

Classic Poetry Series

Momin Khan Momin
- poems -

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Momin Khan Momin(1800 - 1851)

Momin Khan (Urdu: مومين خان) was an Indian poet known for his Urdu ghazals and used "Momin" as his takhallus (the Urdu word for nom de plume). He was a contemporary of Mirza Ghalib and Zauq, today his grave lies near the parking area near Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi.

 Early Lfe

Momin Khan Momin was born in Delhi. He was also called "Hakeem Khan" because he was a physician also. Hakeem is an Urdu word for physician.

 Career

Momin is known for his particular Persianized style and the beautiful use of his takhallus. According to legend, Mirza Ghalib (his contemporary and also a rival) offered Momin his entire diwan (collection of poetry) in exchange for a particular verse of Momin. The couplet in question was:

"Tum mere paas hote ho goya / Jab koi doosra nahi hota" which translates to: "You are close to me [as if] / when no one else is." This couplet's beauty is in its succinctness and multiple layers of meaning. One of the meanings is "When you're with me(on my mind), noone else is" and a second meaning/interpretation is "You're with me(on my side), when noone else is." The two meanings emerge by the use of words goya and jab(when)."

One of his very famous ghazals starts with the following matla (the first line of the opening couplet of a ghazal).

"Woh jo hum mein tum mein qaraar tha, tumheiN yaad ho ke na yaad hoo
Vohee yaani va'ada nibah ka, tumhaiN yaad ho ke na yaad ho"

"That understanding which we had between us... whether you remember it or not...

That promise of trust and faithfulness...whether you remember it or not..."

He is also famed in Pakistan for the saying:

"Umar sari toh kati ishq-e-butaN mein Momin/
Aakhri waqt mein kya khak MusalmaN hoNgay?",

The translation - "You spent all your life in the love of Idols Momin / In the end, will the sand be muslim?"

The word "khak" translates to "sand" or "dust". It refers to the sand that is used for burial of muslim bodies. The poet here refers to the sand in which his body will become mixed to, after burial.

"All your life you spent in love for idols o Momin [Believer] / In the last moment, how can you become a Muslim?"

NOTE: The meaning of the first line is perceived to be: "All your life you lived in non-Muslim ways"

and the second line would mean: "in your last times, how will you prove Yourself as a Muslim" Ishq means love/faith & ButaN (plural for "but" that means statue), however, the term ISHQ-E-BUTAN suggests love/faith in statues of God (which is considered sin in Islam), though the literal translation of ISHQ-E-BUTAN is "love for statues or idols".

Asar Usko Zara

Momin Khan Momin

Chal Pare Hat Mujhe Na Dikhla Munh!

Momin Khan Momin

Dar To Mujhe Kis Kaa Hai Ke Mai.N Kuchh Nahii.N Kahataa

Momin Khan Momin

Didaa-E-Hairaan Ne Tamaashaa Kiyaa

Momin Khan Momin

Jalataa HUU.N Hijr-E-Shaahid-O-Yaad-E-Sharaab Me.N

Momin Khan Momin

Jo Pehle Din Hi Se Dil Ka Kaha Na Karte Ham

Momin Khan Momin

Jo Tere Munh Se Na Ho Sharmsaar Aainah

Momin Khan Momin

Khushi Na Ho Mujhe Kyonkar Qaza Ke Aney Ki

Momin Khan Momin

Maar Hi Daal Mujhe Chasm-E-Adaa Se Pahale

Momin Khan Momin

Mai.N Ehavaal-E-Dil Mar Gayaa Kahate Kahate

Momin Khan Momin

Muj Ko Tery Itaab Ne Mara

Momin Khan Momin

Nawak Andaz Jidhar

Momin Khan Momin

Royaa Aap Bhii Paharo.N Isii Tarah

Momin Khan Momin

Sabar Wehshat Asar Na Hi Jaye

Momin Khan Momin

Seena-Koobi Se Zameen Saari Hilaa K Utthe

Momin Khan Momin

Shab Tum Jo Bazm-E-Gair Me.N .N Churaa Gaye

Momin Khan Momin

Shab-E-Gam-E-Furqat Hame.N Kyaa Kyaa Maze Dikhalaaye Thaa

Momin Khan Momin

Tauba Hai K Ham Ishq Buton Kaa Na Karein Ge

Momin Khan Momin

Thaanii Thii Dil Me.N Ab Na Kisii Se Ham

Momin Khan Momin

Thii Wasl Men Bhii Fikr-E-Judaa'Ii Tamaam Shab

Momin Khan Momin

Tum Bhi Rehne Lage Khafaa Saahib!

Momin Khan Momin

Wo Jo Ham Main Tum Main Qarar Tha

Momin Khan Momin

Yeh Aarzu Thi

Momin Khan Momin