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## **Imagism in “At Night”, of “Dreams in the Desert”, by Lehr Niazi**

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### **Abstract**

Imagism is one of the most important figures of speech. Imagism used in “At Night”, of “Dreams in the Desert”, by Lehr Niazi has personal as well as universal touch. The poet utilized the images to achieve the main purpose of the poem successfully. These images are of many types. The poet selected his images, keeping in view of the main idea of the poem. Use of images always creates attraction and charm in poetry, that’s why every poet very easily conveys his message to his readers. Through the analysis of images used in “At Night”, of “Dreams in the Desert”, the researchers would try to explore the real message and beauty of the poem, so that the readers can get the real message and enjoyment out of the reading of this poem.

**Keywords:** Imagism, Images, At night, Dreams in the Desert, Message and Enjoyment

### **Introduction**

In this research study the detailed analysis of the images used in “At night”, of “Dreams in the Desert”, by Lehr Niazi is presented. This poem is analyzed from the perspective of the message given by the help of use of images in it. This research article observes the research questions, objectives, research methodologies and literature review in the field of literary images. After analysis of the main idea of the poem and use of images in it, conclusion is given. This poem is written in a lyrical form and there are twelve lines, full of images. The vocabulary of the poem is very simple and attractive. The use of images in this poem, gives it beauty and attraction. Images, in the poem highlight the message as well as beauty of the poem. Gulistan Khan is an emerging poet whose pen-name is Lehr Niazi. He was born on 28th April 1977 in a village named “Mochh” in district Mianwali, Punjab (Pakistan). His first poetry collection “Dreams in the Desert”, was published in 2015. In all his poems he gave the message of giving the importance to the human values and respecting the humanity as a whole. It is mentioned in the Preface of the book as “When someone is lost in the desert of the world, one wishes to be home. We are living in the global world where we have lost ourselves and ignore the human values. I hope we all give the value to the human values.” (07 March 2015). The poet, through common and lovely images made his poems unforgettable.

### **Research Questions**

What do the images make poem pleasant to read and easy to understand?

What is the impact of imagism in “At Night”?

What are the images used in “At Night”?

### **Objectives**

Use of images is one of the best ways to present the literary ideas. Imagism used in “At Night” has personal as well as universal touch with beauty and charm. The main target of the analytical study of images used in “At Night” of “Dreams in the Desert” is to highlight the above mentioned aspects of the poem. So that readers would be able to get the benefits from the study of this poem.

### **Methodology**

The focus of this research article is the use of images in “At Night” of “Dreams in the Desert”. This research is qualitative, analytical and descriptive in nature. The researchers utilized the mentioned approach to get the effective results by the support of published

### Literature Review

The common objects and events are used by every poet to create variety in the writing as well as to highlight the main purpose of it. Every image gets importance when it becomes the part of literature because it adds its own unique color.

**Australian Oxford Dictionary** (1994) defines an image as "A mental representation". Whenever the poet is impressed by something, he tries to capture it through the words. In this way he utilizes images.

**The Cambridge Guide to English Usage** (2004) gives detail about image as "Whereas the images rose by a poem or piece of writing usually serve to develop its imagery sequentially. Yet both the publicity image and the writer's imagery put a particular coloring or set of values on whatever they present, so as to influence people's thinking."

**Frost, Robert** (1874-1963) used beautiful images in his poem, "The Road not taken" in which he used images of a traveler and the road to show the confusion of the traveler. As;  
"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood",  
"To where it bent in the under growth;"

**Glencoe Literature** (California edition) explains that "Imagery is descriptive language that appeals to one or more of the five senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell." Further it explains that "Imagery appears in all descriptive writing, but it is especially important in poetry."

**The New Penguin Thesaurus** (2000) defines image as "Idea, concept, notion, thought, mental picture, impression, vision, perception." In poetry, the poet presents his thoughts, ideas and concepts through images which give a complete mind-picture to the readers.

**Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary** (1989) defines image as "Copy of the shape of a person or thing, especially one made in stone or wood; statue." Further imagism is explained as "An image, object, etc that suggests or refers to something else."

**The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary theory** (1999) defines that "concrete images are used as symbols to represent a general or universal ideal world of which the real world is a shadow".

**Plath, Sylvia** (1932-1963) expressed mother's love for her child by the imagery which refers to the child's happy mood.  
"Clown like, happiest on your hands,  
Feet to the stars, and moon-skulled,  
Gilled like a fish."

**Reader's Digest Great Dictionary of the English Language** (2001) discusses image as "A representation of the external form of a person or thing in art." It further explains image as "A picture in the mind."  
**Rich, Adrienne** (1929- ) used images from the wild life in, "Aunt Jennifer's tigers" to highlight the theme of the poem. As:

"Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;

**Stallworthy, Jon** (1935-2014) used fruit images in the poem, "In the Street of the Fruit stalls," to convey the main theme successfully here as:  
"In the street of the fruit stalls  
Melon, guava, mandarin,  
Pyramin-piled like cannon balls,  
Glow red-hot, gold-hot, from within."

**Webster's New World College Dictionary** (1997) defines image as "An imitation or representation of a person or thing, drawn, painted, photographed, etc."

**Wilbur, Richard** (1921- ) used images in his poem to make it pleasant to read and easy to understand by the readers of all tastes.  
"After the last bulletins the window darken,  
And the whole city founders readily and deep,  
Sliding on all its pillows  
To the thronged Atlantis of personal sleep,"

### Data Analysis

Imagery in this poem has variety and quality, which appeals to the senses. Every image created its own link to the background of the poem. The poet described the winter-night scene by the help of imagism. Here the simple words created beautiful picture.

"Misty-evening closes her eyes and seen,  
Struggling here and there winter creeping-rat."  
The poet portraits the night activities through the use of images. Birds of the day-time are settled in their nests and the birds of night are hunting now.  
"Darkness spreads slowly round the globe,  
Night falls and seen a flying bat."

At sun-set night-hunting animals are active now. The poet beautifully created the image of crawling-cat that is ready to hunt.

"Night-hunting animals come out now,  
Out of the bushes appears crawling-cat."  
In the next verses the scene is changed. It is late at night when children started sleeping while listening stories in their mothers laps.  
"Late at night in their mothers' lap,  
Now children stop questioning this and that."

Through the images the poet explains how the silence of winter-night rules everywhere. Everything is in a mood of rest after the hustle and bustle of the day. The night is created for taking a rest in this world.  
"Silence is ruling now on the grassy-fields,  
Above across the sky is not seen any pet.  
Birds, mammals, workers of the land,  
All are set, at sun-set."

By the use of these simple and common images he created the attraction and beauty in his poem. Every image added meanings to the theme of the poem. In this way the poet very easily conveyed his message to the readers. In these simple and common images, the poet created personal as well as universal taste.

### Message of the poem

Through the imagism here, the poet described the importance of night. The message of the poem is that we should abide by the rules of nature. Day is for work and night is for taking rest, which is the law of nature which must be followed.

### Delimitations of the Study

The researchers tried to highlight the imagism used in “At Night,” of “Dreams in the Desert” and the message given in it. This research included the analysis of only one poem selected from “Dreams in the Desert”.

### Recommendations

The researchers suggest the stylistic analysis of this poem for new researchers.

### Conclusion

Through the different images the poet achieved all his objectives. He created beauty and attraction in his poetry and highlighted moral and aesthetic aspects of the poem. He did not talk directly about the themes behind the images. His images are not described in great detail with many words. He did not try to link his images to philosophical ideas forcefully. The poem was simple but had a unique charm. Aesthetic sense was successfully served by the use of symbolism in this poem. All the symbols were quite appropriate to the both aspects of this poem. He very successfully connected the main idea of the poem to the images and created beautiful environment of the poem. He developed the thought with the help of suitable images. He gave these images personal as well as universal touch. Here every image added layers of meanings to the poem. In this poem the flight of imagination was supported by the common objects of life.

### Appendix

#### “At Night”

Misty-evening closes her eyes and seen,  
Struggling here and there winter creeping-rat.  
Darkness spreads slowly round the globe,  
Night falls and seen a flying bat.  
Night-hunting animals come out now,  
Out of the bushes appears crawling-cat.  
Late at night in their mothers' lap,  
Now children stop questioning this and that.  
Silence is ruling now on the grassy-fields,  
Above across the sky is not seen any pet.  
Birds, mammals, workers of the land,  
All are set, at sun-set.

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