Raghupati Sahay(28 August 1896 – 3 March 1982)

Raghupati Sahay, better known under his pen name Firaq Gorakhpuri (Urdu: ????? ??????????, Hindi: ??????? ??????????), was a writer, critic, and one of the most noted contemporary Urdu poets from India. He established himself as one of the greats in an era which boasted stalwarts like Iqbal, Yagana Changezi, Jigar and Josh.

<b>Biography</b>

Raghupati Sahay was born in 1896, in Gorakhpur, into a Hindu family. He was selected for the Provincial Civil Service (P.C.S.) and the Indian Civil Service (I.C.S.), but he resigned to follow Mahatma Gandhi's Non-cooperation movement, for which he went to jail. Later, he joined Allahabad University as a lecturer in English literature. It was there that he wrote most of his Urdu poetry, including his magnum opus Gul-e-Naghma which earned him the highest literary award of India, the Jnanpith Award, and also the 1960 Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu. During his life, he was given the positions of Research Professor at the University Grants Commission and Producer Emeritus by All India Radio. After a long illness, he died on March 3, 1982, in New Delhi.

As a distinguished poet, Firaq Gorakhpuri was well-versed in all traditional metrical forms such as ghazal, nazm, rubaai and qat'aa. He was a prolific writer, having written more than a dozen volumes of Urdu poetry, a half dozen of Urdu prose, several volumes on literary themes in Hindi, as well as four volumes of English prose on literary and cultural subjects.

<b>Awards</b>

1960 – Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu
1968 – Padma Bhushan
1968 – Soviet Land Nehru Award
1969 – Jnanpith Award (First Jnanpith Award for Urdu literature)
1970 – Sahitya Akademi Fellowship
1981 – Ghalib Academi Award
Aanewala Khatra (Toxin)

In this shameful, slavish age
find me a man
not given to flattery
Find me poverty
that doesn't hold you up to ransom.
Women will drink and men eat.
They'll all flourish, and all too soon
the day will come, Ramesh,
when no one will have an opinion of his own.
There will be anger but no protest.
There will be danger and a toxin
which the ruler himself will sound, Ramesh

Translated by Girdhar Rathi

Raghupati Sahay
Ab Aksar Chup-Chup Se Rahe Hai.N

Raghupati Sahay
Bahut Pahale Se Un Qadamo.N Kii Aahaat Jaan Lete Hai.N

Raghupati Sahay
Chhalak Ke Kam Na Ho Aisii Ko_Ii Sharaab Nahii.N

Raghupati Sahay
Gair Kyaa Jaaniye Kyo.N Mujh Ko Buraa Kahate Hai.N

Raghupati Sahay
Jab Nazar Aap Kii Ho Ga_Ii Hai

Raghupati Sahay
Kabhii Paabandiyo.N Se Chhuut Ke Bhii Dam Ghutane Lagataa Hai

Raghupati Sahay
Ko_Ii Na_Ii Zamii.N Ho Nayaa Aasamaa.N Bhii Ho

Raghupati Sahay
Kuchh Ishaare The Jinhe.N Duniyaa Samajh Baithe
The Ham

Raghupati Sahay
Maut Ik Giit Raat Gaatii Thii

Raghupati Sahay
Mujh Ko Maaraa Hai Har Ek Dard-O-Davaa Se Pahale

Raghupati Sahay
Sar Mein Saudaa Bhi Nahin

Raghupati Sahay
Yeh To Nahin Ke Gham Nahin

Raghupati Sahay