

Classic Poetry Series

Syed Emdad Ali
- poems -

Publication Date:

2012

Publisher:

Poemhunter.com - The World's Poetry Archive

Syed Emdad Ali(1880 – 1956)

Syed Emdad Ali (Bengali: সৈয়দ এমদাদ আলি) was a Bangladeshi poet and writer. He was born in Munshiganj District, Bengal, now in Bangladesh.

Ali, Syed Emdad was born in a poor family. He maintained himself while at school and college as a lodger in other people's houses. He passed the Matriculation Examination from Munshiganj High School and the FA (Intermediate) Examination from Jagannath College, Dhaka. Financial problems prevented him from studying further, and he dropped out to start teaching at a school in Netrokona. In 1903, he joined the police department as a sub-inspector. In recognition of his services, the British Government awarded him the title of 'Khan Sahib'.

From his boyhood, Syed Emdad Ali was interested in literary pursuits. In 1903, he join nabanoor (New Light), a Bangla monthly journal, as editor. In one of his editorials, he wrote, 'The development of the downtrodden Muslim community will be achieved only through literary activities. We invite all Muslim writers in Bangla to join in our endeavour to awaken the Muslims of this country'. Syed Emdad Ali wrote both short stories and poems, some of which were published in the journal. He also contributed to various Bangla journals such as Moslem Hitaisi and bangiya mussalman sahitya patrika. He was against the use of highly Sanskritised vocabulary in Bangla as well as the unnecessary use of Persian and Arabic words. A liberal humanist, Emdad Ali believed in communal harmony.

His only book of poems, Dali (Basket), a collection of thirty-three poems, was published in 1912. The most famous poem in this collection is perhaps 'Sekendra', inspired by the tomb of the Mughal Emperor akbar. His poem 'Eid' is probably the first poem in bangla literature on eid-ul fitr. His prose works include Hajera, a novel, and Tapasi Rabeya, a biography.

Dali

Syed Emdad Ali

Eid

Syed Emdad Ali