



Ruboi (Quatrains)

Quatrain (*ruboi*) is one of the popular oral poetry forms, which also has established literary standing in the book culture. It consists of four lines and is composed according to 24 *aruz* rhythmic meters. The compositional structure of the quatrains makes them easiest form of poetry to be sung and put into a melody. As such it constitutes major part of the traditional singing such as *Falak*.

Tajik quatrains are lyrical and include also variety of social and cultural themes. Traditional quatrains as such have been a mirror of the social and cultural events and depicting emotional standing and feelings of people in different period of their lives.

Quatrains were a poetic form of communication expressing different emotional and physical conditions of humans to each other. The quatrains contain images and imaginary of the real life situations and portray real humans. For example the lyrical quatrains portray an idealized lover either positive or negative. The figures

portrayed in quatrains are contextualized in their real life situations and contexts and represent a villager, a city dwelling lover and portray qualities unique to girls, boys, old and young people that can be identified and related to.

The quatrains also communicate cultural and traditional events and phenomena true to the society where it is composed. It represents events that are inherent to the culture and society of a given culture.

You are going upward there are winds.
Flowers bloom and poppy swings.
Merchant is trading his goods,
Effected soul bleeds unaffected flourish.

Symbolism and imaginary is one of the specific aspects of the quatrains. In quatrains composers and singers employ wide range of symbols taken from the natural world and real-life situations and these become embodiment of their emotions and feelings. For example, flower represent something pleasant whereas the mountain pass represents an obstacle to be overcome or the river is the separation or grief and so on.

River of Elok I hold dreams about you.
My white rose is on your tides.
On one side of the waters lives one lonely,
On the other side lives another lonely.

One can identify that the theme of separation and living afar from ones loved once takes central position. These quatrains demonstrate the situations and feelings that one who is separated and away has to go through.

I am leaving my house with wet eyes,
My eyes wet and heart burdened.
People ask what pain in on your heart?
Living afar is a storm of pain.