

Classic Poetry Series

**Wali Mohammed Wali**  
**- poems -**

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# Wali Mohammed Wali(1667 - 1707)

Wali Muhammad Wali (also known as Wali Deccani, Urdu: والی دکنی, Wali Gujarati and Wali Aurangabadi) was a classical Urdu poet of the subcontinent.

He is the first established poet to have composed Ghazals in Urdu language and compiled a divan (a collection of ghazals where the entire alphabet is used at least once as the last letter to define the rhyme pattern).

Before Wali, Indian Ghazal was being composed in Persian – almost being replicated in thought and style from the original Persian masters like Saa'di, Jami and Khaqani. Wali began using not only an Indian language, but Indian themes, idioms and imagery in his ghazals. It is said that his visit to Delhi along with his divan of Urdu ghazals created a ripple in the literary circles of the north, inspiring them to produce stalwarts like Zauq, Sauda and Mir.

## <b> Early Life </b>

Born in 1667 at Aurangabad, an important town in the present Maharashtra State. He loved travelling, which he regarded as a means of education.

## <b> Career </b>

Wali Mohammed Wali's visit to Delhi in 1700 is considered to be of great significance for Urdu Gazals. His simple, sensuous and melodious poems in Urdu, awakened the Persian loving poets of Delhi to the beauty and capability of "Rekhta" (the old name for Urdu) as a medium of poetic expression. His visit thus stimulated the growth and development of Urdu Ghazal in Delhi.

Wali died in Ahmedabad in 1707, and was buried in the same city. On 28 February 2002, a mob tore down Wali's little tomb in Ahmedabad and dug up his grave. An idol of Hulladio Hanuman was placed over the rubble. Overnight, the road was tarred and now no sign remains. Wali's grave had stood outside the gate of the police commissioner's office.

## <b> Genre </b>

Although Wali tried his hand at a variety of verse forms including the masnawi, qasida, mukhammas, and the rubai, the ghazal is his speciality. He wrote 473 ghazals containing 3,225 couplets (Ashaar).

## **Themes**

His favorite theme was love – both mystical and earthy – and his characteristic tone was one of cheerful affirmation and acceptance, rather than of melancholy grumbling. He was the first Urdu poet to have started the practice of expressing love from the man's point of view, as against the prevailing convention of impersonating as a woman.

If, on the one hand, Wali unraveled the beauty and richness of the native language as a poetic medium, on the other, he was alive to the vigour and verve of Persian diction and imagery which he successfully incorporated into the body of his verse. He may thus be called the architect of the modern poetic language, which is a skillful blend of Hindi and Persian vocabulary.

# Beloved's Lane Is Exactly Like Kashi

Beloved's lane is exactly like (holy city of) Kashi  
(My) ascetic heart dwells therein

Due to the sadness of the separation from the beloved  
My heart is always immersed in dejection

Your tresses are the waves of Jamuna (river)  
(And) the mole next to (the tresses) is the ascetic (on the bank)

Black tresses on your chin's depression  
Are like the thirsty cobra on the well

(One) whose speech does not have any taste (beauty)  
His eloquence is just like the stale food

O Wali! the garment which is on (your) body  
Is (nothing but) an artificial (one) for the lovers

[English Translation by Shah Abdus Salam]

Wali Mohammed Wali

# Dil Ko Lagti Hai Dilruba Ki Adaa

Wali Mohammed Wali

# Fida-E-Dilber-E-Rangeen Adaa Hoon

Wali Mohammed Wali

# If The Heart Achieves The Status Of A Mirror

If the heart achieves the status of a mirror  
The sight of the beloved [God] is free

O [my] tongue, help me [and speak], as today [my] beloved  
Is awaiting to hear the splendid description [of her beauty]

Do not ask Bu Ali\* about the wisdom of love  
He has not learned the rules of this art

The mirror, sitting together with you [O my love]  
Has roused the envy of the bed of roses

([Lovers] in peace are wakeful, because of you  
&quot;Paupers have no fear of robbers&quot;

[O my love] just have a look at &quot;Vali&quot; for a while  
He is waiting for your sight since the morning

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# Jise Ishq Ka Tir Kaari Lage

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# Khob Roo Khob Kaam Karte Hain

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# Kiya Mujh Ishq Ne Zalim Kon Ab Ahista Ahista

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# Main Ashqi Mein Tab So'On Afsana Ho Raha Hoon

Wali Mohammed Wali

# Main Tujhe Aya Hoon Ema'An Boojh Ker

Wali Mohammed Wali

# Rooh Bakhshi Hai Kam Tujh Lab Ka

Wali Mohammed Wali

# Sarood-E-Aish Gawein Ham, Ager Wo Ishwa Saaz Aawey

Wali Mohammed Wali

# Tera Lab Dekh Haiwa'An Yaad Aawey

Wali Mohammed Wali

# Uskon Haasil Kyonke Hoe Jag Mein Faraagh-E-Zindagi

Wali Mohammed Wali

# Yaad Karna Har Ghari Us Yaar Ka

Wali Mohammed Wali