



Muslim Planet

News Journal: Volume 4, Issue 10

October 2021

[The Muslim Voice](#) Project offers a platform of technology services for the Muslim Community of North America. It provides the needed infrastructure to transform the community towards [unified positions](#) and integrated action plans. It seeks Muslim representation at local, state, and federal levels. So, please [help](#).

Welcome Message

We wish that you and the community are well, and you will enjoy this issue of the News Journal. Please share it with your family and friends, and forward it to your own email list.

October issue has the following content.

1. [Editorial](#)
2. [News Brief](#)
3. [Articles for the Muslim Community](#)
 - a. [Ghazal: A new Genre in English Poetry](#)
 - b. [The Epoch](#)
 - c. [How to purchase the Book](#)
4. [The Great Muslim Nation](#)

Please click [here](#) for the archived issues of the News Journal, and click [here](#) to donate.

Stay in PEACE



[The Muslim Voice](#)

Editorial

We have good news for the community.

MV Publishers is now operational. This is the publishing house for the community.

The first book that is published is on poetry:

Title: Poems of LONGING

Hardcopy ISBN: 978-1956601008

eBook ISBN: 978-1956601015

Publisher: MV Publishers

Print length: 136 pages

Book description

Poems of Longing are the songs of the heart. They exalt in the ecstasy of love, and also grieve in the trials of life. They bring joy that comes from the fountain of the Soul, and they invite contemplation that brings freedom in a world so full of limitations.

Poems of Longing express the poetic emotions on matters of human longing, soul of the society, and visions and reflections of ecstasy. The book embodies the wisdom of life from a journey of Self Discovery to know the meaning of love, freedom, happiness and the secrets of the fulfilment of heart. It is an effortless expression of natural human emotions, and reflective contemplation on universal Longing that unites us all in an ecstasy.

Poems of Longing demystify the essence of freedom, universal love and justice. The verses are in short meter with lyricism and realism that turn the poems into songs of the heart. The experience expresses itself in all colors of the rainbow as it rises and then returns with amazing beauty bathed in miracle of love which these poems express with such directness and simplicity that is possible only with personal witnessing.

Poems of Longing express the poetic emotions in the medium of Ghazal on matters of human longings, soul of the society, and visions and reflections of ecstasy. The book embodies the wisdom of life from a journey of Self Discovery to know the meaning of love, freedom, happiness and the secrets of the fulfilment of heart. It is an effortless expression of natural human emotions, and reflective contemplation on universal Longing that unites us all in an ecstasy.

Poems of Longing demystify the essence of freedom, and universal love and justice. The verses are in short meter with lyricism and realism that turn the poems into songs of the heart. The experience expresses itself in all colors of the rainbow as it rises and then returns with amazing beauty bathed in miracle of love which these poems express with such directness and simplicity that is possible only with personal witnessing.

The inspiration for the *Poems of Longing* comes from poet's worldwide seeking, especially those for humanism, spirituality and loving. This seeking took him as a professor to eight countries over four continents. And when that was not enough, he scanned the world in a backpacking mode. The search for ecstasy was itself ecstatic, and the *Poems of Longing* are a gift that came out of this search.

He is profiled in Marquis Who's Who.



An invitation to the community

There are so many great people in the Muslim World. Many have excelled in scientific research. Many have written heart warming poetry and literature par excellence. There are those in the Muslim World who have quietly served the causes of humanity in ways that are unparalleled in the entire world. In short everyone in [The Great Muslim Nation](#) has a uniquely inspiring story to tell.

The MV Publishers are here to facilitate this.

Many times the traditional publishers will not publish your story unless you write it in a way that serves their agenda. Remember how Salman Rushdie was exalted and acclaimed after he wrote Satanic Verses? And how fiction and non fiction works par excellence coming from the members of The Great Muslim Nation that do not serve their agenda get unashamedly rejected? In current times you noticed how the achievements of the great humanist Edhi remain unacknowledged and, in comparison, Teresa is glorified? How the Nobel Laureate Abdus Salaam is a little more than a footnote in the science world while Weinberg is a giant legend? How Faiz remains obscure while Malala is offered a Nobel Prize!

Tell your story yourself! For if you do not tell it nobody will; or someone will tell it for their own purpose in their own way. MV Publishers are here for one and only one purpose, that is to help everyone tell their story themselves.

Take your works out. They deserve better. They are your creation. They are your contribution to the world. And they strengthen and magnify the Muslim Voice that is otherwise rendered faint and ineffectual.

Bring your works to MV Publishers. We are here to serve [The Great Muslim Nation](#). We do not seek profits.

1. We invite you to publish your writings and multimedia *Free of Charge* on our [digital publishing](#) platform.
2. You can [self publish your book](#) in hardcopy.
3. We explain [how to self publish](#).
4. MV Publishers will [publish your book in hardcopy](#) that reaches worldwide distribution.
5. MV Publishers will [publish your eBook](#) that reaches worldwide distribution.
6. MV Publishers provides a full range of [publishing services](#).

News in Brief

Please click the hyperlinks for more details:

1. US-Israeli relations in the light of Visa Waiver Program: <https://www.islamicity.org/79334/israels-problem-with-us-visa-waiver-program-respecting-arab-american-rights/>
2. Colin Powell will be remembered as 'war criminal' by his victims: <https://www.islamicity.org/79374/colin-powell-will-be-remembered-as-war-criminal-by-his-victims/>
3. Prof. Choudhary receives top Muslim world science award: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/900743-prof-choudhary-bestowed-top-muslim-world-science-award>
4. 25 American Muslims who influenced US Society: <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2018/05/us/influential-muslims/>
5. Please watch the Muslim News (<https://www.soundvision.com/>) half hour with anchor Hena Zubairi: <https://youtu.be/-SQDHB88ku0>
 - a. -Taliban Offer Wheat for Jobs To Tackle Hunger And Unemployment
 - b. -Christian Missionaries Say Afghans Are Ready for Jesus
 - c. -ProPublica Says Liberty University Dismisses Students' Reports of Sexual Assault
 - d. -Grand Jury Indicts Man For Random Attacks On Muslims
 - e. -Hubaishi Named Inaugural Chair Of National Muslim Law Student Association
 - f. -EU Urges Israel To Halt Construction Of New Settlements
 - g. -Investigations Into Christchurch Massacre Of Muslims Begins Again
 - h. -Western Envoys In Turkey Announces Compliance With Vienna Convention Over Kavala Row
 - i. -Young Volunteers Give Life To Streets Of War-Torn Baghdad

Articles for Muslim Community

Ghazal as a New Genre in English Poetry

I offer this collection of poems to the readers in all earnestness and humility. It grew from the quiet moments that I managed to spend with myself. They are part of the journey I undertook in search of my own inner self, and represent some of the wisdom the journey of life taught me.

It is my hope and desire that the readers will enjoy this collection of poems. They are a new genre of poems in English inspired by the genre of Urdu Ghazal. Ghazal in Urdu poetry is exclusively devoted for expressing the sentiments and passions of love. It could express any deep emotions that a person experiences in the path of love. For instance, a ghazal could express the ill treatment a lover receives because people think he or she is totally immersed in love and gone crazy. In general, it expresses the agony of separation from the beloved, the lack of attention from the beloved, magnificence of the beauty of the beloved and the associated deep emotions. Rumi starts his famous Masnavi with its opening verse about the pain of separation: Listen to the flute, what story it tells, it is the story of the pain of separation.

Ghazal is not a narration of happenings but an allusion to them. Such allusions could be invoked through a mention of historical events, heroic figures, notorious figures, cultural symbolism and religious imagery. Metaphors and similes are used to great effect.

Ghazal is not a flowing expression; rather, each verse is complete in itself, expressing the sentiment in two lines without connecting to the preceding verses. Such requirement of compactness and completeness of the thought often lead the poet to leave causal gaps in the description. It therefore calls upon the reader to give careful thought to the meanings and allusions expressed in a couplet.

The form of Ghazal has its own structure. The Ghazal can have any number of verses so long as it is three or more, though most have five to fifteen. That is because a Ghazal of two couplets is a special case known as a Rubai or a quatrain. The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam are well known. In some sense, they could be regarded as Ghazals of two couplets, except that the four lines together express a thought unlike Ghazals where each couplet expresses a complete thought.

The two lines in the first verse of a Ghazal rhyme in a particular style known as its *Beher* or its *Zameen*. The first verse is called the *Matla*. The two lines of subsequent verses keep the same *Beher* but do not rhyme with one another, though the second part of each verse does rhyme with the *Matla*. This rhyme scheme can take two forms: a variable part that rhymes from verse to verse, known as the *Qaafia*, and a constant part that is simply repeated, known as the *Radeef*. Often no *Radeef* is used but the *Qafia* is always present. The last verse, known as the *Maqta*, is often used to carry a short name of the poet called *Takhallus*.

I have used the medium of Ghazal for my poetry, because it goes naturally with the sentiments of love that I wanted to express. I often use the form of a Rubai (quatrain). In this sense, my ghazals are a collection of Rubaiyat. The readers' experience may find this mode of expression somewhat unfamiliar in its form and the subject of its verses. Emotionally, these poems will certainly touch everyone because the experience of love that is paramount in these poems is universal and integral to the living experiences of everyone.

As it is not generally possible to relate poetry from an oriental language to an occidental one, and this experiment of mine is the first such attempt in the genre of Ghazal, I have changed the tradition of Ghazal in some details of its format, though not in the subject matter of its content which is universal. I have kept the expressive style of the subject matter rather simplistic in an effort to make it joyous for the Western readers.

The poems in this book fall in five sets of life experiences in the path of love. The collection starts with the category “soul” which roughly corresponds to spiritual approach to Ghazal that the Sufis generally use. These express the innermost sentiments, and a search for one’s soul. That is followed by a selection in the category of “self and society” regarding the way the society and the people in general treat a lover. However, this expression deviates somewhat from the conventional treatment of this subject matter in Ghazal. Next, the category of “reflections” expresses a lover’s view of life and society. It produces the kind of realization one might come to after deep reflections about life in a society. The category that I called “longing” comes closest to the most conventional Ghazal topic, namely the mercurial attitudes from the beloved, the longing for the union and the pain of separation. The book concludes with a collection of single Rubai’s which in plural form is called Rubaiyat. They capture the wandering thoughts in the life experiences of a lover.

As already pointed out, every verse (couplet) of a traditional Ghazal expresses a complete thought; different verses of a ghazal express independent thoughts; the thoughts of different verses are not inter connected; there is no theme to a ghazal and therefore it is not titled. I have made a few changes in the form of a Ghazal. My Ghazals consist of Rubaiyat instead of couplets, and they relate to each other in their meanings. Therefore, my ghazals carry a title descriptive of the content. I have also relaxed the requirements of Beher, so that they rhyme differently in different Rubaiyat within the same Ghazal, and occasionally not at all.

A word is in order about the use of gender in a Ghazal. The genre is borrowed from Farsi where the same pronoun is used both for masculine and feminine. It was borrowed over into Urdu where the construction is different for the masculine and the feminine, and somehow the poets decided to use a masculine form for the beloved. In bridging it over into English, I have decided to use the feminine form for the beloved. I have used the feminine form “She” to refer to a girl, Nature, or the Soul, based on the context.

Poems of Longing are the songs of the heart. They exalt in the ecstasy of love, and also grieve in the trials of life. They bring joy that comes from the fountain of the Inner Self, and they invite contemplation that brings freedom in a world so full of limitations.

Poems of Longing express the poetic emotions in the medium of Ghazal on matters of human longing, soul of the society, and visions and reflections of ecstasy. The book embodies the wisdom of life from a journey of Self Discovery to know the meaning of love, freedom, happiness and the secrets of the fulfilment of heart. It is an effortless expression of natural human emotions, and reflective contemplation on universal Longing that unites us all in an ecstasy.

Poems of Longing demystify the essence of freedom, universal love and justice. The verses are in short meter with lyricism and realism that turn the poems into songs of the heart. The experience expresses itself in all colors of the rainbow as it rises and then returns with amazing beauty bathed in miracle of love which these poems express with such directness and simplicity that is possible only with personal witnessing.

The poet witnessed this love during his worldwide seeking. His seeking took him as a professor to eight countries over four continents. And when that was not enough, he scanned the world in a backpacking mode. The search for ecstasy was itself ecstatic, and the Poems of Longing are a gift that came out of this search. It will be a most generous reward when you enjoy this collection of my Ghazals, the poems of longing and the songs of the heart. It is my hope that some musicians will put some of these songs of the heart to music.

The epoch

Note: Poem written at the occasion of hanging the President of Iraq on December 30th 2006.

The epoch has passed
it is now days after,
but an echo reverberates
of things yet to come.

There was wrangling
even at the ending,
at the final moment
just before the strangling.

He struggled for a breath
in the middle of wrangling,
in the middle of strangling
he struggled for a breath.

he invoked God.
he called the holy angel,
no one showed up
at the moment of strangle.

The brutal explosions
had exhausted the air,
no one could breathe free
in the entire valley.

The mad addiction,
the foolish greed,
kept the smart explosions
falling at high speed.

Among the bleeding,
among the dead,
I heard a cry
amongst the dead:

the cry of a new born,
a cry for justice,
a cry for the human dignity,
a chance for humanity:

the cry of a new born
with feeble hands,
who will arrest
the strangler's hand.

How to purchase the Book: Poems of LONGING

1. Contact the publisher: mypublishers@muslimvoice.org
2. [Buy at Amazon.](#)
3. Buy it at [Barnes and Noble.](#)



The Great Muslim Nation

We are the only organization of its kind in North America

eMail : iCommunity@mail.MuslimPlanet.org

Website : <http://MuslimVoice.org/>

We are nonprofit though not yet registered as a 501 (C) 3 organization due to lack of resources.

The donations are not tax deductible.

We urge you to [JOIN](#) the cause.

Please click to [DONATE ONLINE](#) using Credit/Debit card or PayPal.

Our Projects

[The Muslim Voice Publishers,](#)

[The Muslim Planet Project,](#)

[The News Journal](#)

[Journal of Muslim Culture,](#) [Muslim Spirituality,](#)

[Travelogue](#)

Prepared for: