

Classic Poetry Series

**Shad Azimabadi**  
**- poems -**

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## Shad Azimabadi(1846 - 1927)

Shah Azimabadi (Urdu: شاد اظمابادى ) was one of the acknowledged masters of Urdu ghazal. He is counted among the illustrious poets of the Ghazal who have made a notable contribution to the growth and enrichment of this poetic form. He liberated the Ghazal from the superficial elegance produced by the linguistic acrobatics of the Lucknow school, and infused into it a spirit of genuine passion and poetry. He was a friend and contemporary of such eminent writers and reformers as Sir Sayeed Ahmed Khan, Shibli, Hali, Akbar, Iqbal, Amir Meenai, Dagh and Hasrat Mohani, all of whom recognize his worth as man and poet.

### <b> Short Biography </b>

Shad Azimabadi was born at Azimabad (Patna), Bihar, India; in the house of his maternal grandparents. He belonged to a rich and respectable family, but because of his carefree, unworldly nature, he paid little attention to preserving, much less multiplying, his material assets. Consequently, in old age he had to pass through a period of economic difficulty.

His real name was Nawab Syed Ali Mohammad and he received early education in the oriental style under Shah Vilayat Hussain.

He was a whole-time poet, with an inborn gift for poetry. Early in his boyhood he had acquired a thorough grounding in Urdu, Persian and Arabic, which he had learnt from famous local teachers and scholars. He received poetic instruction from a number of masters, including, finally, Shah Ulfat Hussain Faryaad, who may be called his poetic preceptor.

He occupies a distinguished position in Urdu poetry, specially in 'ghazal' and 'masnavi'. Besides, he wrote 'marsia', 'qatat', 'rubaiyat' and 'nazm'. He was diffident and discontented and remained frustrated in life. His poetic sensibility, lofty imagination, and sense of purpose kept him isolated.

### <b> Poetry </b>

He is one of those few great poets who changed the trend of the age. Nasikh, Imam Baksh, Dagh and Nawab Shamsuddin Khan (1831-1905) dominated the scene of poetry during those days, and greater stress was laid on stylistic beauty than on feeling. Exaggerated erotic sentiment and novelty of expression were supposed to be the hallmark of good poetry. Shad, however, blended feeling, thought and richness of expression in his poetry.

The importance of Shad's poetry lies in its mystical content, imaginative style, and blending of simple Hindi words in his diction. 'The act is that Shad sometimes goes ahead of Mir and Ghalib', said Kalimuddin once.

Shad felt deeply dissatisfied with the sort of response given to his poetry. In a number of verses he advises his son not adopt poetry as his exclusive vocation. This kind of discontent is perhaps the lot of all sensitive men of letters. Nevertheless, Shad is now given due recognition, and his Ghazals are included in the syllabi of schools and colleges.

To his credit a number of oft-quoted couplets speaks of the popularity of Shad Azimabadi's ghazals, such as:

"I've been entangled in desires/what toys to keep me calm!"

Shad's Poetry makes an appeal both to the connoisseur and the commoner. This is because he gives us deep thoughts in simple, natural language. Though he generally deals with the traditional and universal themes of love and mysticism, these themes are charged with deep philosophical insights, conveyed through meaningful metaphors.

Though we can learn about his middle age but there is not enough information about his Early life.

It is now claimed that Shad Azimabadi was the one who wrote the first novel in Urdu, published in 1876, under the title 'Suratul Khyal'. The claim enjoys the backing of Khuda Baksh Library, and the man who has made this claim is the grandson of Shad Azimabadi. He died at the age of eighty-one.

# Search For Us Throughout The World Us You Cannot Find.

Search for us throughout the world us you cannot find.  
A dream premonition regret and grief such is our kind.

Stunned and silent on the shore wistfully I gaze,  
The river of love gives the call. "Come I'm easy to find.

O ache of love tell me pray I can't resolve the riddle.  
Am I the restless heart myself or is the heart in me confined?

Countless travelers start from home a few attain the goal.  
O folks give us due respect though not unique. we're rare in kind.

The flowers have sent a message to the birds encaged:  
Come sharp if you feel inclined lest our youth declines

Shad Azimabadi

# The Eyes Are Black And Beautiful Complexion Fair And Sweet.

The eyes are black and beautiful complexion fair and sweet.

Long and loose hang the locks the face innocence breathes.  
The brow is broad and winsome eyebrows arched and sharp.

The heart feels stirrings of love the looks downward creep.  
Restlessness assails the heart which longs since eve to weep.

Love is in its nascent form in gentle waves the madness leaps.  
The false promises that it makes somewhat its worth decrease.

Why shouldn't your lyric Shad touch our heart and soul?  
They describe the facts of life and sketch the life complete.

Shad Azimabadi