

Classic Poetry Series

**Ahsan Habib**  
**- poems -**

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# Ahsan Habib(2 February 1917 - 10 July 1985)

Ahsan Habib was a popular and well-acclaimed Bangladeshi poet and a major literary figure in Bengali culture.

## <b>Birth and Education</b>

Ahsan Habib was born in the village of Shankarpasha in Pirojpur district. His father's name was Hamijuddin and mother's was Jamila Khatun. He was the first one out of ten children of very poor parents. After passing the Entrance examination in 1935 from Pirojpur Government School, he enrolled at the B M College, Barisal, but had to drop out because of financial reasons. Shortly afterwards, he moved to Kolkata, the capital city at that time, to find a job.

## <b>Life in Kolkata</b>

Ahsan Habib started to struggle with life from Kolkata. After coming Kolkata in 1937, he joined the Takbir as assistant editor. His salary was only 17 taka. He subsequently worked in the Bulbul (1937-38) and the saogat (1939-43). From 1943 to 1948 he also worked as a staff artiste at the Kolkata centre of All India Radio.

## <b>Back to Dhaka</b>

After the partition of India in 1947, he left Kolkata for dhaka. Here he married a Mahsin Ali's daughter Sufiya Khatun from Katnarpara in Bagura on 21 June 1947. He was the father of four children: 2 daughters and 2 sons.

The other publications where he worked include the Daily azad, Monthly mohammadi, Daily Krishak, Daily Ittehad, Weekly Prabaha, etc. He was also the production adviser of Franklin Publications from 1957 to 1964. From 1964 to 1985 he worked at the Dainik Pakistan/ Dainik Bangla.

## <b>Literary Works</b>

Ahsan Habib started writing while still a student. His first poem, 'Mayer Kabar Pade Kishor', was published in the school magazine in 1934 when he was student of class X. Subsequently, his poems were published in various journals and magazines such as Desh, Mohammadi, Bichitra, etc. His first book of poems was Ratrishes (1947). He also wrote novels and a number of children's books.

## **<b>Theme of his Works</b>**

Ahsan Habib was a poet of urban society, both in language and sensibility. His poems reflect the social reality of his times and focus on the concerns of the middle class.

## **<b>Awards</b>**

He received several awards for his literary achievements, among them the UNESCO Literary Prize (1960-61), the Bangla Academy Award (1961), Adamjee Literary Prize (1964), Nasiruddin Gold Medal (1977), Ekushey Padak (1978), Abul Mansur Ahmed Memorial Prize (1980) and Abul Kalam Memorial Prize (1984).

Ahsna Habib died in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

# Amar Shontan

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Ahsan Habib

# Dotalar Landing Mukhomukhi Dujon

Ahsan Habib

# Eikhane Nironjona

Ahsan Habib



# Ekbar Bolesi Tomake

Ahsan Habib

# Je Pay She Pay

Ahsan Habib

# Search

'Halt', thunders the demon, Death, and stands in front,  
His hairy, rough hands find their way into the pants' pockets,  
Fish out a few coins, two flowers, a reel of thread.  
The heavy hands now search the loins. No, nothing is there.

Ahsan Habib

# The Sea Is Very Big

Do not ask me to be the wave of some vast sea.  
I can agree though if you promise that the wave of the sea  
Will but lose itself in the depths of the ocean and  
Return again to the refuge of the childhood river.

I do not want to merge with the sea, for  
It is vast, it has too great a pride,  
And I am afraid of it.

It is bent on devouring the river  
in intoxicated ravenousness, but  
I refuse to be its victim: only  
I can be its occasional companion  
some morning, or,  
May even go with it to the far distance  
some lazy noon.

Provided it gives me the pledge  
That each evening it will restore me to the quiet  
River of my childhood, which I have seen  
Flowing in my body and soul from birth,

That when I shall watch my river some winter night,  
Sitting on its bank, it will fill this river of mine  
With a new flood tide.

No oceanic cyclone  
Only the soft drip-dropp of dew, like a musical tune,  
Making the two 'bakul' branches on the bank  
Mildly quiver.

Note: Bakul- A kind of flower tree.

Ahsan Habib