

"Marsia"  
The Most Potent & Alive Branch of Urdu Literature

\* Nishat Fatima

*Abstract*

*Marsia has its roots in Arabic Poetry during Pre Islamic days. In Arabic Language Marsia was a general poetry, but later on in Persian poetry Marsia has changed its original character and it became an Elegy (i.e. a poem or poetry lamenting of dead).*

*In Urdu, poetry it has further changed its character and Marsia has become a form of poetry dealing with the description of the Martyrs of Karbala in 61 Hijri, who sacrificed their lives for the noble cause of humanity along with Imam Husain.*

*Marsia is a most important form of Urdu Poetry depicting the noble deeds of the Seventy Two (72) Martyrs of Karbala Battle, which was a fight of goodness against evil forces of Yazid (the then ruler of Islamic state) by the Imam Husain and his companions.*

*Marsia posses good qualities of all forms of Urdu poetry such as Ghazal, Qasida, Masnavi and Nazm etc. Marsia is the only Urdu poetry which has the qualities of Epic poetry and which could be compared with poetries of other prominent languages i.e. English, French, German etc. The Marsias' of Poets 'Mir Anees' and 'Mirza Dabeer' has made Marsia a world famous poetry, depicting the values of life in modern age literature.*

**Keywords:** Marsia, Poetry

---

\* Post Doctoral fellow, Urdu Department, University of Allahabad.. E-mail: nishat0001@rediffmail.com