

*"It Ends with You"*  
(*"Ab Teri Mahobat Lagi 2001"*)<sup>1</sup>

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O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
Let Your eyes meet mine.  
Drinking the Divine wine,<sup>2</sup>  
together We shall dine.  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.

No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
I have waited long for you to open your eyes.  
Watching you sleep, hoping you would rise.  
When the thunder woke you it was Me in disguise.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.

O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
Open the curtain and look at me Face to face.  
Show me Your smile, bless me with that grace.  
You don't understand how I await Your embrace.  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.

No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
Many times I opened the curtain, but you wanted to sleep.  
Tell Me what was I to do? So silently I would weep.  
You don't understand how a Shepherd loves his sheep.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.

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<sup>1</sup> This poem, "It Ends with You", is inspired by and borrows some lines and ideas from, the Ismaili gnostic poem (*ginan*) known as *Ab Teri Mahobat Lagi* ("Now I am in Love with You"), written by the 13<sup>th</sup> century Ismaili saint and teacher, *Pir Shams*.

<sup>2</sup> The word "wine" is often used in Sufi or mystical poetry as a symbol for Divine Love and the intoxication of '*ishq*, passionate and all-consuming love for God. It should be understood as "Heavenly Wine" and in no way should it be taken literally as the earthly wine. As the great Sufi poet, Jalaludin Rumi, says, "A single drop of heaven's wine will tear your spirit away from all these wines and *sakis*...Take this other wine, not that red or amber one. This one will make you the master of meaning and deliver you from outward forms!"

O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
Like *Pir Shams*<sup>3</sup>, I am thirsty for Your vision.  
Even from sweet seductive sleep I have risen.  
I found the key, why am I still stuck in this prison?  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.

No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
*Pir Shams* was thirsty, so he emptied his cup.  
When there was nothing left, I filled it back up.  
Your cup isn't empty; If I filled it now, it would be corrupt.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.

O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
Keep me close to You, please do not be angry with me.  
All through the night I search, how I long for your company.  
When will You come for me?  
How much longer till You rescue me?  
When will You comfort me?  
How much longer till You set me free?  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.

No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
Be angry with you? I am closer than your jugular vein<sup>4</sup>.  
Yes, you do search in the night. But can you explain?  
Why do you miss, during the day, the sunshine after the rain?  
If you missed the rainbow, am I the one to blame?  
I see you added extra lines to your rhyme;  
so I did the same to Mine.  
Your love is growing, perhaps now is the time.  
Light upon Light<sup>5</sup>, you must increase your shine.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.

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<sup>3</sup> A 13<sup>th</sup> century Ismaili saint-composer, to whom many *ginans* (gnostic poetry used as devotional hymns) - including *Ab Teri Mahobat Lagi*, the inspiration for this poem - are attributed.

<sup>4</sup> This is a reference to Qur'an 50:16: "We verily created man and We know what his soul whispers to him, and We are nearer to him than his jugular vein."

<sup>5</sup> This is a reference to Qur'an 24:35, a part of which says, "Light upon Light, God guides to His Light whomsoever He will."

O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
Just promise me that You will forever stay in my heart.  
For I promise You that I will never let You depart.  
Searching at night is not enough, even in the day I shall start.  
I seem to be breaking all the rules, I keep adding an extra line.  
I have so much to say, it's a miracle it all stays in rhyme.  
Now think Khayal, how can I search for Him even in the day?  
I can't sit silently. I can't throw my responsibilities away.  
Help me Lord, I turn to You. What shall I do?  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.

No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
Nothing else can contain Me, of course I must stay in your heart.<sup>6</sup>  
Worry not; If I were to depart, the whole universe would fall apart.  
You are so close My child, aim carefully and throw that dart.  
It is no miracle that your lines always rhyme.  
What is a miracle is that so do Mine.  
You see, long before you spoke, I had already spoken.  
Now We are speaking in harmony, since you have awoken.  
Keep adding all the lines you wish, and I will add yet another.  
But if We can end with the same word, there will be no other.  
The night I made silent, so in the same manner you must pray.  
The day is full of actions, so you must speak in the same way.  
Let your actions speak aloud what the night whispered softly.  
Then your scales will be balanced, and your position will be lofty.  
At last, your heart is filling with a love that is true.  
No My child, it is I who was always in love with you.

O my Lord! Now I am in love with You.  
My heart is filled with a love that is true.  
I am in madness for the love of your secrets and mystery.  
The answer to my question has suddenly come to me.  
It is bliss to me, this Divine Epiphany.  
Holy War is tough but I know how to guarantee victory.  
The night is for contemplation, and the day is for war.<sup>7</sup>  
To the victor go the spoils, not gold or silver, but worth even more.  
Following the stars tonight, tomorrow I will reach the other shore.  
This answer couldn't have been mine; it is from You for sure.

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<sup>6</sup> This is a reference to the *Hadith Qudsi* (Sacred Tradition) in which God says: "My heaven cannot contain me, nor can my earth, but the heart of My true believer can contain Me."

<sup>7</sup> The war, and Holy War, that is being spoken of here refers to what is known as, in Arabic, *al-Jihad al-Akbar*, the "Greater War". The Prophet Muhammad referred to physical fighting against oppressors and persecutors as the lesser war, and spoke of the "Greater War" as the struggle against one's own self; against the bestial passions and carnal desires that keep one veiled from spiritual and intellectual progress.

In fact, there always was only  
You.  
And there always will be only  
You.  
I wish to speak the same word as  
You.  
I'm tired of all these words, aren't  
You?  
At last, My Lord, I will end my rhyme to  
You  
simply with the word  
" YOU."

And I, My child, will end Mine, just like  
" YOU."

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