

Classic Poetry Series

Jigar Moradabadi
- poems -

Publication Date:

2012

Publisher:

Poemhunter.com - The World's Poetry Archive

Jigar Moradabadi(6 April 1890 - 9 September 1960)

Jigar Moradabadi (Urdu: جگر مراد آبادی) was the nom de plume of Ali Sikandar, one of the most famous Urdu poets of the 20th century and a celebrated Urdu ghazal writer. He received the 1958 Sahitya Akademi Urdu Award for his highly acclaimed poetry collection "Atish-i-Gul".

 Early Life

Jigar Moradabadi was born on April 6, 1890 in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, India. He lost his father at an early age and did not have an easy childhood. At school (madrassah) he was taught both Arabic and Persian. His poetry teacher (ustad) in the early days was Rasa Rampuri.

Still in his teens, Jigar, as he came to be known universally, moved to Gonda, near Lucknow. This proved to be a turning point in his life. Here, he befriended Asghar Gondvi, who later also emerged as a notable Urdu poet. Gondvi was only six years older than Jigar, who became his protégé. Gondvi's influence over Jigar, and the significant role he played in his life, should not be underestimated. He was his mentor, a father figure, an older brother, a teacher, a friend and a fellow poet, all rolled into one. Jigar even married a sister of Gondvi's wife. He made Gonda his permanent home and Gonda acquired one of the most famous literary figures to have ever lived there.

 In Memoriam

Jigar died on September 9, 1960 in Gonda. A small residential colony in Gonda city called Jigar Ganj is named after him. It is close to his original residence. An intermediate school is also named after him - the Jigar Memorial Inter College. Mazar-e-Jigar Moradabadi is in Topkhana, Gonda.

 Acclaim

Jigar Moradabadi belonged to the classical school of ghazal writing and was a mentor to Majrooh Sultanpuri, who became a prominent lyricist in the Indian film industry and penned many popular songs in Urdu and Hindi.

Jigar was extremely popular with the masses, who regarded him as the People's Poet. The American singer Eartha Kitt, who was a contemporary of Jigar Moradabadi, sang "Monotonous", written by June Carroll and Arthur Siegel, in 1952, which became an international hit. Two memorable lines in this song are

reminiscent of how Jigar's appearance in public often created a stir, such was his appeal :

Traffic has been known to stop for me
Prices even rise and drop for me

Jigar Moradabadi has become even more popular since his death, as his poetry continues to gain ever more admirers, particularly among film-goers, who are familiar with his lyrics.

He never received any formal higher education. No university could have taught him what he taught himself in his chosen field. He is now regarded as one of the all-time great Urdu poets. Jigar was only the second poet in the history of Aligarh Muslim University to be awarded an honorary - the first one to receive this honour was Allama Iqbal, which speaks volumes about Jigar's standing and reputation. He is already being mentioned in the same breath as Iqbal and Ghalib.

Faiz Ahmad Faiz, the distinguished Urdu poet and academic, regarded Jigar Moradabadi as a master craftsman in his field. Aligarh was one of Jigar's favourite cities. A former student of Aligarh Muslim University, who often attended mushairas at which both Faiz and Jigar were participants, recalls that Jigar would steal the show with his rendition of his own ghazals and was the life and soul of the mushaira.

Malik Ram, the renowned Urdu scholar and a leading authority on Ghalib, knew Jigar personally and wrote an appreciative article about him in the June 1959 issue of Nuqoosh - the reputable Lahore monthly Urdu literary journal. In 1974, Malik Ram also included Jigar, along with Ghalib, in his award-winning book "Woh Surten Ilahi" (The Immortals) - biographical essays on nine giants in the Urdu literary world.

Research on Jigar Moradabadi and his poetry is ongoing and is also encouraged and supported by the Government of India sponsored National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language. Jigar's poetry is now an established academic subject in Urdu departments at many universities

Aadmi Aadmi Se Milta Hai

Jigar Moradabadi

Aankhon Mein Bas Ke Dil Mein Sama Kar Chale Gaye

Jigar Moradabadi

Barabar Se Bachakar Guzar Jane Wale

Jigar Moradabadi

Dard Badakar Fugan Na Ho Jaye

Jigar Moradabadi

Dastan-E-Gam-E-Dil Unako Sunai Na Gai

Jigar Moradabadi

Dil Mein Kisi Ke Rah Kiye Ja Raha Hun Main

Jigar Moradabadi

Dil Mein Tum Ho Naza Ka Hangam Hai

Jigar Moradabadi

Duniya Ke Sitam Yaad Na Apni Hi Wafa Yaad

Jigar Moradabadi

Hamako Mita Sake Ye Zamane Mein Dam Nahi

Jigar Moradabadi

Han Kis Ko Hai Mayassar Ye Kam Kar Guzarana

Jigar Moradabadi

Har Dam Duayen Dena Har Lamha Aahen Bharana

Jigar Moradabadi

Har Su Dikhai Dete Hain Wo Jalvagar Mujhe

Jigar Moradabadi

Ik Lafz-E-Mohabbat Ka Adana Sa Fasana Hai

Jigar Moradabadi

Is Ishq Ke Hathon Se Har-Giz Namafar Dekha

Jigar Moradabadi

Ishq Fana Ka Naam Hai Ishq Mein Zindagi Na Dekh

Jigar Moradabadi

Ishq Ke Dastan Hai Pyare

Jigar Moradabadi

Ishq Ko Be-Naqab Hona Tha

Jigar Moradabadi

Ishq Lamahadud Jab Tak Rahanuma Hota Nahi

Jigar Moradabadi

Ishq Mein Lajavab Hain Hum Log

Jigar Moradabadi

Isi Chaman Mein Hi Hamara Bhi Ik Zamana Tha

Jigar Moradabadi

Kabhi Shakh-O-Sabz-O-Barg Par Kabhi Guncha-O-Gul-O-Khar Par

Jigar Moradabadi

Kahan Wo Shokh, Mulaqat Khud Se Bhi Na Hui

Jigar Moradabadi

Kam Aakhir Jazba-E-Beikhtiyar Aa Hi Gaya

Jigar Moradabadi

Muddat Mein Wo Phir Taza Mulaqat Ka Aalam

Jigar Moradabadi

Mujhe De Rahen Hain Tasalliyan Wo Har Ek Taza Payam Se

Jigar Moradabadi

Os Pade Bahar Par Aag Lage Kanar Mein

Jigar Moradabadi

Saqi Ke Har Nigah Pe Bal Kha Ke Pi Gaya

Jigar Moradabadi

Saqi Par Ilzam Na Aaye

Jigar Moradabadi

Tabiyat In Dinon Begana-E-Gam Hoti Jati Hai

Jigar Moradabadi

Tujhi Se Ibtada Hai Tu Hi Ik Din Intaha Hoga

Jigar Moradabadi

Wo Kafir Aashana Na Aashna Yun Bhi Hai Aur Yun Bhi

Jigar Moradabadi