

Classic Poetry Series

**Alauddin Al Azad**  
**- poems -**

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# Alauddin Al Azad(6 May 1932 - 3 July 2009)

Alauddin Al-Azad (Bengali: আলুদ্দিন আল আজাদ) was a language veteran, renowned poet and writer, and distinguished academic figure in Bangladesh.

## <b> Life </b>

Alauddin Al-Azad was born on 6 May 1932 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He Passed SSC.1947, HSC.1949. From Dhaka University he passed BA (Honors) at 1953 and MA.1954 as the same university. He received his PhD. degree from London University in 1970 for his work 'Iswar Gupter Jeebon o Kabita'.

He was a very good student of Bengali literature and also a professor. Also he was a first secretary of Bangladesh High Commission in Moskow.

## <b> Contributions in Bengali Language </b>

Azad has authored more than 123 books. He had also been the Principal of Dhaka College.

Azad, the only man, who recited the first poem dedicated to the memory of the language martyrs at the Central Shaheed Minar in 1952.

His literary works were included in the curriculum of school level, secondary, higher secondary and graduation level Bengali Literature in Bangladesh.

## <b> Awards </b>

Azad received a good number of awards including UNECEF Award, Bangla Academy Award, Independence and Ekushey Puroskar for his outstanding contribution in the field of Bangla literature.

Prof. Azad has been proclaimed as the "Man of the Year 1991" by the American Biographical Institute (ABI) for his outstanding accomplishment and the noble example he has set for his country. He is the first personality in Asia to receive this international honour.

Other awards are:

Bangla Academy Award (1965)

UNESCO Award (1965)

National Film Award (1977)  
Sight and Film Award (1977)  
Abul Kalam Shamsuddin Literary Award (1983)  
Abul Mansur Ahmad Literary Award (1984)  
Lekhika Sangha Award (1985)  
Rangdhanu Award (1985)  
Alakta Literary Award (1986)  
Ekushey Padak (1986)  
Sher-e-Bangla Literary Award (1987)  
Natyasava Baktitya Award (1989)  
Kathak Academy Award, (1989)  
Kalacakra Medal (1988–89)  
Lok Forum Gold Medal (1990)  
Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Gold Medal (1994)

**<b> Death </b>**

He died on July 3, 2009 in Uttara, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

# Smritistomvo

Alauddin Al Azad

# The Monument

Have they destroyed your memorial minaret?  
Don't you fear, comrade,  
We are still here  
A family of ten million, alert and wide awake.  
The base that no emperor  
Could ever crush  
At whose feet  
The diamond crown, the blue proclamation,  
The naked sabre and the tempestuous cavalry  
Have crumbled into dust.

We are that simple hero, that unique crowd,  
We who work in fields,  
Row on rivers,  
Labour in factories!

Have they destroyed your brick minaret?  
Well, let them. Don't you fear, comrade,  
We a family of ten million  
Are alert and wide awake.

What kind of a death is this?  
Has anyone seen such a death  
Where no one weeps at the head  
Of the departed?

Where all sorrow and pain from the Himalayas to the sea  
Only come together and blossom  
Into the colour of a single flag?  
What kind of a death is this?

Has anyone seen such a death  
Where no one laments aloud  
Where only the sitar turns into the  
Gorgeous stream of a mighty waterfall,  
Where the season of many words  
Leads the pen on to an era of Poetry?

Have they destroyed your brick minaret?

Well, let them. We forty million masons  
Have built a minaret with a violin's tune  
And the bright colours of our purple heart.

The lives of the martyrs float like islands  
In the dark deep eyes of  
Rainbows and palash flowers  
We have etched for you their names  
Through the ages  
In the foamy stones of love.

That is why, comrad,  
On the granite peak of our  
thousand fists  
Shines like  
the sun  
The sun of a mighty pledge.

[Translated by Kabir Chowdhury]

Alauddin Al Azad