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## AN OVERVIEW ON ORIENTAL PHILOSOPHIES IN THE POEMS OF BEAT POET ALLEN GINSBERG

□ Dr. Taybul Islam Mollah\*

### ABSTRACT

The oriental and particularly Indian saints have often taught the lesson of getting liberated from the mazes of the body in order to attain spiritual perfection. Like other Beat writers, Ginsberg was primarily checker for even on the road in search of a philosophy that would rehabilitate man as an integral part of the cosmos. His quest for a total philosophy of life brings him close to the Indian philosophic and religious system. Buddhism, Zen Buddhism and Vedanta from where he adopts a number of concepts like those of the Karma, the four noble truths, spiritual enlightenment through meditation and nirvana etc in order to attain the Supreme Reality. Life as a whole is the subject-matter of Ginsberg's poetry and, therefore, his vision of life is a mosaic of myriad of attitudes and responses strung basically along the line of Oriental philosophies. The mystic may regard God in terms of his or her lover, as in the Indian poet Kabir or the Sufis. This paper aims to overview the positive influences of Oriental philosophies in the poems of Ginsberg.

**Keywords :** Philosophy, Religion, Buddhism, Tantrik, Life, Yoga, Poetry

### Introduction

The generation of Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Gregory Corso, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and others is known as the Beat generation. The term, "Beat" means one who is beaten, frustrated, played out. The Beat movement began in the middle fifties and began dying in the sixties. The Beat were anti-establishment people, they were against conformity and 'tradition'. Above all, they were anti-academic and anti-intellectual. They disliked the established institutions like religion, family life and marriage. Even the man-woman relationship was a subject of hate to them. They openly took drugs and even justified their drug-addiction. Similarly, when Ginsberg was asked what exactly his religion was, he answered he was probably a "Buddhist Jew" with attachments to Krishna, Sive, Allah, Coyote, and the sacred Heart". Then he adds that he was more of a Buddhist Jewish 'pantheist'. Particularly Ginsberg has been influenced by at least three oriental religions- Zen Buddhism, Hinduism and

Tibetan Buddhism. Ginsberg's poetry is a metaphor of quest. In fact, his poetry is a prism where the colors of Zen Buddhism, Indian philosophy of Karma, Chanting of Mantras, forays into consciousness by drugs are plenty in number. Life as a whole is the subject-matter of Ginsberg's poetry and, therefore, his vision of life is a mosaic of myriad of attitudes and responses strung basically along the line of Indian philosophies.

It is evident that the Beat writers like Ginsberg belonged to that generated which had to wear 'second hand coats and trousers'. The Beats soon came to be regarded as a threat to the prevailing system and quest their own philosophies. Ginsberg's quest for a total philosophy of life brings them close to the Oriental philosophic and religious systems: Buddhism, Zen Buddhism and Vedanta from where they adopt a number of concepts like those of the Karma; the four noble truths, spiritual enlightenment through meditation and nirvana etc. His poetry instead is a text that is inextricably bound

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