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Ibn Durayd Jamharah contributions Arabic poetry OER”
- *Figure 5.4: Contributions of poets in the Hamāsah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram showing contributions of notable poets in the Hamāsah, highlighting bravery, endurance, and tribal honour.”



- Suggested OER search string: “Hamāsah poets contributions Arabic poetry OER”
- *Plate 5.4: Verses from poets in the Jamharah*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of Arabic calligraphy illustrating verses from poets represented in the Jamharah anthology.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Jamharah poets contributions Arabic poetry calligraphy OER”
- *Figure 5.5: Continuities between the Hamāsah, Jamharah, and earlier anthologies*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a diagram comparing continuities between the Hamāsah, Jamharah, and earlier anthologies, highlighting qasidah structure and shared themes.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Hamāsah Jamharah continuities Mu‘allaqat Mufaddaliyyat Arabic poetry OER”
- *Box 5.5: Differences between the Hamāsah, Jamharah, and early Islamic poetry*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate a text box listing differences between the Hamāsah, Jamharah, and early Islamic poetry, contrasting tribal pride with faith and devotion.”
 - Suggested OER search string: “Hamāsah Jamharah vs early Islamic poetry differences OER”
- *Plate 5.5: Influence of the Hamāsah and Jamharah on Arabic literary development*
 - Attribution: AI-generated using Copilot graphic art tool.
 - Prompt: “Generate an image of a timeline showing the influence of the Hamāsah and Jamharah on later Arabic literature, connecting pre-Islamic traditions with later achievements.”



- Suggested OER search string: “Hamāsah Jamharah influence later Arabic literature timeline OER”

