

Maddah

Maddah or *maddahi* is a kind of sung religious poetry, accompanied by *rubabs* and/or *tanbur* with at least one *daf*, which is spread among the people of Rushan and Shughnan of the Badakhshan province. In area of Ishkashim this type of song is known as *qasoid* and the Ismaili of the Darvoz region called it *haidari*.

Maddah poetries are religious and devotional in nature dedicated to the praise of God, prophets and other individual saint for instance devotional songs in praise of Ali – one of the companions of the prophet of Islam.

Maddah is performed in the religious events

such as the first day of mourning, Friday night gatherings, celebration of significant religious festivals and ceremonies, inauguration of the religious venues, including the commemoration evenings. In particular *maddah* is performed on the funeral days and the subsequent ceremonies following after the funeral. The content of the *maddah* songs are on morals, justice, holiness, and tolerance, cherishing the life, human dignity and performing good deeds topics.

According to the traditional tales *maddah* gets its origins in the work and writings of the Nosir Khusrav. However, its popularity among the





inhabitants of the Badakhshan region points to its larger Persian-Tajik literary contexts and origins. The *maddah* repertoire includes many poetry and prosaic samples from major literary figures of the Persian-Tajik literature such as Attar, Jami, Mavlana.

There are few prosaic tales of philosophical and religious nature such as «Panj kishti», «Jamjama», «Invasion of Khaibar fortress», «Sakhovati Murtaza Ali» and other which are sung in traditional tunes specific to *maddah* singing.

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