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#### Akademic Journal of Educational Research (AJER) International scientific journal Volume 1 Issue 1 January 2025 ajeruz.com LITERATURE WRITTEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES AND ITS INFLUENCE

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Abstract. The 7th century was a period of profound transformation across various regions of the world. In Europe, the remnants of the Western Roman Empire were giving way to the emerging powers of the Byzantine Empire in the east and the rise of the Merovingian and Carolingian dynasties in the west. The spread of Christianity throughout Europe brought about significant changes in religious and cultural life, influencing the literary output of the time.

The literature of the 7th century, shaped by the spread of Islam, the consolidation of European kingdoms, and the flourishing of classical traditions, offers insights into the emergence of new cultural identities, religious beliefs, and literary forms. From epic poetry to religious texts, the literature of this period explores themes of heroism, faith, and cultural exchange, laying the foundation for subsequent literary traditions and intellectual movements.

*Keywords:* literature, 7<sup>th</sup> century, Islam, 11<sup>th</sup> century, cultural studies, Medieval literature, Islamic world, genres

**Introduction.** The literature from the 7th and 11th centuries offers a diverse range of intellectual, artistic, and cultural expression from around the globe. The fundamental works that would significantly influence the development of the literary traditions in China and Islam first appear in the 7th century. As this was going on, Europe and the Islamic world had a time of cultural blossoming and transition in the eleventh century, which laid the foundation for some of the most enduring literary masterpieces in both Western and Islamic cultures.

The 11th century was a component of the Islamic Golden Age, a time of enormous intellectual and cultural advancements, in the Islamic world. Significant contributions to philosophy, science, literature, and the arts have been made by academics and writers. For example, the well-known polymath Avicenna (Ibn Sina) had a significant impact on Islamic and Western thought through his writings on philosophy and medicine. Another

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well-known person of the era, al-Ghazali, wrote a great deal about Islamic mysticism and philosophy, which had an impact on Sufi philosophy in the succeeding years.

Literature review and methodology. in the Arabian Peninsula, the 7th century saw the birth of Islam and the rise of the Islamic Caliphates. The revelation of the Quran and the establishment of the Islamic community (umma) under the leadership of the Prophet Muhammad had far-reaching implications for Arab society and culture. Arabic literature flourished during this period, with the development of new poetic forms and the compilation of collections such as the Mu'allaqat, showcasing the linguistic and artistic achievements of Arab poets.

In Asia, the Tang Dynasty in China ushered in a golden age of poetry, art, and literature, with figures like Li Bai and Du Fu leaving an indelible mark on Chinese literary history. In India, the Gupta Empire witnessed a flourishing of Sanskrit literature, including the composition of epic poems like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

By the 11th century, the medieval world was undergoing significant political, social, and cultural changes. In Europe, the collapse of the Carolingian Empire led to the fragmentation of political authority and the rise of feudalism. The investiture controversy between the papacy and secular rulers, culminating in the Concordat of Worms in 1122, reflected tensions between church and state and had implications for the literary and intellectual life of the time.

In the Islamic world, the 11th century witnessed the height of the Abbasid Caliphate's power and influence, as Baghdad emerged as a center of learning and culture. Scholars like Al-Ghazali and Avicenna made significant contributions to philosophy, theology, and literature, shaping the intellectual landscape of the Muslim world.

The 11th century was a period of significant historical and cultural developments across various regions of the world. Understanding the context of this era is crucial for comprehending the literature produced during this time. Here are some key aspects of the historical and cultural context of the 11th century:

In Europe, the 11th century witnessed the consolidation of feudalism as the dominant social and economic system. Feudal relationships between lords and vassals defined the political landscape, leading to the fragmentation of authority and the rise of decentralized power structures. The feudal system influenced all aspects of life, including land ownership, military service, and social hierarchy, shaping the cultural and literary production of the time.

Christianity played a central role in medieval European society, influencing cultural practices, political institutions, and intellectual discourse. The Catholic Church wielded considerable power and authority, serving as a unifying force in an otherwise fragmented political landscape. Religious beliefs and values permeated all aspects of life, shaping moral codes, artistic expression, and literary themes.

**Results.** The revival of interest in classical antiquity during the 11th century had a profound impact on European culture and intellectual life. Scholars rediscovered and translated classical texts from Greek and Latin into vernacular languages, sparking a renewed interest in classical literature, philosophy, and science. The reintroduction of classical ideas and themes influenced literary and artistic production, contributing to the intellectual ferment of the period.

By exploring these additional aspects of the historical and cultural context of the 11th century, we gain a more nuanced understanding of the complexities and dynamics of medieval society. This contextual understanding enriches our appreciation of the literature and cultural achievements of the period, illuminating the enduring legacy of medieval civilization in shaping the world we inhabit today.

**Discussion.** By contextualizing literary texts within their historical milieu, the research aims to elucidate the broader socio-cultural significance of medieval literature and its impact on shaping collective identities and worldviews.

This entails an analysis of the socio-political dynamics, religious movements, intellectual currents, and artistic traditions that shaped the literary landscape of the 7th and 11th centuries. Through this contextual lens, the research seeks to deepen our understanding of how historical forces and cultural developments influenced literary expression and reception.

**Conclusion.** The literature written during the 7th and 11th centuries stands as a testament to the richness, diversity, and enduring legacy of medieval civilizations. Across various regions and cultures, writers, poets, and scholars produced works of profound beauty, intellectual depth, and cultural significance, reflecting the social, political, and religious dynamics of their time.

The literature of the 7th century, shaped by the spread of Islam, the consolidation of European kingdoms, and the flourishing of classical traditions, offers insights into the emergence of new cultural identities, religious beliefs, and literary forms. From epic poetry to religious texts, the literature of this period explores themes of heroism, faith, and cultural exchange, laying the foundation for subsequent literary traditions and intellectual movements.

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