

Opening New Horizons to Poetry Lovers with New Book

‘Deewaan-e-Ghalib : Sariir-e-Khaama’

New Delhi, October 09, 2021: In order to make the poetry of Mirza Ghalib accessible and understandable to those who are unable to access it in original script, Najeeb Jung – Former Lieutenant Governor of Delhi has translated a collection of Ghalib’s Urdu kalaam into English and compiled it as a book titled ‘Deewaan-e-Ghalib : Sariir-e-Khaama’. The book is published by Rekhta Books.

The book was released by **Prof. Khalid Mahmood, Poet, Author & Former Vice Chairman of the Delhi Urdu Academy and Mr. Sajiv Saraf, Chairman, Polyplex Corporation Limited & Founder, Rekhta Foundation.**

Reciting the couplet of Ghalib, “*Poochte hain vo ke Ghalib kaun hai, Koi batlaao ke hum batlaaen kya*” **Mr. Najeeb Jung said**, “It was a dream to bring the works of the master before an audience that heard his ghazals, loved the rhythm, but did not get the full import of the beauty, the mysticism, the richness, the iconoclasm of his work because of limitations in vocabulary. I lived with this dream for 50 years, and today hope this work will bring him closer to a larger audience who have yearned to know him more. In a way, this is an extension of the great work that Rekhta Foundation has been doing over the past decade.”

Congratulating Najeeb Jung on his book, **Mr. Sanjiv Saraf** praised Jung for his passion for literature, his emotional depth and aesthetic sensibilities. He added Ghalib is placed amongst the top of the literary heritage especially on Urdu poetic world. He called the book a “must-have” for Ghalib-lovers as well as those wishing to understand Ghalib’s poetry better. Saraf apprised that all the proceeds from this book will be

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donated to Rekhta Foundation to support the mission of preservation and promotion of literature and language.

Sharing his views, **Prof. Khalid Mohammad** said, “It is not easy to understand Ghalib and his emotions but it is the sheer dedication and love for Ghalib that Najeeb Jung dived into the deepest understanding of each word.” He informed that Jung deeply studied the Indian history and Urdu classical to explore the layers of Ghalib’s poetry. He highlighted that this book is a representation of conversation between Najeeb Jung and Ghalib.

During the occasion, **Pavan K Varma, Former Member of Parliament and Mr, Mahmood Faarooqui, Dastangoi Director & Performer** spoke about the life, history and poetries of Ghalib.

Pavan K Varma shares, “Ghalib is a complex poet where meanings are much layered. However, there has been a dire need of translating his work for reaching out to people to read since there is so much beauty, wisdom, insight, perception and thoughts compressed in his couplets.” He compared the work of translation with the process of transferring perfume from one bottle to another and mentioned despite best efforts, in the process some of the perfume tends to evaporate. He praised Najeeb Jung for his having precise and perspective translation work and added that he has not just revived a poet or a language but *Tehzeeb*.

The event was attended by many prominent personalities including Big Bang Theory series fame actor Kunal Nayyar, Poet and Culture Activist Ashok Vajpeyi, President of Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur Prof. Akhtarul Wasey amongst others

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For any further information, please contact

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