

Classic Poetry Series

Fani Badayuni

- poems -

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Fani Badayuni(1879 - 1941)

Shaukat Ali Khan Fani Badayuni (Urdu: شاکت علی خان فانی بادیونی) was noted Urdu poet.

< b > Early Life and Education < /b >

Shaukat Ali Khan was born in Islamnagar, Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, (then United Provinces). He graduated from Barreilly College in 1901, studied law at Aligarh Muslim University, earning his LL.B in 1906. He practiced law in Bareilly and Lucknow but could not make much success and migrated to Hyderabad.

< b > Literary Life < /b >

The Nizam's Diwan Maharaja Kishan Prasad 'Shad' who himself was an Urdu lover and poet, got Fani appointed in the department of Education. Fani started composing poetry around twenty years of age. He translated works of Shakespeare and Milton in Urdu. Fani belonged to the Ghalib's tradition of Urdu poetry. It will be more appropriate to place Fani in the category of what is known in Urdu as Sahib-e-gham because he was a poet of pathos. This tradition in Urdu poetry is headed by Mir Taqi Mir, hence he belongs to Mir's tradition as well.

< b > Fani in Moazzam Jah's Court < /b >

Fani was associated with the Junior Prince Moazzam Jah nocturnal court throughout his life in Hyderabad. With him in the court were Josh Malihabadi, Sadiq Jaisi, Maher Ul Quadri and others.

< b > Personal Life < /b >

Fani was a highly emotional person he loved Hyderabad and the society. He was initially offered to join as a "munsif" (Judge) since he was a Law Graduate. But Fani did not accept it since he had to move away from the city. He later accepted the post of a school head master in Hyderabad. In the day Fani would go to school and in night would attend Moazzam Jah's court till early hours, this night outs did not give him enough time to continue at school as head master, he could complete sleep at the office chair. News spread and he was removed from the post.

A detailed account of Fani's personal life can be found in the book "Durbaar-e-Durbaar" by Sadq Jaisi in Urdu and in English translation of the same book by

Narendra Luther "The Nocturnal Court".

Ik Muamma Hai Samajhane Ka Na Samajhane Ka

Fani Badayuni

Ishq Ne Dil Me.N Jagaa Kii To Qazaa Bhii Aa_Ii

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Jee Dhundhata Hai Ghar Koi Donon Jahan Se Dur

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Karavan Guzra Kiya Hum Rahaguzar Dekha Kiye

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Mal-E-Soz-E-Gam Hae! Nihani Dekhte Jao

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Misl-E-Khayal Aaye The Aa Kar Chale Gaye

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