Abstract

Although the Arabs have excelled in multifarious kinds of art such as architecture, calligraphy, arabesque and music, poetry has always ranked first since pre-Islamic days. Only recently new art forms, such as novel, cinema and TV, have begun to dethrone poetry. Nonetheless, pre-Islamic poetry never lost its pivotal position as one of the mainsprings of the Arabic literary tradition. Poetry, the most terrific hallmark of the pre-Islamic era can be said to have been deeply enshrined in the social life of pre-Islamic Arabs. Although Arabian life was based on tribal community where only ties of blood were sacred, poetry gave life a new meaning, as it became an invisible bond between diverse clans and gave rise to a national community of sentiment. Indeed, the pre-Islamic era in the Arabian peninsula was characterized by heart-rending poetry; an exhilarating literary excellence that inebriated them with ample arrogance and self-worship.