

Classic Poetry Series

Mahmud Gami
- poems -

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Mahmud Gami(1765 – 1855)

Mahmud Gami (????? ????) introduced in Kashmiri the Persian forms of the masnavi and ghazal. He was born at Dooru shahabad, a historical town in south kashmir. He is noted for his work Yusuf Zulaikha, a poem which is a major contribution to Kashmiri literature. It is the first and the most popular masnavi in Kashmiri. It comprises 700 verses and has also been rendered into the German by the 19th century European scholar Fredrich Burkhard.

The Land Of Poems

For just one glimpse of you,
The rosebud of your street
Has bloomed anew !
No songbird there to greet
Your rose, which blooms alone,
But in that land
Of poems, where have grown
My roses, and I stand
Within the shrine
Of secret meanings, hail !
How every verse of mine
The nightingale
Will sing, and none destroy
The ecstasy we share,
His house of joy

[Translation by Nilla Cram Cook]

Mahmud Gami