

## The Love Poetry of Baldev Mirza: An Assessment

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### ABSTRACT

Mirza is a poet of red rose and its fragrance. His poetry is largely a conversation among the lovers in which the poet sometimes longs, sometimes aches, sometimes pines, sometimes pains and sometimes converses with his lover in his dream world. The poetry of Baldev Mirza abounds in the incidents of worldly lovers who sometimes shiver, sometimes weep, sometimes meditate, and sometimes see the image of their loving one in their dream. Mirza can speak to the readers without assuming a pose and his insistence on the efficacy of love and longing breath a different kind of stuffy atmosphere to the India English poetry. His poem which are written in anguish of unfulfilled desire and some on anticipation of the benediction of the benediction of a promised communion, provide a simple and unaffected impression readers mind as well as leaves an optimistic and sensitive note to the good things of life which makes life more human and humane.

*Keywords: Mirza, meditation, loneliness, Indo-English poetry, human.*

Mirza is a poet of red rose and its fragrance. His poetry is largely a conversation among the lovers in which the poet sometimes longs, sometimes aches, sometimes pines, sometimes pains and sometimes converses with his lover in his dream world. A Russell says: 'love as a theme in poetry, in all cultural productions except painting and music seems a little over worked and yet it continues to exercise minds of artists. Yet Mirza is capable of wearing fine verse out of common warp and woof. What sustains him all through is controlled emotionality of the total design and occasional obliqueness of images:

Let us write a poem together  
On the sheet of love  
In the ink of our blood. 1

In the poem 'A Poem for You' the poet wishes in several other ways and writes:

On the dial of mind  
Your thought keeps on moving  
Like the big hand of a watch  
The stray moments play in the sunshine  
Of your jasmine like face  
Sometimes they kiss your lustrous eyes

Sometimes your red lips

Sometimes they tickle to laugh. (SISO,12)

Baldev Mirza creates imagery in a remarkable way and in his love poems one can look at his imagery and symbols which give implications of playful images and gleeful meditation. The poet in many of his poems delineates his love laden heart that is possessed by someone when his beloved who is beyond his perception and over the horizon of poet's thought. The poet feels overwhelmed by the bewitching charms. The poet Mirza is without pretences but full of passions. He is honest, genuine and romantic in toto, who seems talking with his beloved all the time. R. L. Varshney is right when he says: The best of indo-English poetry is a fest for the spirit, a stimulant to thought, a spur to imagination, an invitation to revel in primal colours and vital symbols, to luxuriate in the intense voluptuousness of the light beyond darkness.<sup>2</sup>

Mirza in his kaleidoscopic moods looks the enigma of love in a kaleidoscopic manner and sprinkle the eroticism in an altogether different and colorful way:

You hold out  
Your hand  
Let me drip  
Like tears  
On your palm  
The candle  
Of my soul  
Is restless. (WTSA, 5)

The poet gathers the images from the flowers and frame it with his longings. The fairies of his beloved's thought wrap him in its fragrance and the poet starts craving for his beloved's words. B. K. Das comments, "Indian poets in English are bold enough to speak of love and sex as inseparable part of life."<sup>3</sup> The poet writes finally:

The moon slips out  
Of my hands  
When you walk  
In my dreams  
Your words are  
As beautiful as you

They turn into butterflies

When I remember you? (AFS ,11)

He feels his beloved everywhere, so he says:

When I open

The door

In the morning

You come

Hand in hand

With the sun

I greet you

Darkness dripping

Down my cheeks

The sparrows nestling

In the house

Join me

To welcome you

You enter the house

But I can't see you

Are you

A gust of breeze

Fragrance

Of a rose

Or a sweet memory? (WSA, 6)

To take a walk into the garden of Mirza's poetry is indeed a gleeful experience where everyone can find the flowers of different hues and fragrance some of the flowers are of the longings, some of the pangs, some of the flowers are of loneliness and some of the flowers are of frustration. Hoping better to come out from the poetry of such poets like Baldev Mirza M.K.Naik says, "The Indian English romantic tradition is nor however yet completely extinct and in fact, paradoxically enough." 4

Mirza can speak to the readers without assuming a pose and his insistence on the efficacy of love and longing breath a different kind of stuffy atmosphere to the India English poetry. His poem which are written in anguish of unfulfilled desire and some on anticipation of the

benediction of the benediction of a promised communion, provide a simple and unaffected impression readers mind as well as leaves an optimistic and sensitive notes to the good things of life which makes life more human and humane. P. Raja says, “To men of greater understanding age was not in any way an obsession. They never married in haste and repented at leisure. Their love was not to cool down soon. The law of great people suffered no rift throughout their lives.”<sup>5</sup>

Love and sex both find equal room in his poetry by which poet makes his poetry more impressive and profound. Sometimes in the matter of love, the poet also finds himself in the fore walls of frustration and says:

In between you  
And the winds  
There shoots up  
A bright flame  
Followed by  
Desire  
Despair  
Darkness. (AFS, 16)

In his poem, ‘To You’ the poet says to his beloved:

Dear friend  
Perhaps you don’t know that  
I am also a cage like you  
Left under the barren tree. (ibid, 6)

And he adds:

Why not exchange the features  
Of the birds that flew away;  
Even longings of the past  
As books for one another to read  
Learn how desolation chased us  
And raised its unseen columns around? (WF, 6)

At last, he questions:

Why the trees were signed  
By the rainless clouds?  
Say if you can spare a green leaf  
I shall wear it on my head. (ibid)

B.K. Das aptly comments, “Love is one of the three permanent themes (the other two being life and death) of poetry, and for that matter of literature, love occupies a central position in the realm of Indo-Anglian Poetry of recent times.”<sup>6</sup> The poet is ready to leave everything for his beloved and wishes to merge his existence into her being:

I am melting in your arms  
You are as bright as the pole star  
What shape shall I take?  
Shall I be a candle for you?  
To light your path  
Look the fire I carry in my soul  
Is your gift for me?  
How long shall I keep it burning  
I don't know? (TS, 25)

Mirza is a wonderful romantic poet in the realms of contemporary Indian English poetry who has contributed much of his good poems. Almost all the elements and characteristics of romanticism can be marked in his poetry. So B.K. Das is correct in his observation about modern poets when he says, “I have a feeling that a good deal of poetic talent exists in India at the moment. As I have said elsewhere that serious Indian English poetry came to be written not just after independence but in the nineteen sixties and after.”<sup>7</sup>

Like the English romantics, Mirza is also a poet of deep sensuousness who is alien to the beauties of natures and tries to seek beauty in everything around him. I.H.Rizvi also says:

“Love is the palace of many coloured glasses. It takes numberless forms. True poetry springs from the fountain of the heart of a poet who loves, has loved and perhaps lost. And poetry which has won the hearts of the largest number of its lovers is love poetry. Man may die but the song of love will survive.”

Mingling nature with love he creates a different conversational poem:

I want you

To get closer  
With only  
Moon beans  
Melting  
Between us  
With only  
A tear or two  
In your eyes  
To thread  
Your heart  
With mind  
With only  
A rainless  
Golden cloud  
Hovering  
Over us. (WSA, 14)

Thus, the poetry of Baldev Mirza abounds in the incidents of worldly lovers who sometimes shiver, sometimes weep, sometimes meditate and sometimes see the image of their loving one in their dream. Mirza can speak to the readers without assuming a pose and his insistence on the efficacy of love and longing breath a different kind of stuffy atmosphere to the India English poetry. His poem which are written in anguish of unfulfilled desire and some on anticipation of the benediction of the benediction of a promised communion, provide a simple and unaffected impression readers mind as well as leaves an optimistic and sensitive note to the good things of life which makes life more human and humane.

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