

**Classic Poetry Series**

**Daagh Dehlvi**  
**- poems -**

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# Daagh Dehlvi(1831-1905)

Nawab Mirza Khan, commonly known as Daagh Dehlvi was an outstanding Mughal poet famous for his Urdu ghazals and belonged to the Delhi school of Urdu poetry. He wrote poems and ghazals under the takhallus (Urdu word for nom de plume) 'Daagh Dehlvi' (the meanings of 'Daagh', an Urdu noun, include stain, grief and taint while 'Dehlvi' means belonging to or from Delhi).

## <b>Life</b>

He lost his father at the age of six and was brought up by his stepfather, Mirza Muhammad Fakhroo, who was heir to Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal Emperor. On Fakhroo's death in 1865, Daagh left Delhi for Rampur where he went into government service and lived comfortably for 24 years. There followed a period of wandering and discomfort which ended when he was invited to Hyderabad in 1891. There he won his fame as an Urdu poet and lived a life of luxury. Hyderabad was a cradle to many poets of that period following the decline of Mughals in Delhi. He died in 1905 at the age of 74 in Hyderabad, India.

## <b>Poetry</b>

Daagh had started reciting poetry at the age of ten. His forte was the ghazal. His poetry does not wallow in despair. The tone of his poems is rather exuberant. He was a self-acknowledged romantic but contrary to the impression one gets from his poetry, he eschewed wine. Usage of common words and phrases and thus simplicity was distinctive of his style. His work comprises four volumes consisting of 16,000 couplets.

Daagh mostly wrote ghazals which are sets of two-line couplets. Some of his couplets are highly quotable. For example,  
"Tu hai harjai to apnaa bhi yehi taur sahi Tu nahin aur sahi, aur nahin, aur sahi"

Having remained under patronage of highly established poet like Zauq, Daagh had numerous disciples including the poet of the East Allama Iqbal, Jigar Moradabadi, Seemab Akbarabadi and Ahsen Marehravi, though a widely quoted anecdote relates that when asked to designate his successor as the leading Urdu poet of his age, he replied Bekhudain [the two Bekhuds], referring to Bekhud Badayuni and Bekhud Dehlvi.

His ghazals have been sung by noted ghazal singers including Ghulam Ali, Malika Pukhraj, Mehdi Hassan, and Abida Parveen.

# Ghazal 1 (English Translation)

You've an objection to come [to me] and don't invite me either  
You don't disclose the reason for severing relations either

What have you said? Say again, "I don't want to listen to you"  
If [you] don't want to listen, I don't intend to say anything to such persons either

What a veil it is that [she's] settled close to the screen  
[She] neither hides clearly nor does she come in the open

If the relation has been severed then why continue oppressions?  
Those who don't relate to don't torment either

O Daagh! If you're fed up with life then why are you alive  
Life isn't dear to you and you don't quit living either

Daagh Dehlvi

## Ghazal 10

pukarti hai khamoshi meri fugan ki tarah  
nigahen kahtai hain sab raz-e-dil zuban ki tarah

jala k dag-e-muhabbat ne dil ko khak kiya  
bahar ai mere bag main khizan ki tarah

talash-e-yar main chori na sar-zamin koi  
hamare panv main chakar hain asman ki tarah

ada-e-matlab-e-dil hamase sikh jaye koi  
unhen suna hi diya hal dastan ki tarah

Daagh Dehlvi

# Ghazal 11

ranj ki jab guftagu hone lagi  
ap se tum tum se tu hone lagi

chahiye paigamabar dono taraf  
lutf kya jab du-ba-du hone lagi

meri rusawai ki naubat a gai  
unki shohrat qu-ba-qu hone lagi

bay niyazi badh gai hai is qadar  
arzu ki arzu hone lagi

ab to mil kar dekhiye kya rang ho  
phir hamari justaju hone lagi

'Dag' itraye hue phirate hain aaj  
shayad unki abaru hone lagi

Daagh Dehlvi

## Ghazal 12

rasm-e-ulfat sikha gaya koi  
dil ki duniya pe cha gaya koi

ta qayamat kisi tarah na bujhe  
ag aisi laga gaya koi

dil ki duniya ujar si kyun hai  
kya yahan se chala gaya koi

vaqt-e-rukhsat gale laga kar 'Dag'  
hansate hansate rula gaya koi

Daagh Dehlvi

## Ghazal 13

tumhare khat main naya ik salam kis ka tha  
na tha raqib to akhir vo nam kis ka tha

vo qatl kar ke har kisi se puchte hain  
ye kam kis ne kiya hai ye kam kis ka tha

vafa karengे nibhayenge bat manenge  
tumhen bhi yad hai kuch ye kalam kis ka tha

raha na dil main vo be-dard aur dard raha  
muqim kaun hua hai maqam kis ka tha

na puch-pach thi kisi ki na av-bhagat  
tumhari bazm main kal ehtamam kis ka tha

hamare khat ke to purze kiye parha bhi nahin  
sun jo tum ne ba-dil vo payam kis ka tha

inhin sifat se hota hai admi mashhur  
jo lutf ap hi karte to nam kis ka tha

guzar gaya vo zamana kahen to kis se kahen  
khayal mere dil ko subah-o-sham kis ka tha

har ek se kahte hain kya 'Dag' bevafa nikla  
ye puche in se koi vo gulam kis ka tha

Daagh Dehlvi

## Ghazal 14

uzr ane main bhi hai aur bulate bhi nahin  
bais-e-tark-e-mulaqat batate bhi nahin

khub parda hai ke chilman se lage baithe hain  
saf chupate bhi nahin samane ate bhi nahin

ho chuka qata ta'lluq to jafayen kyon hon  
jinko matlab nahin rahta wo satate bhi nahin

zist se tang ho ae Dag to jite kyon ho  
jan pyari bhi nahin jan se jate bhi nahin

Daagh Dehlvi



## Ghazal 15

un k ek jan-nisar ham bhi hain  
hain jahan sau-hazar ham bhi hain

tum bhi bechain ham bhi hain bechain  
tum bhi ho beqarar ham bhi hain

ai falaq kah to kya irada hai  
aish k khvastagar ham bhi hain

shahar khali kiye dukan kaisi  
ek hi vada-khvar ham bhi hain

sharm samajhe tere tagaful ko  
vah! kya hoshiyar ham bhi hain

tum agar apni khu k ho mashuq  
apne matlab k yar ham bhi hain

jis ne chaha phansa liya hamko  
dil-baron k shikar ham bhi hain

kaun sa dil hai jis main dag nahin  
ishq ki yadgar ham bhi hain

Daagh Dehlvi

## Ghazal 16

ye jo hai hukm mere pas na aye koi  
is liye ruth rahe hain k manaye koi

tak main hai nigah-e-shauq khuda khair kare  
samane se mere bachta hua jaye koi

hal aflag-o-zamin ka jo bataya bhi to kya  
bat vo hai jo tere dil ki bataye koi

apne 'Dag' ko munh bhi na lagaya afsos  
us ko rakhta tha kaleje se lagaye koi

ho chuka aish ka jalsa to mujhe khat bheja  
ap ki tarah se mehaman bulaye koi

Daagh Dehlvi

## Ghazal 2

arazu hai vafa kare koi  
ji na chahe to kya kare koi

gar marz ho dava kare koi  
marne vale ka kya kare koi

koste hain jale hue kya kya  
apne haq main dua kare koi

un se sab apni apni kahte hain  
mera matalab ada kare koi

tum sarapa ho surat-e-tasvir  
tum se phir bat kya kare koi

jis main lakhon baras ki huren hon  
aisi jannat ko kya kare koi

Daagh Dehlvi

## Ghazal 2 (With English Translation)

How can these envious people know about kind attitude?  
Their pride of beauty does not allow them to be humble.

O shaikh (saint) you have never bowed your head on your beloved's doorstep,  
what you may know about how to perform your prayers?

Although your face is glowing bright like a candle but even then you cannot  
understand the delight of being burned in love.

Those who have started their love journey, they don't care about the ups and  
downs (dilemma) of the path of love.

Ask from a drinker if you want to know the taste of wine. Sanctimonious people  
don't have any idea about the delight of the taste of wine.

O Prophet Khyzer what good is this endless life of yours as your are not martyred  
(Who have achieved eternity)

The one who is not aware of herself, what possibly she may know about my  
heart's secret (Love) .

What great tragedies Dagh has suffered in his life, how a privileged person like  
you may know about that?

Daagh Dehlvi

## Ghazal 3

Ajab apna hal hota jo visal-e-yar hota  
kabhi jan sadqe hoti kabhi dil nisar hota

na maza hai dushmani main na hai lutf dosti main  
koi gair gair hota koi yar yar hota

ye maza tha dillagi ka k barabar ag lagti  
na tumhen qarar hota na hamain qarar hota

tere wade par sitamagar abhi aur sabr karte  
agar apni zindagi ka hamain aitabar hota

English Translation

That would be a strange feeling, if my beloved had come to see me,  
At one moment I would rendered my heart and at another my soul for her.

There is no charm in enmity, no pleasure in friendship,  
Someone had to be an enemy like enemy; someone had to be a friend like friend.

It would be quite amazing in love if both were having in the same fire (passion)  
of love,  
Nor you were at ease not I was at ease.

O my merciless beloved, I would wait a little longer on your words of promise,  
If I had a guarantee of my life any more.

Daagh Dehlvi

## Ghazal 4

dil gaya tum ne liya ham kya karen  
janevali chiz ka gam kya karen

pure honge apne arman kis tarah  
shauq behad waqt hai kam kya karen

baksh den pyar ki gustakhiyan  
dil hi qabu main nahin, ham kya karen

tund khu hai kab sune vo dil ki bat  
aur bhi baraham ko baraham kya karen

ek sagar par hai apni zindagi  
rafta rafta is se bhi kam kya karen

kar chuke sab apni-apni hikmaten  
dam nikalta hai ai mere hamadam kya karen

dil ne sikha sheva-e-beganagi  
aise namuharim ko muharim kya karen

mamala hai aj husn-o-ishq ka  
dekhiye vo kya karen ham kya karen

kah rahe hain ahal-e-sifarish mujhse 'Dag'  
teri qismat hai buri ham kya karen

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## Ghazal 5

gazab kiya, tere vade pe aitabar kiya  
tamam rat qayamat ka intezaar kiya

hansa hansa k shab-e-vasl ashk-bar kiya  
tasalliyan mujhe de-de k beqarar kiya

ham aise mahv-e-nazara na the jo hosh ata  
magar tumhare tagaful ne hoshiyar kiya

fasana-e-shab-e-gam un ko ek kahani thi  
kuch aitabar kiya aur kuch na-aitabar kiya

ye kisne jalva hamare sar-e-mazar kiya  
k dil se shor utha, hae! beqarar kiya

tarap phir ai dil-e-nadan, k gair kahte hain  
akhir kuch na bani, sabr ikhtiyar kiya

bhula bhula k jataya hai unko raz-e-nihan  
chipa chipa k mohabbat ko ashkar kiya

tumhen to vada-e-didar ham se karna tha  
ye kya kiya k jahan ko ummidavar kiya

ye dil ko tab kahan hai k ho malandesh  
unhone vada kiya ham ne aitabar kiya

na puch dil ki haqiqat magar ye kahte hain  
vo beqarar rahe jisne beqarar kiya





## Ghazal 6

khatir se ya lihaz se main man to gaya  
jhuthi qasam se ap ka iman to gaya

dil le k muft kahte hain kuch kam ka nahin  
ulti shikayaten rahi ehsan to gaya

ab shay-e-raz-e-ishq go zillaten hui  
lekin use jata to diya, jan to gaya

dekha hai butkade main jo ai shekh kuch na kuch  
iman ki to ye hai k iman to gaya

Darta hun dekh kar dil-e-be-arazu ko main  
sun-san ghar ye kyun na ho mehman to gaya

go namabar se khush na hua par hazar shukr  
mujh ko vo mere nam se pahchan to gaya

hosh-o-havas-o-tab-o-tavan 'Dag' ja chuk  
ab ham bhi jane vale hain saman to gaya

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## Ghazal 7

lutf vo ishq main paye hain ki ji janta hai  
ranj bhi itne uthaye hain k ji janta hai

jo zamane k sitam hain vo zamana jane  
tune dil itne dukhaye hain k ji janta hai

tum nahin jante ab tak ye tumhare andaz  
vo mere dil main samaye hain ki ji janta hai

inhin qadmon ne tumhare inhin qadmon ki qasam  
khak main itne milaye hain k ji janta hai

dosti main teri darparda hamare dushman  
is qadar apne paraye hain k ji janta hai

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## Ghazal 8

na jao hal-e-dil-e-zar dekhte jao  
k ji na chahe to na char dekhte jao

bahar-e-umr main bag-e-jahan k sair karo  
khila hua hai ye gulzar dekhte jao

utho ankh na sharmao ye to mahfil hai  
gazab se janib-e-agayar dekhte jao

hua hai kya abhi hangama abhi kuch hoga  
fugan main hashr k asar dekhte jao

tumhari ankh mere dil se besabab-bevajah  
hui hai larane ko tayyar dekhte jao

na jao band kye ankh raharavan-e-adam  
idhar-udhar bhi khabaradar dekhte jao

koi na koi har ik sher main hai bat zarur  
janab-e-'Dag' k ashar dekhte jao

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## Ghazal 9

phire rah se vo yahan ate ate  
ajal meri rahi tu kahan ate ate

mujhe yad karne se ye mudda tha  
nikal jaye dam hichakiyan ate ate

naa jaana ke dunya se jaata hai koi  
bari dair ki meharbaan aate aate

mere aashiyaan ke to thay char tinkay  
chaman urr gaya aandhiyaan aate aate

kaleja mere munh ko ayega ik din  
yun hi lab pe ah-o-fugan ate ate

natija na nikla thak sab payami  
vahan jate jate yahan ate ate

nahin khel ai 'Dag' yaron se kah do  
k ati hai urdu zuban ate ate

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