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THE  
QUATRAINS OF HÁLI

*A Verse Translation by*

C. S. TUTE



# The Quatrains of Gāli

Original Urdu

WITH

A Literal English Translation

BY

G. E. WARD, M.A.

AND

A Rendering into English Verse

BY

C. S. TUTE

(Author of '*The Ruba'iyat of Omar Khayyām*  
—*A rendering into English Verse*')

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The literal Translation into English was first published by the late G. E. Ward, Esq., M.A. of the Bengal Civil Service, in 1904. It has been revised by His Exalted Highness The Nizam's Educational Department, expressly for this book, in 1932.

## PREFACE

*The intense interest that the political renaissance of India has focussed on all things Indian would appear to make the present time opportune for giving the public a translation and verse rendering of one of the best known of the Mohammedan poets of modern India. Hâli was a very prolific writer, his Quatrains forming less than one tithe of his writings; but his Quatrains,—though probably not so well-known among his co-religionists as some of his other poems—from their wide range of subjects, convey a fair impression of his general outlook.*

*The nom-de-plume Hâli thinly concealed the personality of Maulvi Khawaja Altaf Hussain Ansari of Panipat (Panipati) in the Punjab. He almost certainly adopted this nom-de-plume in its sense of 'Genuine-Real', and there would be few who would not acknowledge that he and his writings justified the choice.*

*Hâli was born at Panipat in 1837. Having lost his father at an early age, he was brought up by an elder brother, for whom he cherished the greatest affection, and to whose memory he dedicated a poignantly beautiful short poem. In his youth he fortunately became associated with the late Nawab Mohammad Mustafa Khan, Shaifta Rais of Jahangirabad, whose personal character and intense idealism exercised a great influence on Hâli's mind. He has acknowledged the great benefit he derived from this long association, especially in the choosing and maturing of his style which has made such a definite mark on modern Indian poetry. But much of his development as a poet, reformer, and man of the world was due to his contact with the famous Mohammedan poet Ghalib (mentioned in Quatrain 60) to whom he was introduced by Mohammad Mustafa Khan.*

*Hâli entered Government service in the Educational Department of his own province and had a successful career, retiring as an assistant Translator. In this post he was employed in correcting Urdu Text Books and Translations.*

*The official side of his life was however merely the frame within which Hâli's real career as a poet and social reformer developed.*

*About the age of 40 Hâli came under the influence of the great Mohammedan reformer Sir Saiyad Ahmad Khan Bahadur, and from that time onward he devoted his poetical gifts to the cause of reform and the service of his co-religionists in India. He however found time for a considerable volume of critical literature in prose, a life of the Persian poet Sadi, a life of his master Ghalib, a two volume life of Sir Saiyad Ahmad Khan, and an excellent treatise on poetry and poetic style.*

*Maulana Hâli, although he wrote for the most part in Urdu, wielded an equally facile pen in both Persian and Arabic, in which languages his prose and poetry were admired by all the most competent judges.*

*It may not be out of place to mention two dominant features in Maulana Hâli's character : self-sacrifice for the good of others, and disregard of his own temporal interests. His works have always been in great demand and might have brought him a considerable income, but true to his nature he never placed any restriction on their publication.*

*He died at Panipat on the 31st December, 1914, but his writings are still green in the hearts of his Mohammedan countrymen.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*The English versé form has been arrived at after a careful analysis of the scansion of the Urdu of Hâli, and with a view to maintaining an even rhythm throughout. Persian and Urdu poetry allows considerable license in the framing of Quatrains, provided the scheme of each Quatrain is symmetrical, and it is only natural that Hâli should have taken full advantage of this fact in the construction of Quatrains written at different times and on different themes. These*

*changes of rhythm, however, tend to clash when the Quatrains are collected into one book in consecutive order. It was felt that an even rhythmic smoothness in the English verse rendering would have a more pleasing effect, and an effort has been made in the rhythm selected to produce, as far as is possible in English, the average rhythm of the Urdu original.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Gratitude is due to Khawaja Sajjad Hussain, the heir of Hâli, for generously, and in keeping with the traditions of his family, allowing the free use of his father's Quatrains. Similar acknowledgments are also due to the executor of the late G. E. Ward, M.A. for permission to use his scholarly literal translation of the Urdu original.*

*I also wish to express my deep appreciation of the great help and encouragement given by the Educational Department of His Exalted Highness The Nizam's Government and Sir Akbar Hydari. Mr. Fazl Mahammad Khan, the Director of Public Instruction of His Exalted Highness's Government, has personally interested himself in this book and has most generously arranged for the revision of Mr. Ward's translation by eminent scholars of the State.*

**C. S. TUTE**

## رباعیات حالی

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

۱

### توحید

کاننا ہے ہر اک جگر میں اٹکا تیرا  
 حلقہ ہے ہر اک گوش میں لٹکا تیرا  
 مانا نہیں جس نے تجھ کو، جانا ہے ضرور  
 بہتکے ہوئے دل میں بھی ہے کہتا تیرا

### THE UNITY

There is a thorn in every breast stuck fast, telling of Thee ;  
 There is a staple ring hung in every ear, telling of Thee ;  
 He, who has not confessed Thee, has known Thee perforce ;  
 Yes, even in a heart lost, there is alarm telling of Thee.

۲

ہندو نے صنم میں جلوہ پایا تیرا  
 آتش پہ مغال نے راگ گایا تیرا  
 دھری نے کیا دھر سے تعبیر تجھے  
 انکار کسی سے بن نہ آیا تیرا

The Hindu in his idol has discovered Thy glory ;  
 Parsis over their fire have chanted Thy music ;  
 The Materialist from his universe has postulated Thee ;  
 Denial of Thee by any being has not been found possible.

## THE QUATRAINS OF HALI

*In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.*

### I

*Sharp is the Spur of Conscience—Reminder of Thy Will ;  
 What but Thy Curb prevents us when we abstain from ill ;  
 Protesting or Denying—all necks bend 'neath Thy Yoke ;  
 No Soul is so benighted but dreads Thy Anger still.*

### II

*The Hindu in his idols doth glorify Thy Name ;  
 The Parsi hears Thy Music sing in the Sacred Flame ;  
 Yea, e'en the unbeliever MUST grant some Primal Cause ;  
 Lo ! God, Jehovah, Buddha, are Allah—and the same.*

## توحید

طوفان میں ہے جب جہاز چکر کھاتا  
 جب قافلہ وادی میں ہے سر ٹکراتا  
 اسباب کا آسرا ہے جب آتہہ جانا  
 واں تیرے سوا کوئی نہیں یاد آتا

## THE UNITY

In the whirlwind, when the ship is being tossed round and round,—  
 When the caravan in the sand-drift is frantic with agony,—  
 When hope in all earthly means vanishes away,—  
 There, excepting Thee, none else is remembered.

جب لیتے ہیں گہیر تیری قدرت کے ظہور  
 منکر بھی پکار اڑتے ہیں تجہہ کو مجبور  
 خفاش کو ظلمت کی نہ سوچھی کوئی راہ  
 خورشید کا شش جہت میں پھیلا جب نور

When there encompass him on all sides the signs of Thy power,  
 Even the Atheist cries aloud to Thee, under compulsion.

To the bat no highway to darkness was visible,  
 When the sun's light blazed forth in every direction.

*III*

*When faced with stark disaster by peril of the sea—  
Or lost in trackless deserts and crazed with agony—  
The Human Soul, affrighted, bereft of human aid,  
Will ever seek Thy succour in its extremity.*

*IV*

*The rising Sun in splendour, scatters in panic flight  
The furtive darkness-homing winged creatures of the night ;  
E'en so Thy works of Power confound the Infidel  
Enforcing slow acceptance on his reluctant sight.*

## توحید

جب مایوسی دلوں پہ چھا جاتی ہے  
 دشمن سے بھی نام تیرا چپواتی ہے  
 ممکن ہے کہ سکھ میں بھول جائیں اطفال  
 لیکن انہیں دکھ میں ماں ہی یاد آتی ہے

### THE UNITY

When despair falls thick upon the hearts of mankind,  
 It forces Thy name upon the lips even of foes.  
 It is possible that infants in their joy forget their mother,  
 But, when they are in pain, *she* is first in their thoughts.

مٹی سے - ہوا سے - آتش و آب سے یاں  
 کیا کیا نہ ہوئے بشر پہ اسرار عیاں  
 پر - تیرے خزانے ہیس ازل سے اب تک  
 گنجینہ غیب میں اسی طرح نہاں

From earth and air and fire and water, in this world  
 Innumerable secrets have become revealed to man.

But not less are Thy treasures, from eternity till now,  
 Hidden, as before, within the safe of the unseen.

## V

*A healthy child when playing may well forgetful be,  
Yet, hurt, seeks with its Mother instinctive sanctuary,  
So when mankind is helpless, and prey to dark despair,  
The blackest Unbeliever turns once again to Thee.*

## VI

*Lo! Earth, Air, Fire, and Water their secrets still unfold  
As through the Questing Ages the Quest for Truth hath rolled,  
Though rich the harvest garnered, e'en more remains to reap,  
Much as the Past has yielded more doth the Future hold.*

## توحید

ہستی سے ہے تیری رنگ و بو سب کے لئے  
 طاعت میں ہے تیری - آبرو سب کے لئے  
 ہیں تیرے سوا سارے سہارے کمزور  
 سب اپنے لئے ہیں، اور تو سب کے لئے

### THE UNITY

From Thy being is the glow and scent of life—for the good of all ;  
 In submission to Thee is self-respect—for the good of all ;  
 Excepting Thee alone, all supports are feeble ;  
 All are for their own sake—and Thou for the good of all.

کیا ہوگی دلیل تجہہ پہ اور اس سے زیادہ  
 دنیا میں نہیں ہے ایک دل جو کہ ہو شاد  
 پر، جو کہ ہیں تجہہ سے لو لگائے بیٹھے  
 رہتے ہیں ہر ایک رنج و غم سے آزاد

What other proof shall be of Thee more absolute than this ?

In the world is not a soul who would be naturally joyful.

Yet these, who are waiting with their hearts fixed on Thee,  
 Stay on by every pain and every grief untrammelled.

## VII

*All Scent and Light and Colour do from Thy being flow,  
Thy Service is an honour as those who serve Thee know,  
Thou art our one sure buttress, who doth eternally  
Upon Thy selfish creatures Thy Selfless Self bestow.*

## VIII

*What proof is there completer of Thy reality  
Than that in Life no pleasure is found apart from Thee ;  
That every faithful creature who waiteth on Thy Will  
Can face pain and disaster with calm serenity ?*

## نعت

زہاد کو تو نے محو تمجید کیا  
 عشاق کو مست لذت دید کیا  
 طاعت میں رہا نہ حق کی ساجھی کوئی  
 توحید کو تو نے آکے توحید کیا

## COMMENDATION (OF THE PROPHET)

Thou madest the devotee self-effaced in His glory ;  
 Thou madest the lovers filled with ecstasy of sight.  
 No partner was left to share the worship of The Truth (God) ;  
 Through Thee, when thou camest, was The One known as The One.

بطحائے عرب کو محترم تو نے کیا  
 اور اُمیوں کو خیر اُم تو نے کیا  
 اسلام نے ایک کر دیا روم و تاتار  
 بچڑے ہوئے گلے کو بہم تو نے کیا

The pebble strewn Arabia Thou madest illustrious ;  
 And its illiterate people the chosen of nations.  
 The creed of Islam united Rum<sup>1</sup> and Tartary ;  
 That scattered flock of sheep Thou didst gather together.

<sup>1</sup> i.e., The Byzantine Empire.

## IX

*You came and merged the Righteous in His Sublimity;  
 You filled the hearts of Lovers with mystic ecstasy;  
 You gave mankind to worship ONE Undivided Truth;  
 You came, and all acknowledged His flawless Unity.*

## X

*Arabia, the barren, through You became renowned  
 And its unlettered peoples were o'er the nations crowned.  
 Rūm to Islām did harken and joined with Tartary,  
 And countless scattered peoples a common refuge found.*

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## نعت

بطحا کو ہوا تیری ولادت سے شرف  
 یثرب کو ملا تیری اقامت سے شرف  
 اولاد ہی کو فخر نہیں کچھہ تجھہ پر  
 آبا کو بھی ہے تیری اُبوت سے شرف

## COMMENDATION (OF THE PROPHET)

Petraea was ennobled because of Thy nativity ;  
 Yathrib<sup>1</sup> won renown from Thy dwelling therein ;  
 Not only Thy offspring make a boast of Thy name ;  
 Thy sires are ennobled through paternity of Thee.

۱۲

## صلح کل

ہندو سے لڑیں نہ گبر سے بیر کریں  
 شر سے بچیں اور شر کے عوض خیر کریں  
 جو کہتے ہیں یہ، کہ ہے جہنم دنیا  
 وہ آئیں اور اس بہشت کی سیر کریں

## GOODWILL TO ALL

Where we strive not with Hindus, nor bear ill will to Infidels—  
 Where we shrink from doing harm and in return for harm do good—  
 Let those, who are muttering that ' This world is a Hell ',  
 Only come and explore the delights of this Paradise.

<sup>1</sup> The proper name of Medina, which word means simply ' city '.

## XI

*Petraea was ennobled by Your nativity,  
Because You deigned to dwell there Yathrib shall famous be,  
Your offspring and their offspring shall boast them of  
Your name,  
Your father's name is blessed through his paternity.*

## XII

*Let us not strive nor bicker with those of alien creeds,  
Let us shun harm and offer good for all evil deeds,  
Thus shall this sad world blossom into a Paradise,  
Splendid with joy and laughter, filling man's utmost needs.*

### ترک شعر عاشقانہ

بلبل کی چمن میں ہم زبانی چھوڑی  
 بزم شعرا میں شعر خوانی چھوڑی  
 جب سے دل زندہ تو نے ہمکو چھوڑا  
 ہم نے بھی تری رام کہانی چھوڑی

#### DISCONTINUANCE OF LOVE POEMS

I have done matching my voice with the nightingale in the garden ;  
 I have done reciting verses in the conclave of poets ;  
 Since thou hast forsaken me, O lively heart of my youth !  
 I too have forsaken thy interminable stories.

### پیران زندہ دل

خوش رہتے ہیں دکھ میں کامرانوں کی طرح  
 ہیں ضعف سے لڑتے پہلوانوں کی طرح  
 دل آنکے ہیں ، ظرف آنکے ، جو کرتے ہیں تیر  
 ہنس بول کے پیری کو جوانوں کی طرح

#### CHEERFUL OLD MEN

They are blithe in adversity—as if they were successful ;  
 They fight with their feebleness—as if they were athletes ;  
 They have hearts, they have courage—who are bringing to a close  
 Their old age—laughing and talking—as if they were youths.

## XIII

*My heart is no more singing as in past golden days,  
My fount of words is empty that hymned Thy constant praise,  
Since Thou, Heart's Life, forsook me, I can no more tell o'er  
My once exhaustless treasure of tender looks and ways.*

## XIV

*Hail! to those cheerful Ancients, who in despite of years  
Still smiling face disaster and bravely hide their fears,  
Who with high youthful courage vanquish their feebleness,  
Filling their days with laughter, and scorning senile tears.*

نیکی اور بدی پاس پاس ہیں  
 جو لوگ ہیں نیکیوں میں مشہور بہت  
 ہوں نیکیوں پر اپنی نہ مغرور بہت  
 نیکی ہی خود اک بدی ہے، گر ہو نہ خلوص  
 نیکی سے بدی نہیں ہے کچھ دور بہت

GOOD AND EVIL ARE NEAR NEIGHBOURS

Those people who are famed for their virtues very much,  
 Let them of their virtues not be vain over much.  
 Even a good deed is bad, if the heart be not in it;  
 And evil is distant from the good—not very much.

امتحان کا وقت  
 زاہد کہتا تھا جاں ہے دیں پر قربان  
 پر آیا جب امتحان کی زد پر ایمان  
 کی عرض کسی نے کہئے اب کیا ہے صلاح  
 فرمایا کہ بھائی جان جی ہے تو جہان

THE TIME OF TRIAL

A zealot used to say, ' My life is offered on my creed.'  
 But when his faith came to the moment of trial,  
 Some one asked him humbly—' Tell us, what is best now ?'  
 Quoth he, ' My brother ! know, while there is life, there is the world.'

## XV

*Let those who for their virtues enjoy a worldly fame  
Take heed, nor for their actions excessive merit claim,  
E'en good deeds may be evil unless they be sincere ;  
The gulf 'twixt good and evil is sometimes but a name.*

## XVI

*A fanatic once boasted, ' Lo, for my creed I'd die !'  
Yet under persecution was loath to testify,  
And when one humbly asked him for his advice, quoth he,  
' Hold on to life, my brother, you gain the world thereby.'*

## عشق

ہے عشق طبیب دل کے بیماروں کا  
 یا گہر ہے وہ خود ہزار آزاروں کا  
 ہم کچھ نہیں جانتے، پہ اتنی ہے خبر  
 اک مشغلہ دلچسپ ہے بیکاروں کا

## LOVE

Is love a physician for the unhealthy at heart ?  
 Or is it in itself the home of thousands of woes ?  
 Of that I know nothing; only this much I have heard,  
 For those without work it is a charming pastime.

## نیکوں کی جانچ

نیکوں کو نہ تھرائیو بد اے فرزند  
 اک آدھہ ادا اُن کی اگر ہونہ پسند  
 کچھ نقص انار کی لطافت میں نہیں  
 ہوں اُس میں اگر گلے سڑے دانے چند

## 'THE APPRAISEMENT OF THE GOOD

Set not down good men as bad, O my son !  
 If one gesture or half a gesture of theirs displease thee.  
 The fineness of a pomegranate is not spoilt to the taste,  
 If there should be inside it one or two pips rotten.

## XVII

*In Love, for hearts sore stricken, can there be healing found?  
Or is Love a delusion in which all woes abound?*

*Which be the truth I know not, but this much I have heard,  
That many an idle hour Love hath with beauty crowned.*

## XVIII

*My son, judge no man rashly and lest you err take heed!  
E'en good men may be guilty of some small evil deed.*

*A red pomegranate's sweetness is not one whit the less  
If, hid within its ripeness, you find one bitter seed.*

## دوستوں سے بیجا توقع

تا زیست وہ معو نقش موہوم رہے  
 جو طالب درستان معصوم رہے  
 اصحاب سے بات بات پر جو بگڑے  
 صحبت کی وہ برکتوں سے محروم رہے

### UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS FROM FRIENDS

Through life, they have been lost upon a picture of fancy,  
 Who have always been demanding immaculate friends.

Those, who have quarrelled with their comrades at every little thing,  
 Have lived outside the pale of the blessings of companionship.

## شراب اور جوانی

ہو بادہ کشی پر نہ جوانو مقتوں  
 گردن پہ نہ لو عقل خداداد کا خون  
 خود عہد شباب اک جنوں ہے، اب تم  
 کرتے ہو فرزند جنوں پہ اک اور جنوں

### WINE AND YOUTH

Young men! be not seduced to any drinking of wine;  
 Take not upon your necks the blood of God-given reason.

The time itself of Youth is a madness,—and now  
 Do you pile upon one madness another madness; *you?*

## XIX

*Those who pursue the Mirage of 'friendship without flaw'  
All friendship lose if, questing, they lesser ties ignore ;  
And those who lightly quarrel and from their fellows turn,  
Of Friendship's pleasant Tavern remain without the door.*

## XX

*Young Man, refrain from drinking the juices of the Vine,  
And thy God-given reason therewith to slay decline.  
Is there not, in Youth, madness sufficient that ye add  
To madness further madness by wilful acts of thine?*

غرور سب عیبوں سے بدتر ہے  
 ممکن نہیں یہ کہ ہو بشر عیب سے دور  
 پر عیب سے بچئے تا بمقدور ضرور  
 عیب اپنے گہٹاؤ، پر خبردار رہو  
 گہٹنے سے کہیں اُن کے نہ بڑھجائے غرور

WORSE THAN ALL FAULTS IS PRIDE

It is not in nature that a man be free of faults,  
 But keep yourself from them to your utmost, without fail.  
 Make smaller the faults you have,—but still be on your guard,  
 Lest, from their decreasing somewhat, your pride should increase.

گفتار و کردار میں اختلاف  
 جو کرتے ہیں کچھ، زبان سے کہتے ہیں وہ کم  
 ہوتے نہیں ساتھ جمع، دم اور قدم  
 بڑھتا گیا جس قدر کہ حسن گفتار  
 بس اتنے ہی گہٹتے گئے کردار میں ہم

THE MUTUAL ANTAGONISM OF SPEECH AND ACTION

They, who achieve much, say little with their tongue ;  
 You can't have both together—word craft and deed craft.  
 So much as the gift of speech has gone on increasing,  
 So have *we* in the same degree been falling off in action.

## XXI

*'Tis not in human nature from all faults to be free,  
Yet make that thy ideal so far as it may be.*

*Strive each fault to diminish, yet ever be on guard,  
Lest in the flush of conquest Pride's Self should vanquish thee.*

## XXII

*Those who great deeds accomplish are wont to be tongue-tied,  
—Craft in BOTH speech and action to mortals is denied—*

*And as our Wordy Ocean flows onward to its flood,  
Our once great Sea of Action ebbs to a lower tide.*

### شرط قبول

ممکن ہے کہ جوہر کی نہ ہو قدر کہیں  
 پر قدر کہیں بغیر جوہر کے نہیں  
 عنبر کو نہ لیں مفت یہ امکان ہے، مگر  
 عنبر کی جگہ نہ لے گا کوئی سرگین

#### THE CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE

It is possible that worth may have no value somewhere ;  
 But value anywhere without worth there is none.

They refuse amber gratis—it may be,—but still  
 In lieu of amber no one will accept dried cowdung.<sup>1</sup>

طالب کو سوچ سمجھ کر پیر بنانا چاہئے  
 ہوں یا نہ ہوں پیر اہل عرفان و یقین  
 پر در ہے کہ طالب نہ ہوں نادان کہیں  
 گاہک کو ہے احتیاج چار آنکھوں کی  
 اور ایک کی بھی بیچنے والے کو نہیں

#### IT BEHOVES A 'SEEKER' TO BE WARY IN ADOPTING A SPIRITUAL GUIDE

Spiritual guides may be or not be men of knowledge and conviction;  
 The fear is lest the Seekers be rash in any way.

To a buyer there is sore need of two pair of eyes ;  
 And even of one eye there is no need to the seller.

<sup>1</sup> Such as is used for fuel in the East.

## XXIII

*Rare things may have no value when there is no demand,  
Yet worthless things can never a market-price command ;  
Dying, athirst, a miser might Golden Amber spurn,  
But men will never proffer gold coin for dirt or sand.*

## XXIV

*Choice of a Guide is ever a risky enterprise ;  
Saints may be more than simple and less than worldly-wise ;  
So be not overhasty but choose with wary eyes ;  
A seller MAY be sightless but never he who buys !*

عالم و جاہل میں کیا فرق ہے

ہیں جہل میں سب عالم و جاہل ہمسر  
 آتا نہیں فرق اس کے سوا اُن میں نظر  
 عالم کو ہے علم اپنی نادانی کا  
 جاہل کو نہیں جہل کی کچھہ اپنے خبر

WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS BETWEEN A WISE MAN AND A FOOL<sup>1</sup>

In ignorance all men, wise or foolish, are equal ;  
 No difference between them is perceptible save this :—  
 The wise man has knowledge of his own unwisdom ;  
 The fool of his ignorance has not the slightest notion.

موجودہ ترقی کا انجام

پرچھا جو کل انجام ترقی بشر  
 یاروں سے کہا پیڑ مغاں نے ہنس کر  
 باقی نہ رہیگا کوئی انسان میں عیب  
 ہوجائیں گے چہل چہلا کے سب عیب ہنر

THE GOAL OF MODERN PROGRESS

When yesterday they inquired the limit of man's progress,  
 'Mine host,' with a laugh, thus replied to my friends ;—  
 'There will not survive at last any fault in man ;  
 By paring and paring they will all become merits.'

<sup>1</sup> Or perhaps more literally, 'between a learned man and a dunce'.

## XXV

*Lo! Lettered or unlettered, no man is truly wise,  
 Yet twixt their common folly this difference doth arise :—  
 The Wise of his unwisdom is ever well aware,  
 The Fool his depths of folly can never realise.*

## XXVI

*When yesterday One questioned WHITHER Man's progress tends,  
 Mine Host with mirth responded to his assembled friends :  
 'Man will at last be perfect as each fault's sinfulness  
 Is stage by stage diminished and so as virtue ends.'*

مسرف کو کیونکر فراغت حاصل ہو سکتی ہے

اک منعم مسرف نے یہ عابد سے کہا

کر میرے لئے حق سے فراغت کی دعا

عابد نے کہا یہ ہاتھ اٹھا کر سوئے چرخ

محتاج کر اس کو جلد اے بار خدا

HOW SALVATION<sup>1</sup> MAY BE OBTAINED FOR A SPENDTHRIFT

A munificent spendthrift spoke thus to a pious man,

‘Utter on my behalf a prayer to God for my salvation<sup>1</sup>!’

The pious man raised his hands to heaven, and said,

‘Hasten, O God Almighty! Thy making this man a pauper.’

کام کی جلدی

یہاں رہنے کی مہلت کوئی کب پاتا ہے

آتا ہے اگر آج، تو کل جاتا ہے

جو کرنے ہیں کام اُن کو جلدی بہگتاؤ

طلبی کا پیام وہ چلا آتا ہے

DESPATCH OF BUSINESS

For waiting, in this world, when does any find respite ?

If to-day he is arriving, to-morrow he departs.

What things you have to do, accomplish them with speed ;

The missive for your summons is *there*!—coming towards you.

<sup>1</sup> Lit., ease—freedom from care.

## XXVII

*A Spendthrift to a Pious Man proffered an earnest plea,  
 ' Pray to God that he may grant salvation unto me !'  
 The holy man looked upward and straightway prayed this prayer,  
 ' Hasten, O God Almighty, and grant him poverty !'*

## XXVIII

*In this world's hurried sojourn none can afford delay,  
 Lo ! You must leave to-morrow who but arrived to-day,  
 The summons for your going, immutable, draws nigh,  
 Gird up your loins and hasten, accomplish while you may.*

## غرض

ہے نفس میں انساں کے جبلی یہ مرض  
 ہر سعی پہ ہوتا ہے طلبگار عوض  
 جو خاص خدا کے لئے تھے کام کئے  
 دیکھا تو نہاں اُنمیں بھی تھی کوئی غرض

## SELF-INTEREST

There is in the self of man, by nature, this disease,  
 That he seeks a compensation for each effort he makes ;  
 Deeds which I had done purely for God's sake—when I looked,  
 There was hidden in them even some selfish aim.

## انقلاب روزگار

بس بس کے ہزاروں گھر آجرتے جاتے ہیں  
 گزرتے کے علم لاکھوں آکھرتے جاتے ہیں  
 آج اس کی ہے ذوبت تو کل اُس کی باری  
 بن بن کے یونہیں کھیل بگرتے جاتے ہیں

## THE VICISSITUDES OF FORTUNE

Homes, peopled and peopled, are deserted—by thousands ;  
 Standards, fixed and fixed, are uprooted—by lakhs ;

If A booms to-day—to-morrow B has his turn ;  
 Thus game after game as soon as made is but marred.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lit., 'Games made and made are just so being marred.'

## XXIX

*The heart of Man, by nature, in some strange way is flawed,  
Whereby for every effort he seeketh a Reward ;  
E'en my deeds of Piety had, when I looked again,  
Hidden springs of selfishness that could not be ignored.*

## XXX

*Thousands of homes once teeming deserted stand to-day ;  
Standards that once were sacred, Mankind no longer sway ;  
To-day THIS one is Sultán, to-morrow THAT one rules ;  
Nothing is so enduring as to defy decay.*

## تقاضائے سن

حالی کو جو کل فسردہ خاطر پایا  
 پوچھا باعث تو ہنس کے یہ فرمایا  
 رکھو نہ اب اگلی صحبتوں کی اُمید  
 وہ وقت گڈے اب اور موسم آیا

## THE TYRANNY OF YEARS

When they found Háli yesterday coldhearted,—as they thought,  
 They inquired the reason:—he laughed and thus replied,  
 ‘Don’t cherish the hope, *now*, of those former socialities;  
 Those times have gone by; another season has arrived.’

جسکو زندگی کا بھروسہ نہیں وہ کوئی بڑا کم نہیں کر سکتا  
 دنیا کو ہمیشہ نقش فانی سمجھو  
 رو داد جہاں کو اک کہانی سمجھو  
 پر جب کرو آغاز کوئی کام بڑا  
 ہر سانس کو عمر جاودانی سمجھو

## A MAN WHO HAS NO TRUST IN LIFE CANNOT ACHIEVE ANY GREAT WORK

This commonplace world—you may call a fleeting picture;  
 All that happens in the universe—you may deem an idle tale:  
 But, when you set your purpose to any noble work,  
 Think every breath you draw to be life eternal.

## XXXI

*When changed his friends found Háli, lacking his former cheer,  
 They asked him for the reason :—he laughed, ‘ Friends gather near,  
 ‘ Those brave old days are ended, no more shall I carouse—  
 ‘ Past are my Spring and Summer, my Autumn days are here.’*

## XXXII

*This world may be a picture, but fleeting, transitory,  
 And all that therein happens an idle tale—may be,  
 But, he who would accomplish some noble task, worth-while,  
 Must feel that all his labours are for Eternity.*

۳۳

## آثار زوال

آبا کو زمین و ملک پر اطمینان  
 اولاد کو سستی پہ قذاحت کا گمان  
 بچے آوارہ اور بی-کار ج-وان  
 ہیں ایسے گھرانے کوئی دن کے مہمان

## SIGNS OF DECADENCE

The fathers—secure in their land and possessions ;  
 The sons—with a dream of contentment in indolence ;  
 The children running riot ; the young men doing nothing ;—  
 Such families are here only as ‘ guests of a few days ’.

۳۴

## شان ادبار

صحرا میں جو پایا ایک چٹیل میدان  
 برسات میں سبزہ کا نہ تھا جس پہ نشان  
 مایوس تھے جس کے جوتنے سے دھقان  
 یاد آئی ہمیں قوم کے ادبار کی شان

## THE TROPHIES OF REVERSE

In the desert when I came upon a bare bleak plain,  
 On which in the rains there was no sign of verdure,  
 Which the peasants had long ceased to have the heart to till,—  
 I thought on the trophies of reverse of my race.

## XXXIII

*Lo! Fathers without effort, secure in wealth and lands ;  
The sons content to idle and never soil their hands ;  
The children running riot, the young men without work,  
For families decaying full swift run out the sands.*

## XXXIV

*I chanced once in the desert upon a bare bleak plain,  
Whereon no verdure flourished, not even after rain,  
Where not a peasant laboured,—my thoughts turned sadly to  
My race once great, now sterile, to blossom ne'er again.*

۳۵

### علامت نفاق

ہر بزم میں آفریں کے لائق ہونا  
 شیریں سخنی سے شہد فائق ہونا  
 ممکن نہیں جب تک کہ نہ ہو دلمیں نفاق  
 آساں نہیں مقبول خلائق ہونا

#### THE DIAGNOSIS OF INSINCERITY

In every assemblage to win shouts of applause,  
 Through blandness of verbiage to become 'pure honey',  
 Is not possible,—until there be insincerity in the heart.  
 It is not an easy task, being popular with all men.

۳۶

مسلمانوں کی بے مہری  
 جب تک کہ نہو دشمن اخوان پکا  
 ہوتا نہیں مومن کا اب ایمان پکا  
 ہم قوم کی خیر مانگتے ہیں حق سے  
 سنتے ہیں کسی کو جب مسلمان پکا

#### THE UNCHARITABLENESS OF MUSALMANS

Not until he be a *thorough* enemy of our brothers,  
 Is the faith of a believer reckoned *thorough* nowadays.  
 I pray the Almighty to have pity on our race,  
 When I hear 'a thorough Musalman' said about any one.

## XXXV

*To win ALL men's acceptance and their respect retain,  
 With honeyed words to flatter and wide laudation gain  
 Is passing hard,—to do it needs insincerity,  
 Without which all your efforts will be but labour vain.*

## XXXVI

*Unless a son of Islám hates all of alien creed  
 His faith these days is suspect, suspect in word and deed,  
 So when I hear one lauded, 'True Musalman is he',  
 I pray again to Allah 'Have pity on our need'!*

۳۷

## مکرو ریا

حالی رہِ راست جو کہ چلتے ہیں سدا  
 خطرہ اُنہیں گرگ کا نہ در شیروں کا  
 لیکن اُن بیہیزروں سے واجب ہے حذر  
 بیہیزروں کے لباس میں ہیں جو جلوہ نما

## DECEIT AND HYPOCRISY

Háli ! Those who travel on the straight road always,  
 Incur no risk of wolves, nor terror of lions.  
 But vigilance is needed against those sheep-raveners,  
 Who make a fair appearance in the clothing of sheep.

۳۸

## جوہر قابلیت

ہیں بے ہنروں میں قابلیت کے نشاں  
 پوشیدہ ہیں وحشیوں میں اکثر انساں  
 عاری ہیں لباس تربیت سے ورنہ  
 ہیں طوسی و رازی انہیں شکلونمیں نہاں

## THE GERM OF POTENTIALITY

There are signs of capability in the wholly untaught ;  
 Disguised among savages are many human beings.  
 They are innocent of any garb of education ; otherwise  
 The learned Tusi and the Great Razi are hidden in *these* shapes.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Refers to Nasiruddin Tusi and Fakhruddin Razi—two well-known Arabic authors.

## XXXVII

*Háli! Those who travel straight and keep the road always  
Need have no fear of lions, nor any beast that preys ;*

*Yet be on guard, my brother, for there be wolves who lurk  
In the guise of peaceful sheep and raven in the ways.*

## XXXVIII

*Know! E'en in the unlettered there is ability  
And 'neath a rude exterior may lurk humanity.*

*Famous men of Tus or Raz, for all their vanity,  
But for their education mere savages would be.*

## علم

اے علم کیا ہے تو نے ملکوں کو نہال  
 غائب ہوا تو جہاں سے وہاں آیا زوال  
 اُن پر ہوئے غیب کے خزانے مفتوح  
 جن قوموں نے تہرایا تجھے راس المال

## KNOWLEDGE

O Knowledge! by thee have whole nations been enriched ;  
 From wherever thou has vanished, there has come decay ;  
 The treasures of the hidden world have been unlocked for those  
 Races who have established thee as their stock in trade.

## ایضاً

اے علم کلید گنج شادی تو ہے  
 سر چشمہ نعمات و ایادی تو ہے  
 آسائش دوجہاں ہے سایہ میں ترے  
 دنیا کا وسیلہ دین کا ہادی تو ہے

Thou, Knowledge! art the key to the storehouse of joy ;  
 Thou art a welling fountain of gifts and benefits ;  
 Rest in respect of both worlds is under thy shade ;  
 Thou art a means of subsistence here, and a guide to the hereafter.

## XXXIX

*Fair Wisdom ! By whose favour whole nations riches gain,  
While swift decay hath stricken those who Thy arts disdain ;  
Thou dost disclose the secrets of this World's treasure house  
To those far-sighted peoples who of Thy lore are fain.*

## XL

*Hail Wisdom ! Of joy's storehouse Thou art the magic key ;  
Of all delights the fountain, source of prosperity ;  
Rest Here and Rest Hereafter are found beneath Thy shade ;  
Provider in THIS Lifetime, Guide to the Life to Be.*

۴۱

علم

ۛ تجہ سے نہال جیسی مغرب کی زمیں  
 مشرق کو را فیض تجہ سے اے علم نہیں  
 شاید اے علم ماہِ نخب کی طرح  
 رہتی ہیں شعاعیں تری محدود وہیں

KNOWLEDGE

So rich as the region of the West is through thee,  
 Like bounty to the East from thee, O Knowledge! there is none.

Ah Knowledge! can it be that, like the moon of Nakhshab,<sup>1</sup>  
 Thy rays of light are *limited* to that one spot?

۴۲

خاندانی عزت

بیٹا نکلے نہ جب تلک ذلت سے  
 عزت نہیں اُس کو باپ کی عزت سے  
 سوچو تو ھے فضلہ کا نسب بھی عالی  
 پر اُسکو شرف نہیں کچھ اس نسبت سے

FAMILY HONOURS

Until a son free himself from baseness of his own,  
 He inherits no honour from his father's honour.

If you reflect—rubbish too has a lengthy pedigree,  
 But is not ennobled in the least by the connexion.

<sup>1</sup> The 'Veiled Prophet' of Khurásán, who claiming miraculous powers, pretended to make the moon rise from a well at Nakhshab. It is said that after his death a bowl of quicksilver was found at the bottom of the well. His opponents denounced the imposture on the ground that the semblance of the moon was always *at the full*, and always *in the same place*.

## XLI

*Full richly hast Thou dowered the Regions of the West,  
The East, alas! O Wisdom! Thou hast not likewise blest.*

*Can it be true, O Wisdom, Thou art like Nakhshab's Moon  
Which bathed one spot with radiance, in darkness left the rest?*

## XLII

*No son can from his father inherit any fame  
Until for his own efforts he can some merit claim;*

*E'en rubbish may inherit a lengthy pedigree,  
Yet that gives it no value—'Tis Rubbish all the same!'*

۴۳

عزت کس چیز میں ہے  
 دولت نے کہا مجھ سے ہے عزت ہے جہاں  
 فرمایا ہنسنے، میں ہوں، عزت کا نشاں  
 عزت بولی، غلط ہے دونوں کا بیاناں  
 میں بھید ہوں حق کا جو ہے نیکی میں نہاں

IN WHAT THING IS HONOUR

Wealth said, 'Wherever honour exists, it is from me.'

Culture affirmed, 'I am the true badge of honour.'

Then honour spoke, and said, 'The claim of each of you is wrong;  
 I am the secret of Eternal Truth which is hidden in Goodness.'

۴۴

توقع بیجا

ہیں یار رفیق، پر مصیبت میں نہیں  
 ساتھی ہیں عزیز لیک ذلت میں نہیں  
 اُس بات کی انسان سے توقع ہے عبث  
 جو نوع بشر کی خود جبلت میں نہیں

MISPLACED EXPECTATION

Our friends are good comrades—but not in adversity ;

Our relations stand by us—but not in disgrace ;

Vain is the expectation of that thing from a man,  
 Which is not in the nature of the species called mankind.

## XLIII

*Wealth said, 'Wherever honour exists, the meed is mine.'*

*Quoth Culture, 'Of all honour I am the badge and sign.'*

*Said Honour's Self, 'That secret I am which hidden lies  
'Deep down within all Goodness, Eternal Truth Divine.'*

## XLIV

*My friends are loyal comrades—save in adversity ;*

*Save in disgrace my brethren cleave closely unto me ;*

*Mankind is ever faithful UNTIL their faith is tried,  
So in that hour of trial expect not loyalty.*

۴۵

عقل اور دوستی متضاد ہیں  
 ہے عقل میں جس قدر کمی اور بیشی  
 آنڈی ہی مغائرت ہے یاں اور خویشی  
 وہ دوست نہیں جس نے کیا فکر مآل  
 ضدیں ہیں دوستی و دور اندیشی

#### REASON AND FRIENDSHIP ARE CONFLICTING TERMS

As far as the rise or fall extends in a man's reason,  
 So wide is the range of his estrangement and affection.

Who has thought of the consequence, is no longer a friend ;  
 Two mutual opposites are friendship and foresight.

۴۶

عیش و عشرت  
 عشرت کا ثمر تلخ سدا ہوتا ہے  
 ہر فقہرہ پیغام بکا ہوتا ہے  
 جس قوم کو عیش دوست پاتا ہونمیں  
 کہتا ہوں کہ اب دیکھئے کیا ہوتا ہے

#### WANTON SELF-INDULGENCE

The fruit of dissipation always becomes bitter ;  
 Each burst of laughter is but a forerunner of tears.

Whatever race I find given over to pleasure,  
 I say to myself, ' See now ! what is going to happen ? '

## XLV

*Fast as cold Reason waxes so true affection wanes,  
As much as it decreases so much affection gains.*

*Unworthy is that friendship which calculates the cost,  
Love that is worth the loving cold caution e'er disdains.*

## XLVI

*The fruits of dissipation turn bitter with the years,  
Wild joy's flamboyant laughter is followed oft by tears.*

*Woe to those purblind Peoples, who but for pleasure live,  
Whose Present holds no wisdom, whose Future holds no fears.*

## عیش و عشرت

اے عیش و طرب تو نے جہاں راج کیا  
 سلطان کو گدا غنی کو محتاج کیا  
 ویراں کیا تو نے نینوا اور بابل  
 بغداد کو قرطبہ کو تاراج کیا

## WANTON SELF-INDULGENCE

O riotous living! where thou hast had dominion,  
 Thou hast made the king a beggar, the wealthy man needy.  
 Thou madest a solitude of Babylon and Nineveh ;  
 Thou broughtest destruction upon Baghdad and Cordova.

## غیبت

ہے ہر اک بزم کی اب غیبت میں  
 بدگوئی خلق ہے ہر اک صحبت میں  
 اوروں کی برائی ہی پہ ہے فخر وہاں  
 خوبی کوئی باقی نہیں جس امت میں

## SLANDER

The éclat of every party, now, consists in slander ;  
 Backbiting God's creatures is the rule at every gathering.  
 It is only of others' foibles that a people can boast,  
 Who have not one excellence left within themselves.

## XLVII

*O foolish Dissipation ! Where'er Thy writ hath run  
Kings, cities, wealth, and greatness have vanished one by one.  
Through Thee Baghdad is fallen, Cordova is no more,  
Proud Nineveh a ruin, a desert Babylon.*

## XLVIII

*Lo ! Envy, Hatred, Malice, and all unkindliness  
Inform men's conversation with littlemindedness,  
Only each other's foibles can interest some folk,  
When not one single virtue do they themselves possess.*

۴۹

## عشق

اے عشق کیا تو نے گھرانوں کو تباہ  
 پیروں کو خراب اور جوانوں کو تباہ  
 دیکھا ہے سدا سلامتی میں تیری  
 قوموں کو ذلیل، خاندانوں کو تباہ

## PASSIONATE LOVE

O Love! thou hast caused whole households to be ruined ;  
 Old men to be dotards ; and young men to be ruined ;  
 In thy felicitations evermore I have seen  
 Nations brought low, and long lineages ruined.

۵۰

## سبب زوال سلطنت

دیکھو جس سلطنت کی حالت درہم  
 سمجھو کہ وہاں ہے کوئی برکت کا قدم  
 یا تو کوئی بیگم ہے مشیر دولت  
 یا ہے کوئی مولوی وزیر اعظم

## HOW A GOVERNMENT LOSES VIGOUR

When you see the affairs of any kingdom upside down,  
 You may take it that the footfall of some *Godsend* is upon it.  
 Either there is some *lady* a privy councillor of state :—  
 Or else the prime minister is some *learned professor*.

## XLIX

*O all-absorbing Passion! What homes Thou hast betrayed,  
 What old men rendered foolish, what young men crazy made!  
 Yea, Thy unbridled worship has brought great nations low,  
 Proud pedigrees has tarnished or in abasement laid.*

## L

*In the affairs of nations if there should be some flaw,  
 Seek ye the hidden canker that gnaweth at the core.  
 May be some lovely woman who doth the reins usurp,  
 Or some crank's facile theories which facts as facts ignore.*

## دین و دنیا کا رشتہ

دنیا کو دیئے دیں نے اسرار و حکم  
 دنیا نے کمر دیں کی تھامی جس دم  
 گر دیں کی ممنون بہت ہے دنیا  
 دنیا کے بھی احسان نہیں دیں پہ کم

### THE RELATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Religion gave the world revelation and guidance,  
 What time the world supported the loins of religion.  
 If the world owes religion a heavy debt of gratitude,  
 On religion too her owings to the world are not light.

## آزادگان راستباز کی تکفیر

یاروں میں نہ پایا جب کوئی عیب و گناہ  
 کافر کہا واعظ نے انہیں اور گمراہ  
 جھوٹے کو نہیں ملتی شہادت جسوقت  
 لاتا ہے خدا کو اپنے دعوے پہ گواہ

### IMPUTING INFIDELITY TO HONEST (AND RIGHTEOUS) FREE-THINKERS

Though he found in my friends nothing blameworthy or sinful,  
 The preacher denounced them as 'Infidels' and 'Lost souls'.

When evidence is wanting to a false accuser,  
 He dares to name 'God' as a witness to his charge.

*LI*

*So long as Men supported the pillars of their creed,  
Religion gave them wisdom and guidance in their need.*

*Though deep debts TO Religion are owing FROM Mankind,  
Yet to Mankind Religion owes gratitude indeed.*

*LII*

*Though in my friends the Preacher found neither sin nor shame,  
As ' Infidels ' and ' Lost Souls ' he lashed them just the same :*

*For lack of other witness how oft these zealous men,  
To justify their charges, will dare to use God's name !*

۵۳

بے پروائی اور بے غیرتی  
 اسباب پہ گر نظم جہاں کا ہے مدار  
 اُس قوم کا چیٹنا ہے حالی دشوار  
 عزت کی نہیں ہے جس کو ہرگز پروا  
 ذلت سے نہیں ہے جس کو ہرگز کچھ عار

#### APATHY AND COMPLACENCY

If the order of the Universe depends upon motives,  
 It is hard work, O Hali! to arouse that race,  
 Which cares not for its honour in the very least degree,  
 And takes not the least degree of shame from its disgrace.

۵۴

عفو باوجود قدرت انتقام  
 موسیٰ نے یہ کی عرض کہ اے بار خدا  
 مقبول ترا کون ہے بندوں میں سوا  
 ارشاد ہوا بندہ ہمارا وہ ہے  
 جو لے سکے، اور نہ لے بدی کا بدلا

#### FORGIVENESS WITH A PRESENT POWER OF REVENGE

Moses uttered this thought, ' O God Almighty !  
 Who most of all Thy servants, is accepted by Thee ?'  
 There issued the instruction, ' My servant is he,  
 Who can take, and will not take, revenge for injury.'

## LIII

*If there must be 'high purpose' for progress to take place,  
 Hard must thou labour, Háli, to elevate that Race  
 Which cares not for its honour, regards not its decline,  
 Nor feels the least iota of shame for its disgrace.*

## LIV

*Moses prayed, 'Almighty One, make Thou Thy pleasure plain,  
 Who foremost of Thy servants Thy favour will obtain?'  
 There issued the commandment, 'Lo, favoured shall he be,  
 Who, 'though occasion offers, doth from revenge abstain.'*

سختی کا جواب نرمی ہے  
 فتنہ کو جہاں تلک ہو دیجے تسکیں  
 زہر آگلے کوئی تو کیجے باتیں شیریں  
 غصہ غصے کو اور بہڑکاتا ہے  
 اس عارضہ کا علاج بالمثل نہیں

#### THE ANSWER TO HARSHNESS IS MILDNESS

So far as may be, treat a ' mischief ' discreetly ;  
 If any one spit poison at you, give him words of nectar.  
 Anger only makes anger flare up more fiercely ;  
 In this disease, *similibus similia* Non curantur.

#### ہمت

تیمور نے اک مورچہ زیر دیوار  
 دیکھا کہ چڑھا دانے کو لیکر سو بار  
 آخر سر بام لیکے پھنچا تو کہا  
 مشکل نہیں کوئی پیش ہمت دشوار

#### COURAGE

Tamurlane watched a tiny ant under a wall  
 Crawl upwards a hundred times with one grain of corn ;  
 At last it reached the top with the grain ; then he said,  
 ' No arduous exploit is impossible to courage.'

*LV*

*Let not Despite nor Malice ever disquiet thee,  
Confront abuse and slander with honeyed suavity.*

*High words but fan the fire ; recrimination shun,  
Remember, 'Ne'er for anger was anger remedy.'*

*LVI*

*Once Tamurlane was watching an ant climb up a wall  
An hundred times essaying an hundred times to fall ;*

*At last it gained the summit ; then cried out Tamurlane,  
'Lo, true and steadfast courage can dare, accomplish, all.'*

۵۷

## کم ہمتی

جبریہ و قدریہ کی بحث و تکرار  
 دیکھا تو نہ تھا کچھ اس کا مذہب پہ مدار  
 جو کم ہمت تھے ہو گئے وہ مجبور  
 جو با ہمت تھے بن گئے وہ مختار

COWARDICE

Those endless disputes about Fate and Freewill<sup>1</sup>,—  
 When I looked at them, I found they do not hinge on any *creed*.  
 Those men who were cowardly have always yielded to fate,  
 And those possessed of courage have exercised free will.

۵۸

## پشیمانی

انجام ہے جو کفر کی طغیانی کا  
 ثمرہ ہے وہی غفلت و نادانی کا  
 لذت سے ندامتوں کی جانا ہمنے  
 دوزخ بھی ہے اک نام پشیمانی کا

REMORSE

What comes in the end to overweening unbelief,  
 That same is the fruit of mere neglect and ignorance.  
 I have learnt from the bitter taste of many contritions,  
 That 'Hell' is but a name for what we call Remorse.

<sup>1</sup> Lit., 'between the fatalist and the believer in free will'.

## LVII

*We prate of 'Fate' and 'Freewill'—bethink ourselves so wise,—  
Yet no Law doth enjoin them and no Creed sanctifies.*

*Cowards have always sheltered behind the plea of 'Fate',  
While those possessed of courage their 'Freewill' exercise.*

## LVIII

*Remorse, the certain guerdon of those who have no creed,  
Remorse, the fruit they garner who neither care nor heed,*

*Remorse, exceeding bitter, which I so oft have known,  
Remorse, the unavailing,—Remorse is 'Hell' indeed.*

تاسف پر وفات نواب ضیاء الدین احمد خان مرحوم نیر تخلص دہلوی

قمری ہے نہ طاؤس نہ کبک طنّاز  
آتے ہی خزاں کے کرگئے سب پرواز  
تھی باغ کی یادگار اک بلبّل زار  
سو اُس کی بھی کل سے نہیں آتی اواز

A LAMENT ON THE DEATH OF THE LATE NAWÁB ZIYÁ-ÜDDIN  
AHMAD KHÁN (KNOWN AS 'NAIYAR') OF DELHI

No turtle dove,—no peacock,—no mocking chakor,—  
These all took their flight at the first approach of Autumn.  
One token of the Spring lingered—the plaintive nightingale ;  
And *his* voice, since yesterday, is audible no more.

۶۰

تاسف

غالب ہے نہ شیفتہ نہ نیر باقی  
وحشت ہے نہ سالک ہے نہ انور باقی  
حالی اب انہیں کو بزم یاراں سمجھو  
یاروں کے جو کچھہ داغ ہیں دل پر باقی

Not Ghálib, nor Shefta, nor Naiyar remain ;  
Not Wahshat, nor Sálík, nor does Anwar remain ;  
Now must you accept, Háli ! for that circle of friends,  
Those scars upon your heart, which will for ever remain.

## LIX

*Birds, whose songs made music in the dawning of the year  
 All spread their wings and vanished when Autumn mists drew near,  
 That plaintive Nightingale alone remained to us of Spring,  
 But now His voice of silver we shall no longer hear.*

## LX

*Ghálíb, Shefta are taken—Naiyar comes not again  
 Wahshat, Sálík and Anwar—You look for them in vain—  
 Háli! Your band of brothers, alas! are gone—although  
 The scars they've left will ever upon your heart remain.*

## محنت

محنت ہی کے پہل ہیں یہاں ہر اک دامن میں  
 محنت ہی کی برکتیں ہیں ہر خرمن میں  
 موسیٰ کو ملی نہ قوم کی جو پانی  
 جب تک نہ چرائیں بکریاں مدین میں

## LABOUR

What fruit is in each lap, is the fruit of labour here,  
 And all that is harvested are God's blessings on labour ;<sup>1</sup>  
 To be ' Shepherd of his people ' was not given to Moses,  
 Until he had tended goats in the land of Midian.

## ترغیب گدائی

اک مرد توانا کو جو سائل پایا  
 کی میں نے ملامت اور بہت شرمایا  
 بولا کہ ھے اسکا انکی گردن پہ وبال  
 دے دے کے جڑھوں نے مانگنا سکھلایا

## INCITEMENT TO BEGGARY

A sturdy young man, whom I once found begging,  
 Was sharply reproved by me, and put to open shame.  
 Then said he, ' The plague of this hangs on their necks,  
 Who taught me to beg, by always giving when I asked. '

<sup>1</sup> Lit., ' The fruits of labour only are in each skirt (held up to contain them); blessings (of God) on labour only are in each garner. '

## LXI

*No harvest has been garnered save that which toil has sown—  
 No harvest e'er is blessed that labourless has grown—  
 'The Shepherd of his people' e'en Moses ne'er became,  
 'Till in the land of Midian he herded goats—alone.*

## LXII

*I once reproved a beggar who alms of me did claim  
 In that, 'though young and lusty, he begged and had no shame—  
 Said he, 'Reprove the Foolish whose misplaced charity  
 'Encourages all beggars—not unto us the blame.'*

۶۳

تکفیر اہل اسلام

کہنا فقہا کا مومنوں کو بے دین  
 سنتے سنتے یہ ہو گیا ہم کو یقیں  
 مومن سے ضرور ہوگا مرتد میں سوال  
 تکفیر بھی کی تھی فقہا نے کہ نہیں

## IMPUTING INFIDELITY TO MUSLIMS

From hearing so often raised against true believers  
 The schoolmen's cry, 'Unorthodox,' we are now convinced of this :—  
 Undoubtedly a Muslim will be asked in his grave,  
 'Did the *Schoolmen* denounce you as an Infidel or not.'

۶۴

ترک عاشقانہ گوئی

کچھ قوم کی ہم سے سوگوارے سن لو  
 کچھ چشم جہاں میں اپنی خواری سن لو  
 افسانہ قیس و کوہکن یاد نہیں  
 چاہو تو کتھا ہم سے ہماری سن لو

## ADIEU TO LOVERS' TALK

Some word of the people's ills from us you will hear ;  
 Some word of our fall in men's esteem you will hear ;  
 Romances of Qais and Kohkan<sup>1</sup> we have forgotten ;  
 If you want one—from *us*—our own tale you will hear.

<sup>1</sup> Qais, better known by his title Majnún (the distracted), was the lover of Laila, celebrated in Arabic poetry. Kohkan (the rockhewer) is the title of Farhád, the lover of Shirin, celebrated among the Persians.

*LXIII*

*So oft 'gainst true believers we hear the Zealots cry :  
 'Unorthodox !' (for bigots are hard to satisfy)*

*It almost seems that Muslims even when laid to rest  
 Their earthly Orthodoxy will have to justify.*

*LXIV*

*We talk of 'Social evils'—the 'People's woes' bemoan—  
 Of reputations tarnished (especially our own)—*

*Romance and tales romantic thrill and delight no more—  
 The starkest Realism now holds the field—alone.*

## تنزل اہل اسلام

پستی کا کوئی حد سے گزرنا دیکھ  
اسلام کا گر کر نہ ابھرنا دیکھ  
مانے نہ کبھی کہ مدھے ہر جزر کے بعد  
دریا کا ہمارے جو آنا دیکھ

### THE FALL OF THE PEOPLE OF ISLÁM

Would anyone see humiliation transgressing her limits ?  
Let him look at Islám, not lifting her head after falling.  
That high tide follows low tide, he would never admit,  
Who should watch the ebbing wave of this ocean of ours.

اول کوشش اور بعد دعا  
کوشش میں ہے شرط ابتدا انساں سے  
پھر چاہئے مانگنی مدد یزداں سے  
جیتک کہ نہ کام دست و بازو سے لیا  
پائی نہ نجات نوح نے طوفان سے

### EFFORT FIRST AND PRAYER NEXT

In effort lies the first pledge of success for any man ;  
And next he ought to pray for help from the Almighty.  
It was not until he used hand and arm that Noah  
Obtained the boon of rescuing his race from the deluge.

## LXV

*If you would see the limits to which Decline can go—  
 Regard the lot of Islám—that proud head fallen low—  
 And, seeing, who would credit that every tide must turn?  
 That so complete an ebb-tide will turn again and flow?*

## LXVI

*FIRST labour to your utmost if you would aught attain—  
 THEN pray for God's assistance lest labour be in vain—  
 When menaced by the Deluge, his Race in peril stayed  
 'Till Noah's self wrought greatly with his stout hand and brain.*

کلم کرنا جان کے ساتھ ہے  
 ھ جان کے ساتھ کام انساں کے لئے  
 بگتی نہیں زندگی میں بے کام کئے  
 جیتے ہو تو کچھہ کیجئے زندگی کی طرح  
 مردوں کی طرح جئے تو کیا خاک جئے

TO BE WORKING AGREES WITH MAN'S VITALITY

Work is indispensable to Life for all human kind ;

No zest is in living save with some work being done.

You live ?—then be doing something to show you are alive ;  
 What death in life have they, who have lived like corpses ?

جھوٹی نمائش

ہیں جھوٹ کے سچ میں سب سمونے والے  
 بڈھے والوں سے کم ہیں ہونے والے  
 گہریاں رھتی ہیں جن کی جیبوں میں مدام  
 اکثر ہیں وہی وقت کے کھرنے والے

FALSE SHOW

All persons are apt to dilute truth with fiction ;

Men being anything are rarer than those who pretend to be.

Those people in whose pockets watches ever dwell  
 Are often precisely those who most waste their time.

## LXVII

*For Life work is essential the while Thou draweth breath—  
There is no zest in living unless Thou labouresth—*

*So while Thou live'st be doing and show Thou art alive—  
For those whose lives are lifeless but live a living-death.*

## LXVIII

*Men oft the Truth embroider with 'Fiction fancy free'—  
And able men are rarer than those who feign to be—*

*Those men who count the hours, and mark each minute flown,  
Are just the men who squander their time most wastefully.*

چند عیب بہت سی خوبیوں کو نہیں مٹا سکتے  
 موجود ہنر ہوں ذات میں جس کی ہزار  
 بدظن نہ ہو، عیب اسمیں اگر ہوں دوچار  
 طوائس کے پائے زشت پر کر کے نظر  
 کر حسن و جمال کا نہ اُس کے انکار

A FEW DEFECTS CANNOT OBLITERATE MANY EXCELLENCES

If a thousand fine qualities are patent in a man,  
 Do not grudge your esteem to him for one or two defects.

Because your eye has fallen on the peacock's ugly legs,  
 You must not deny the grace and splendour of his beauty.

سکوت درویش جاہل  
 مصروف جو یوں وظیفہ خوانی میں ہیں آپ  
 خیر اپنی سمجھتے بے زبانی میں ہیں آپ  
 بولیں کچھ منہ سے یا نہ بولیں حضرت  
 معلوم ہے ہمکو جتنے پانی میں ہیں آپ

THE TACITURNITY OF AN IGNORANT DERVISH

So deeply engrossed upon your text is Your Honour,  
 Silence is your safest course :—so thinks Your Honour ?

Open your mouth, and speak ;—or do not speak—Your Highness !  
 I have my own gauge of the depth of Your Honour.

## LXIX

*If with a thousand virtues a man should be endowed  
 Let not some trifling defect your judgement of him cloud—  
 If in the Peacock's beauty your eye some blemish finds  
 Are all his grace and splendour no credit then allowed?*

## LXX

*Dig down into your Korán—deep—deep,—O Holy One!—  
 Silence perhaps is safest—it keep, O Holy One!—  
 Open your mouth, or close it—what matters it to me  
 Who hold you and your knowledge so cheap, O Holy One!*

ملحدوں کا طعن مسلمانوں پر  
 کہتا تھا کل اک منکر قرآن و خبر  
 کیا لیس گے یہ اہل قبلہ باہم لڑ کر  
 کچھ دم ہے تو میدان میں آئیسی ورنہ  
 کتا بھی ہے شیر اپنی گلی کے اندر

THE REPROACH OF UNBELIEVERS AGAINST MUSALMÁNS

A scoffer of Holy writ<sup>1</sup> was saying yesterday,  
 'What will these men of the Qibla get, squabbling among themselves?  
 If they have courage, let them come into the open;—otherwise  
 Any dog too is a lion, inside his own lane.'

دھری کا الزام گورپرست پر  
 اک گورپرست نے یہ دھری سے کہا  
 ہوگا نہ شقی کوئی جہاں میں تجھ سا  
 دھری نے کہا کہ کیا خدا کا منکر  
 آس سے بھی گیا، کہ جس کے لاکھوں ہوں خدا

THE MATERIALIST'S RETORT UPON AN IDOL WORSHIPPER

A worshipper of graves spoke thus to a materialist,  
 'There will not be a reprobate in the world like thee.'  
 The materialist said, 'What! Is any denier of God  
 More far gone than one who may have lakhs of little gods?'

<sup>1</sup> Lit., 'of the Qur-án and (recorded) tradition!'

## LXXI

*A scoffer of the Korán was saying yesterday  
 Why do these Priests in squabbles fritter their strength away?  
 Let them take heed,—and courage,—or else they'll find each lane  
 Will hail some dog as 'Lion', and cower'neath HIS sway.*

## LXXII

*A worshipper of Idols cursed One who did deny  
 That ANY God existed—the latter made reply :  
 'Think you that man more evil who owns no God—or he  
 Who little Gods in thousands doth praise and glorify.'*

دانا کا حال نادانوں میں

کیا فرق، سماعت نہ ہو جب کانوں میں  
 دانائی کی باتوں میں اور انسانیوں میں  
 غربت میں ہے اجنبی مسافر جس طرح  
 دانا کا یہی حال ہے نادانوں میں

THE PLIGHT OF A WISE MAN AMONG FOOLS

What difference—if the ears have no sense of hearing—  
 Between the words of wisdom, and old wives tales ?

Strange as a pilgrim in a land far from his home,—  
 Just so is the plight of any wise man among fools.

رفارم کی حد

دھونے کی ہے اے رفاہی جا باقی  
 کپڑے پہ ہے جب تلک کہ دھبا باقی  
 دھو شوق سے دھبے کو پہ اتنا نہ رگڑ  
 دھبا رہے کپڑے پہ، نہ کپڑا باقی

THE LIMIT OF REFORM

For washing, O reformer ! there is good reason left,  
 So long as any stain upon the cloth is still left ;

Wash the stain with a will :—but do not rub so hard  
 That no stain upon the cloth—and *no cloth* be left.

## LXXIII

*Those without understanding no difference can see  
 Betwixt the words of wisdom and crass stupidity—  
 No pilgrim feels more lonely exiled in foreign lands  
 Than does a wise man stranded with fools for company.*

## LXXIV

*For washing—O Reformer!—so long as any stain  
 Is left, you have good reason—wash then with might and main—  
 Yet have a care when washing, from over zeal refrain  
 Lest when the stain has vanished no fabric doth remain.*

اپنی تعریف سنکر ناک چڑھانا  
 تعریف سے کھل جاتے ہیں ناداں فی الفور  
 داناؤں کے لیکن نہیں ہرگز یہ طور  
 ہوتے ہیں بہت وہ مدح سنکر ناخوش  
 مقصود یہ ہے کہ ہو ستائش کچھ اور

#### CONTEMPT OF ADMIRATION

Fools grin with delight at any praise forthwith ;  
 But such is not by any means the way of wise men.  
 When *they* hear their praises, they are greatly displeas'd ;—  
 They *want something better* in the way of commendation.<sup>1</sup>

حسن ظن اصل حال نہیں کھلنے دینا  
 صوفی کو کسی نے آزمایا ہی نہیں  
 نیکی میں شک اُسکی کوئی لایا ہی نہیں  
 ہو سکے رائج میں بھی شاید کچھ کھوت  
 پر اُس کو کسی نے یہاں تپایا ہی نہیں

#### A GOOD OPINION DOES NOT LET THE REAL TRUTH REVEAL ITSELF

The Soofee (may be perfect, but) no one has ever tried him ;  
 No one has ever dared to hint a doubt of his goodness.

There may be in current coin too, perchance, some alloy,  
 But no one has ever tested it as yet in this country.

<sup>1</sup> The word 'aur' may mean 'more' or 'different'.

## LXXV

*The Fool doth welcome praises and greets them with delight,  
 Whereas the wise man scorns them—knowing them cheap and trite,—  
 By vain and empty praises they merely are displeas'd  
 Who look for something better as being theirs by right.*

## LXXVI

*A Soofee may be perfect—but none have ever tried  
 Him out, and so his goodness hath never been denied ;  
 There MAY in current coinage some base alloy be found  
 'Though no one in this country that fact has verified.*

دینداروں کی برائیاں دین کو عیب لگاتی ہیں  
 پاتے ہیں زبوں جو حال اہل اسلام  
 اسلام پہ طعنہ زن ہیں اقوام تمام  
 بد پرہیزی سے اپنی بگڑے بیمار  
 اور مفت میں ہو گیا مسیحا بدنام

THE MISDEEDS OF BELIEVERS BRING THEIR RELIGION INTO DISREPUTE

When they see the sorry plight of believers in Islám,  
 All nations of the world cry shame on the religion.  
 By their own intemperance the sick lost their health,  
 And lightly the Healer (of creation) was blamed.

فکر عقبیٰ

منزل ہے بعید، باندھ لو زاد سفر  
 موج ہے بحر، رکھو کشتی کی خبر  
 گاہک چوکس ہے، لے چلو مال کہرا  
 ہلکا کرو بوجھ، ہے کٹھن راہ گزر

REFLECTIONS ON THE LATTER END

The haven is far off :—gird on food for the journey !  
 The sea is boisterous :—look well to your vessel !  
 The purchaser is keen :—let the goods you take be pure !  
 And make your load light !—for the course is full of toil.

## LXXVII

*When men of alien Nations see Islám's sorry plight  
Contempt of our religion it doth in them incite—*

*If we be sick the censure must lie upon OURSELVES,  
None can 'Creation's Healer' for our disease indict.*

## LXXVIII

*Lo! Far off is the Haven—full well provision thee!  
Staunch, taut must be thy vessel—for stormy is the sea!*

*The Purchaser is shrewd—beware! pure be thy merchandise!  
The way is long and toilsome—light let thy burthen be!*

## انسان کی حقیقت

ممکن ہے کہ ہو جائے فرشتہ انسان  
 ممکن ہے ، بدی کا نہ رہے اسمیں نشان  
 ممکن تو ہے سب کچھ ، یہ حقیقت یہ ہے  
 انسان ہے اب تک وہی قرن الشیطان

### THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

It is possible, that a man may become like an Angel ;  
 It is possible, that no spot should remain in him of evil ;  
 Yes, all things are possible ;—but the truth is this :  
 Man up to this day remains the same ‘ *ally of Satan* ’.

## سلاطین کا عشق

ہرچند برا ہے عشق کا سب کے مآل  
 پر حق میں ہے شاہوں کے خصوصاً بد فال  
 سلطان ہے اگر ظل الہی ، تو عشق  
 ہے ظل الہی کے لئے وقت زوال

### THE LOVE AFFAIRS OF KINGS

Though the issue of all men’s lovemaking is evil,  
 Where kings are concerned, it is especially disastrous ;  
 If a king is rightly named ‘ *God’s shadow* ’, then Love  
 Is the ‘ *hour of abridgement* ’ for that ‘ *shadow of God* ’.

## LXXIX

*To an angelic nature Man MAY at length attain—  
 Divested of all evil—all spotless, free from stain—*

*Such things MAY be, but sadly we cannot but confess :  
 ‘Mankind was ever evil, and evil doth remain.’*

## LXXX

*From each man’s lustful passions some evil must ensue  
 But when a Sultán lusteth this is more surely true—*

*He who is named ‘God’s Shadow’ must, sinning, realise  
 That as his stature lessens God’s Shadow lessens too.*

## وقت کی مسعدت

اے وقت بگڑ کا ہے سب کے چارا  
 پر تجھ سے بگڑنے کا نہیں ہے یارا  
 ہو جائے گر ایک تو ہمارا ساتھ ہی  
 پھر غم نہیں پھر جائے زمانہ سارا

### THE COLLABORATION OF TIME

O Time! there is a cure for the ill will of all things,  
 But no power of resistance in quarrelling with thee.  
 Should thou alone prove thyself to be on my side,  
 Thenceforward, I care not if the whole world turn from me.

## پرہاڑے میں موت کے لئے تیار رہنا چاہئے

کی طاعت نفس میں بہت عمر بسر  
 انجام کی رکھی نہ جوانی میں خبر  
 کیفیت شب اٹھا چکے، اب حالی  
 مجلس کرو برخاست، اہوا وقت سحر

### IN OLD AGE ONE SHOULD KEEP ONESELF PREPARED FOR DEATH

In the service of self we have allowed years to pass ;  
 And during our youth kept no count of the end.

We've had our full measure of the night ;—now, Hâli !  
 Break up the entertainment ! The time has come of dawn.

## LXXXI

*O Time! Thou art resistless—I can some cure contrive  
 For other ills—but 'gainst Thee how can I hope to strive?  
 If Thou wouldst but support me then I should be carefree,  
 Though all the world turned from me yet I should still survive.*

## LXXXII

*In Self's own selfish service the years of Youth have passed—  
 Nor recked we of the ending—'though that MUST come at last!  
 The joyous hours of Darkness are ending—O my friends!  
 Cease from vain Merry-making—The Dawn is breaking fast!*

۸۳

دولت میں ثابت قدم رہنا بہت مشکل ہے  
 قر ہے کہ پرتے نہ ہاتھ دل سے دھونا  
 زردار ذرا سوچ سمجھ کر ہونا  
 جس طرح کہ سونے کی کسوٹی ہے محک  
 ہے جوہر انساں کی کسوٹی سونا

IN WEALTH IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO KEEP A FIRM FOOTING

Dread is, lest despair of your own heart should befall you ;  
 Take heed to yourself a little, ere you grow rich.<sup>1</sup>

For like as the touchstone is a sure test of gold,  
 So gold is the test of what is sterling in a man.

۸۴

حد سے زیادہ غصہ قابل عفو ہے  
 غصہ پہ کسی کے غصہ آتا ہے وہیسی  
 جب تک کہ رہے وہ عقل و دانش کے قریں  
 آپ سے جب اپنے ہو گیا تو باہر  
 پھر کس سے ہوں آزردہ، کہ تو توہی نہیں

ANGER BEYOND BOUNDS HAS CLAIMS TO FORGIVENESS

My anger is provoked by another's anger only  
 So long as he keeps within the bounds of common sense.

When you have yourself become outside of yourself,  
 With whom should I be vexed? You are no longer you.

<sup>1</sup> Lit., '(It is good) to become rich (*only*) after having reflected and understood (*yourself*) a little.'

## LXXXIII

*As wealth is e'er a danger—before thou art possessed  
 Of wealth, reflect—remember—'to know thyself' is best—  
 As Gold's test is the touchstone—so whether man may be  
 Sterling or Base the touchstone of Gold will be the test.*

## LXXXIV

*My friends, when out of reason you let your anger burn,  
 I strive to curb my anger nor blaze up in return—  
 With WHOM should I be angry?—For YOU are not yourselves—  
 Are not my erstwhile comrades—my friends for whom I yearn !*

سفہا کی مدح و ذم

+

کرتے ہیں سفیہ گر مذمت تیری  
 کر شکر کہ ثابت ہوئی عصمت تیری  
 پر، مدح کریں وہ گر (نصیب اعدا)  
 رکھ یاد کہ اچھی نہیں حالت تیری

THE PRAISE AND BLAME OF THE IGNORANT

When mean people are abusing all you do,  
 Give thanks to God, for then your innocence is proved.  
 But if, by any bad luck, they sing your praises,  
 Take heed, that your state is the reverse of what is good.

مرضِ پیری لا علاج ہے

اب ضعف کے پنچہ سے نکلنا معلوم  
 پیری کا جوانی سے بدلنا معلوم  
 کہوئی ہے وہ چیز جس کا پانا ہے محال  
 آتا ہے وہ وقت جس کا تلنا معلوم

THE DISEASE OF OLD AGE IS INCURABLE

Escape from the grip of weakness now is—you know.  
 Exchanging an old age for youth is—you know.  
 We have lost that thing, which to find is impossible ;  
 That hour approaches, which to shun<sup>1</sup> is—you know.

<sup>1</sup> Lit., ' of which the being shunned '.

## LXXXV

*If mean folk should abuse thee—thank God and be content—  
Abuse from such-like people is e'er a compliment—*

*But if ill-chance attend thee so that they sing thy praise,  
Take heed—praise from such people is but disparagement.*

## LXXXVI

*You know how far from weakness we can escape contrive—  
You know how far our old age we can to Youth revive—*

*You know what we are missing—that which we may not find—  
You know THAT hour approaches and how far we can strive!*

## اسراف

مصرف نہ بس اپنے حق میں کانتے ہوئیس  
 نعمت نہ خدا کی رایگاں یوں کھوئیس  
 گر بخل پہ لوگ آنکے ہنسیس، بہترھے  
 آس سے کہ فضولیوں پہ آن کی روئیس

## INORDINATE EXPENDITURE

Would the open handed not, simply, sow thorns for themselves,  
 They must not squander recklessly the wealth God has given.

Suppose people should laugh at their meanness ;—that is better  
 Than that any should weep over their extravagances.

## رد سوال

یہ سچھے کہ مانگنا خطاھے نہ صواب  
 زیبا نہیں سائل پہ مگر قہر و عتاب  
 بدترھے ہزار بار اے دوس ہمت  
 سائل کے سوال سے ترا تلخ جواب

## SPURNING A PETITION

True it is, that begging is a fault :—not a virtue ;  
 But fierce denunciation of a beggar is not seemly,  
 Worse, a thousand times worse, O mean spirited man !  
 Than the cry of any beggar, is thy bitter response.

## LXXXVII

*If you would shun the evils of spending lavishly  
 Then guard the wealth God gave you—nor squander recklessly—  
 Heed not if men deride you—e'en that were better than  
 That men should dub you 'Spendthrift' for spending heedlessly.*

## LXXXVIII

*'Though begging be no virtue—yet, howso' true this be,  
 To vilify the beggar but ill beseemeth Thee—  
 For worse—far worse, O Miser! than any beggar's cries  
 Are Thy denunciations born of cupidity.*

کھانا بغیر بھوک کے مزا نہیں دیتا  
 کھانے تو بہت میسر آئے ہیں ہمیں  
 جو دیکھ کے، چکھ کے، دل سے بھائے ہیں ہمیں  
 پر سب سے لذیذ تھے وہ کھانے اسے بھوک  
 جو تو نے کبھی کبھی کھلائے ہیں ہمیں

FOOD WITHOUT HUNGER GIVES NO DELIGHT

Many a dainty dish has been served to me unsought,  
 Which, when I saw and tasted it, has pleased me from my heart.  
 But sweeter by far than all, were those meals, O Hunger!  
 Which thou hast, from time to time, caused me to enjoy.

علم و عمل کا سرمایہ مال و دولت سے بہتر ہے  
 چھوڑ کر کہیں جلد مال و دولت کا خیال  
 مہمان کوئی دن کے ہیں دولت ہو کہ مال  
 سرمایہ کرو وہ جمع جس کو نہ کبھی  
 اندیشہ فوٹ ہو نہ ہو خوف زوال

LEARNING AND CONDUCT ARE A BETTER CAPITAL THAN  
 WEALTH AND GRANDEUR

Dismiss your ideals of wealth and grandeur betimes ;  
 For grandeur and wealth alike are mere 'guests of a day'.  
 But heap up a store of that, to which may never come  
 Any prospect of perishing, nor danger of decay.

## LXXXIX

*Of dishes rare and dainty full many have I seen  
Before me set, and savouring full satisfied have been—  
But sweeter far—O Hunger! was that far simpler fare  
To which your vivid presence added enjoyment keen.*

## XC

*All dreams of wealth and grandeur cast you, betimes, away  
For, know you, wealth and grandeur are 'Guests but of a day'—  
Then garner you those treasures that will for aye endure,  
Unvexed by time, or fortune, or danger of decay.*

اچھوں کو بُرا سُننے میں بھی مزہ اُتا ہے  
 رکھتے نہیں وہ مدح و ثنا کی پورا  
 جو کر کے بہلا، خلق سے سنتے ہیں برا  
 ان گالیوں کا ہے جن کو چسکا حالی  
 آتا نہیں اُن کو کچھہ دعاؤں میں مزہ

GOOD PEOPLE DERIVE PLEASURE EVEN FROM HEARING THEMSELVES ABUSED

Men cease to feel the want of praise and commendation,  
 Who do good,—and *hear* all that is bad from the public.

In those, who get a zest for these revilings, Háli !  
 No sense of enjoyment is aroused by benedictions.

شکریہ مدح کلام راقم  
 جوش خم بادہ جام خالی میں ہوا  
 پھر ولولہ پیدا دل حالی میں ہوا  
 تسلیم نے دی کچھہ اس طرح داد سخن  
 مچکو بھی شک اپنی بے کمالی میں ہوا

GRATITUDE FOR FRIENDLY CRITICISM OF THE AUTHOR

Ferment of a wine cask in an empty flagon—  
 Once more in the heart of Háli tumult has arisen.

Such kind appreciation of my verse from Taslím !—  
 I, yes even I, begin to doubt my own incompetence.

## XCI

*'Though men whose deeds are upright can never feel the need  
Of praise and commendation—yet there be some who heed  
Public abuse—revilings—and get much zest therefrom—  
For them laudations—Háli !—are wasted breath indeed.*

## XCII

*Stirs in this empty flagon the ferment of new wine—  
Stirs in the heart of Háli new ecstasy divine—  
Yea—Your kind praise, O Taslím ! has made me—even me—  
Hope that there may be virtue in some poor verse of mine.*

### احسان بے منت

احسان کے ہے گر صلہ کی خواہش تم کو  
تو اس سے یہ بہتر ہے کہ احسان نہ کرو  
کرتے ہو گر احسان تو کردو اُسے عام  
اتنا کہ جہاں میں کوئی ممدون نہ ہو

#### BENEVOLENCE FREE FROM OBLIGATION

If for any favour you desire some reward,  
'Twill be your better plan not to grant that favour.  
When you do a kindness, make it common to all ;  
So common, that no one in the world need be obliged.

### قانون بد اخلاقی سے مانع نہیں ہوتے

قانون ہیں بیشتر یقیناً بیکار  
حاشا کہ ہو انپہ نظم عالم کا مدار  
جو نیک ہیں اُن کو نہیں حاجت انکی  
اور بد نہیں بنتے نیک اُن سے زہار

#### LAWS ARE NOT ALWAYS PREVENTIVE OF MORAL DEPRAVITY

No doubt to a great extent laws are inefficient ;  
'Twere ill, if the order of the world hinged on them.

For those, who are good, there is no need of them at all ;  
And by their means the wicked are not *made* good ; far from it.

## XCIII

*If you for any favour reward anticipate,  
Before you grant that favour—think twice,—then hesitate—  
Make you your every kindness a common boon to all—  
Do favours unto all men but no man obligate.*

## XCIV

*Laws in themselves are merely a means unto an end,  
The 'End' of Social Order—the world does not depend  
On Laws alone, for good men do not need their restraint;  
Nor do Laws make the wicked their evil ways amend.*

مخالفت کا جواب خاموشی سے بہتر نہیں  
 حق بول کے اہل شر سے اڑنا نہ کہیں  
 بہزکیگی مدافعت سے اور آتش کیس  
 گر چاہتے ہو کہ چپ رہیں اہل خلاف  
 جز ترک خلاف کوئی تدبیر نہیں

TO CONTRADICTION THERE IS NO BETTER REPLY THAN SILENCE

Having spoken the truth, do not strive with the perverse ;  
 The fire of spite will crackle all the worse under rebuffs.

You wish your opponents to be silent ?—if so,  
 You have no resource, but to forgo opposition.

### ٹیکس

واعظ نے کہا کہ وقت سب جاتے ہیں تل  
 اک وقت سے اپنے نہیں تلنتی تو اجل  
 کی عرض یہ اک سیٹھ نے اٹھکر کہ حضور  
 ہے ٹیکس کا وقت بھی اسی طرح اتل

### THE INCOME TAX

'All men,' said the preacher, 'are dallying with time ;<sup>1</sup>  
 One thing which *never* fails to keep its time is Death :'

Here a banker stood up, and humbly said, 'My lord !  
 Tax time is just the same ;—there's no *putting it off*.'

<sup>1</sup> Lit., 'All (appointed) times are being put off (by men).'

## XCV

*Having the truth once spoken, strive not with the perverse;  
 An argument once started but goes from bad to worse—  
 If your opponents' silence is what you really seek  
 Then silent be, nor combat their arguments adverse.*

## XCVI

*'Lo! all men'—said the Preacher—'with Time procrastinate  
 Yet they should e'er remember that Death is never late.'  
 Then spake a banker, humbly, 'My Lord, Tax-time's the same,  
 THAT we may never alter, delay, nor abrogate.'*

انسان اپنے عیب اپنے سے بھی چھپاتا ہے  
 جیسا نظر آتا ہوں نہ ایسا ہوں میں  
 اور جیسا سمجھتا ہوں نہ ویسا ہونمیں  
 اپنے سے بھی عیب ہوں چھپاتا اپنے  
 بس مجکو ہی معلوم ہے جیسا ہوں میں

MAN CONCEALS HIS OWN FAULTS EVEN FROM HIMSELF

Such as I appear to men—this is not what I am ;  
 And such as I think myself—that is not what I am.  
 I hide my own failings even from myself ;  
 Yes ; I know myself only as I—*such as I am*.

بڑھاپے میں عاشقی کا دم بھرنا  
 آہیں پیڑی میں شیخ بہرتے نہیں یوں  
 دل دیتے ہیں ، پر جی سے گذرتے نہیں یوں  
 نہ تم تو ہر اک قید سے آزاد سدا  
 جو جیتے ہیں اس طرح وہ مرتے نہیں یوں

INFLATING ONESELF WITH THOUGHTS OF LOVE IN OLD AGE

Sighs in old age :—old man ! men do not heave, like *this* ;  
 Men give their hearts, but do not throw their lives away, like *this*.  
 You were quit of all bondage, as I thought, for ever ;  
 Men, who *live*, do not pine in lover's fashion, like *this*.

## XCVII

*The 'I' of men's appraisal is ne'er the essential 'I',  
The 'I' of mine own dreaming I ne'er exemplify.*

*Cover I up my failings, even from mine own gaze—  
None but 'I', unto myself, can I personify.*

## XCVIII

*What? Past thy prime and sighing for love just like a boy!  
—(For 'love' grown men may suffer, but ne'er their lives destroy.)—*

*You—You whose years have set you full free from Passion's toils,  
You know old men should never love's dolorous pains enjoy!*

واعظوں کی سخت کلامی  
 اک گبر نے پوچھے جو اصول اسلام  
 واعظ نے درشتی سے کیا اُس سے کلام  
 بولا کہ حضور مقتدا ہوں جس کے  
 ایسی ملت اور ایسے مذہب کو سلام

THE INTOLERANT UTTERANCES OF PREACHERS

When a fireworshipper asked to know the principles of Islám,  
 The preacher addressed him in words full of harshness.

Then said he, 'The creed which your worship represents—  
 To such a creed, and such a religion, I make my bow.'

۱۰۰

نواب وقار الامرا اقبال الدولہ بہادر کی شان میں  
 توفیق نے اُس کی چہرہ زدی ہمراہی  
 اقبال پہ جس نے فتحیابی چاہی  
 حالی لیجائے کون بازی اُن سے  
 ہے جنکی رگوں میں خون آصف جاہی

IN HONOUR OF THE NAWAB VIQARUL-UMARA IQBALUDDAULA BAHADUR<sup>1</sup>

'Good fortune' abandoned the companionship of him,  
 Who sought to win a victory over 'Success'.<sup>2</sup>

Who *is* the man, Háli! who could win any prize  
 From one, in whose veins runs the blood of Asaf Jáh?

<sup>1</sup> After winning a polo match.

<sup>2</sup> Lit., 'Glory'—a play on the title Iqbal-ud-Dowlah.

## XCIX

*When once a Parsi queried the Tenets of Islám  
 The Preacher answered harshly, and filled him with alarm—  
 Then he replied, ‘O Preacher!—the creed YOU typify  
 Attracts me not, and to it I proffer my Salaam!’*

## C

*‘Good Fortune’ will abandon all those who would attain  
 Victory against ‘Success’—their efforts are in vain—  
 WHO could prevail—O Háli!—’gainst one in whom the blood  
 Of Asaf Jáh the Mighty flows, throbs, and lives again?*

رباعی قدیم

یاد اُس کی یہاں ورد مدام اپنا ہے  
 خالی نہ ہو جو کبھی وہ جام اپنا ہے  
 کس طرح نہ لیجئے، کہ ہے نام اُس کا  
 کس طرح نہ کیجئے، کہ کام اپنا ہے

A QUATRAIN WRITTEN IN EARLY LIFE

His daily remembrance is the task of my life ;

This cup, never empty, be the flask of my life !

How could I forgo the praise of His name ?—It is *His*.

How should I refrain—from all I ask of my life ?

*CI*

*The Cup of His Remembrance shall be my daily task ;*

*To fill that Cup My Being the never empty flask—*

*My life is 'of' and 'from' Him—shall I His praise withhold*  
*When leave to hymn His Glory is all of Life I ask ?*





