

Classic Poetry Series

Raghupati Sahay
- poems -

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Raghupati Sahay(28 August 1896 – 3 March 1982)

Raghupati Sahay, better known under his pen name Firaq Gorakhpuri (Urdu: فراق گورکھپوری, Hindi: फ़िराक़ ग़ोरखपुरी), was a writer, critic, and one of the most noted contemporary Urdu poets from India. He established himself as one of the greats in an era which boasted stalwarts like Iqbal, Yagana Changezi, Jigar and Josh.

 Biography

Raghupati Sahay was born in 1896, in Gorakhpur, into a Hindu family. He was selected for the Provincial Civil Service (P.C.S.) and the Indian Civil Service (I.C.S.), but he resigned to follow Mahatma Gandhi's Non-cooperation movement, for which he went to jail. Later, he joined Allahabad University as a lecturer in English literature. It was there that he wrote most of his Urdu poetry, including his magnum opus Gul-e-Naghma which earned him the highest literary award of India, the Jnanpith Award, and also the 1960 Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu. During his life, he was given the positions of Research Professor at the University Grants Commission and Producer Emeritus by All India Radio. After a long illness, he died on March 3, 1982, in New Delhi.

As a distinguished poet, Firaq Gorakhpuri was well-versed in all traditional metrical forms such as ghazal, nazm, rubai and qat'aa. He was a prolific writer, having written more than a dozen volumes of Urdu poetry, a half dozen of Urdu prose, several volumes on literary themes in Hindi, as well as four volumes of English prose on literary and cultural subjects.

 Awards

1960 – Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu

1968 – Padma Bhushan

1968 – Soviet Land Nehru Award

1969 – Jnanpith Award (First Jnanpith Award for Urdu literature)

1970 – Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

1981 – Ghalib Academi Award

Aanewala Khatra (Toxin)

In this shameful, slavish age
find me a man
not given to flattery
Find me poverty
that doesn't hold you up to ransom.
Women will drink and men eat.
They'll all flourish, and all too soon
the day will come, Ramesh,
when no one will have an opinion of his own.
There will be anger but no protest.
There will be danger and a toxin
which the ruler himself will sound, Ramesh

Translated by Girdhar Rathi

Raghupati Sahay

Ab Aksar Chup-Chup Se Rahe Hai.N

Raghupati Sahay

Bahut Pahale Se Un Qadamo.N Kii Aahaat Jaan Lete Hai.N

Raghupati Sahay

Chhalak Ke Kam Na Ho Aisii Ko_Ii Sharaab Nahii.N

Raghupati Sahay

Gair Kyaa Jaaniye Kyo.N Mujh Ko Buraa Kahate Hai.N

Raghupati Sahay

Jab Nazar Aap Kii Ho Ga_Ii Hai

Raghupati Sahay

Kabhii Paabandiyo.N Se Chhuut Ke Bhii Dam Ghutane Lagataa Hai

Raghupati Sahay

Ko_Ii Na_Ii Zamii.N Ho Nayaa Aasamaa.N Bhii Ho

Raghupati Sahay

Kuchh Ishaare The Jinhe.N Duniyaa Samajh Baithe The Ham

Raghupati Sahay

Maut Ik Giit Raat Gaatii Thii

Raghupati Sahay

Mujh Ko Maaraa Hai Har Ek Dard-O-Davaa Se Pahale

Raghupati Sahay

Sar Mein Saudaa Bhi Nahin

Raghupati Sahay

Yeh To Nahin Ke Gham Nahin

Raghupati Sahay