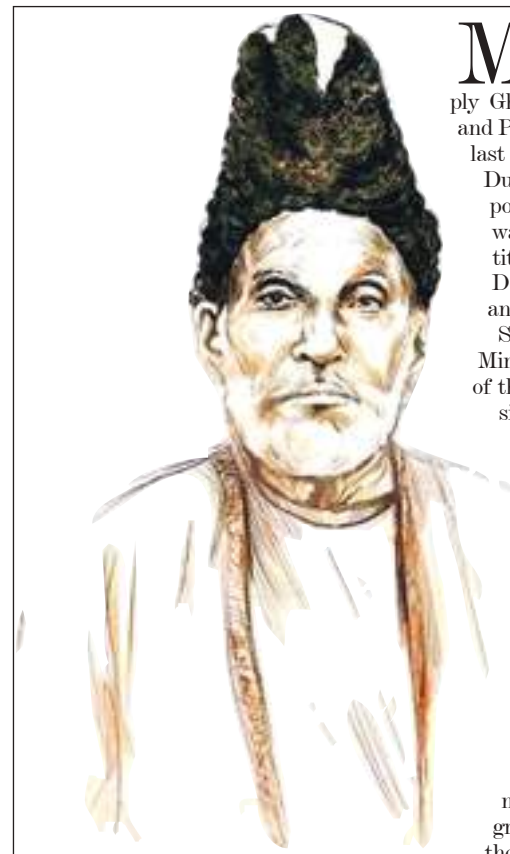


The Life & Legacy Mirza Ghalib — All You Want to Know



Mirza Asadullah Baig Khan, widely known as Mirza Ghalib / Mirja Ghalib or simply Ghalib was a conspicuous Urdu and Persian poet. He lived during the last years of the Mughal Empire.

Due to his marvelous abilities as a poet both in Urdu & Persian, he was given a number of honorific titles. Some of those titles are Dabir-ul-Mulk, Najm-ud-Daula and Mirza Noshah.

Some academics have regarded Mirza Ghalib as the last great poet of the Mughal Era. He is also considered from the pioneers who transformed the Urdu language.

Mirza Ghalib was born on 27th December 1797 in Kala Mahal, Agra into a family descended from Aibak Turks who had moved to Samarkand (Uzbekistan).

His paternal grandfather, Mirza Qoqan Baig, was a Seljuq Turk who had immigrated to India from Samarkand during the reign of Ahmad Shah. After his migration to India, Ghalib's grandfather worked throughout the country including in cities like

Lahore, Delhi and Jaipur. But destiny made him to finally settle in Agra. Mirza Ghalib's grandfather married and had four sons and three daughters. Mirza Abdullah Baig (Ghalib's father) and Mirza Nasrullah Baig were two of his sons. Mirza Ghalib's father married Izzat-ut-Nisa Begum, an ethnic Kashmiri.

A Sneak Peak into Ghalib's Career

Mirza Ghalib started composing poetry at the age of 11. Although his first language was Urdu, Persian and Turkish were also spoken at home due to his ancestry. Apart from Urdu, he received an education in Persian and Arabic at a young age. When Mirza Ghalib was in his early teens, a tourist from Iran Abdus Samad, who had recently converted to Islam from Zoroastrian, came to Agra and stayed at Ghalib's home for two years and taught him Persian, Arabic, Philosophy, and Logic.

He had written most of his famous ghazals by the age of nineteen. That's too young for the quality and depth of his ghazals. At that time ghazals were written mostly to express love, pain and sadness. But Mirza Ghalib had different ideas.

He revolutionized this genre and expressed philosophy and the struggles and mysteries of life. Mirza Sahab wrote ghazals on many other subjects, vastly expanding the scope of the ghazal.

At that time the Urdu language was very decorative and formal. But the genius in Mirza Ghalib made this language very familiar and relatable. This is most notably seen in the letters that he used to send to his friends. These letters were filled with humor and wit.

Letter writing subsequently became an art which he mastered. His letters were written in a first-person narrative and seemed like he was conversing with the receiver in person. These letters were very informal. He would just write the name of the person and start the letter. His style was revolutionary and he gave letter writing a whole new meaning. This art of letter writing was so inculcated in him that many scholars say that Mirza Ghalib would have had the same place in Urdu literature as he has today, only if he just wrote letters.

The Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar II was himself a poet. Mirza Ghalib was appointed as his tutor in 1854, thus he became an important courtier of the royal court. He was also appointed as the tutor of Prince Fakhru-d Din Mirza, eldest son of Bahadur Shah II. Another feather in his cap was his appointment as the royal historian of Mughal Court.

Ghalib was a reporter of this turbulent period and saw the end of the feudal elite to which Ghalib had belonged. One by one, Ghalib saw the bazaars of Delhi like Khas Bazaar, Urdu Bazaar, Kharam-ka Bazaar, disappear along with whole mohallas and lanes slowly vanish. The havelis of his friends were demolished and he stated that Delhi was longer the rich cultured place as it used to be. It had turned into a desert and a military camp of the British.

He died in Delhi on February 15, 1869, and was buried in Hazrat Nizamuddin near the tomb of Nizamuddin Auliya. The house where he lived in Gali Qasim Jaan, Ballimaran, Chandni Chowk, in Old Delhi has now been turned into 'Ghalib Memorial' and houses a permanent Ghalib exhibition.

Legacy & Books of Mirza Ghalib

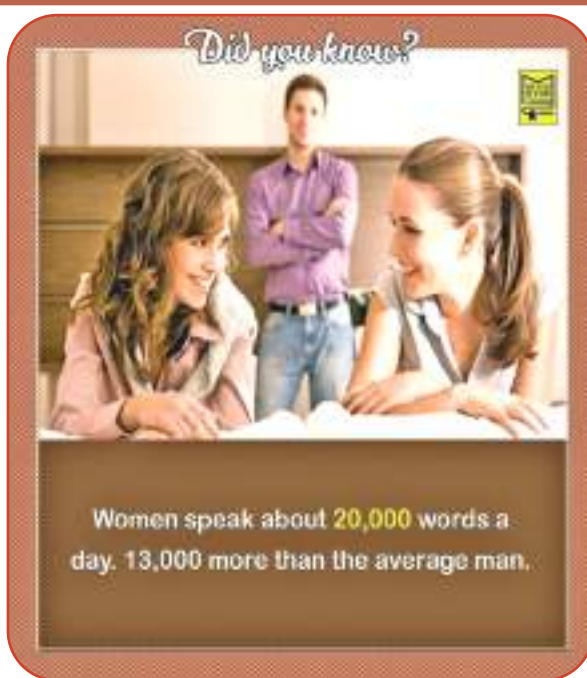
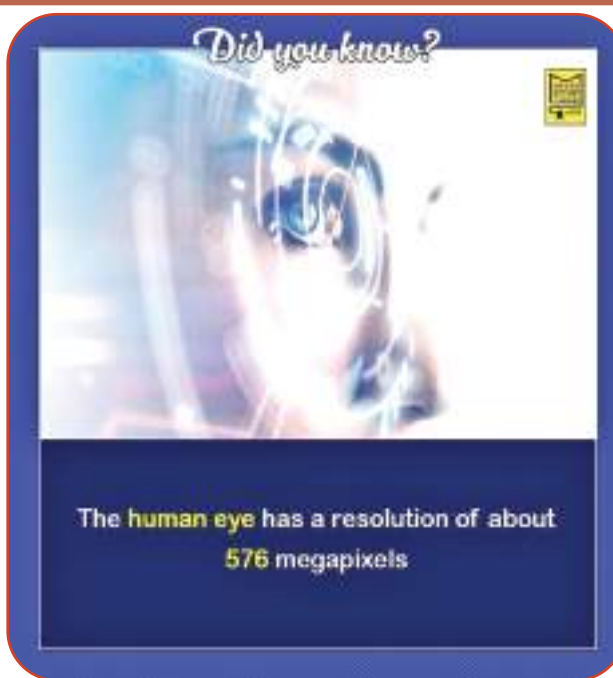
The first complete English translation of Ghalib's ghazals was written by Sarfaraz K. Niazi and published by Rupa & Co in India and Ferozsons in Pakistan. The title of this book is Love Sonnets of Ghalib and it contains complete Roman transliteration, explication and an extensive lexicon.

His letters have been translated by Ralph Russell in The Oxford Ghalib. Urdu Letters of Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib, have been translated by Daud Rahbar in the SUNY Press in 1987. Kulliyat-e-Ghalib Farsi, an anthology of Persian poetry of well-known Urdu poet Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib first released at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) and later released at Tehran by Ambassadors of India and Pakistan jointly at a function sponsored by Iranian Ministry of Arts and Culture in Tehran on 20 September 2010.

This rare collection contains 11,337 verses of Ghalib, was compiled by Dr. Syed Taqi Abedi. Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Abidi said that the study of Ghalib would be incomplete without his Persian poetry. Although Ghalib had earned his reputation in Urdu literature, the poet of the Mughal era was more inclined towards Persian and produced high-order poetry in that language.

At the literary "ru-ba-ru session" organized by the Haryana Urdu Academy, where Dr. Taqi offered an analytical study of the works of legendary poet Mirza Ghalib, both in Persian as well as Urdu. He informs that Ghalib wrote 1,792 couplets in Urdu by the year 1865 as against the 11,340 in Persian. He also opined that Ghalib was a visionary, a poet of humanism whose works are popular even after three centuries.

THE FACT CORNER



BRAIN TEASERS

1 Q. Replace the ? by the correct Mathematics symbol to make the expression true
18 ? 12 ? 4 ? 5 = 59

2 Q. Solve this logic number sequence puzzle by the correct digit
8080 = 6
1357 = 0
2022 = 1
1999 = 3
6666 = ?

3 Q. I know a three positive numbers that will results the same when multiplied together or added together.

4 Q. By using numbers 7,3,7,3 and with any maths signs can you make number as 24

5 Q. If 1 + 9 + 11 = 1, Then what is the value of 12 + 11 + 9 = ?

6 Q. Let us say that a table tennis tournament was going on with knock out terms which means the one who loses the match is out of the tournament. 100 players took part in that tournament.
How many matches were played?.

7 Q. If 77x = 189x = 345x.
What is the value of x?

SOLUTION:
1. 18 x 12 ÷ 4 + 5 = 59.
2. 4.
3. three positive numbers
are 1 2 & 3
1 x 2 x 3 = 6
1 + 2 + 3 = 6
4. 7 * ((3 / 7) + 3) = 24.

English Proverbs and Meanings

*** Better be the head of a dog then the tail of a lion.**
It's better to be the leader of a small group than a subordinate in a bigger one.

*** Better flatter a fool than fight him.**
It's better to avoid disputes with stupid people.

*** Better lose the saddle than the horse.**
It's better to stop and accept a small loss, rather than continue and risk losing everything.

*** Better untaught than ill-taught.**

It's better not to be taught at all than to be taught badly.

*** Blood will out.**
A person's background or education will eventually show.

*** He who plays with fire gets burnt.**
If you behave in a risky way, you are likely to have problems.

*** One today is worth two tomorrow.**
What you have today is better than what is promised for.

Coconut Barfi



Ingredients:
1 cup semolina
1/2 cup grated coconut
3 tablespoon ghee
1 cup powdered sugar
1 1/2 cup milk
2 tablespoon mixed dry fruits

How to Proceed:

Firstly heat 2 tbsp ghee in a pan. Add semolina and roast it for 3-4 minutes. Once it turns a shade darker, add powdered coconut to it. Mix well and let it roast for another 2-3 minutes. Now remove it from heat and keep the mixture aside. Now heat milk in another pan and let it come to a boil. Now add the coconut mixture and mix well. Add sugar and let it dissolve completely. Let it cook on medium heat till the milk is completely absorbed and a thick mixture is formed.

Once the mixture leaves the sides of the pan, remove it from heat and let it cool down just a bit. Grease a tray with a tbsp of ghee and spread the coconut mixture on it. Spread it evenly and slide the tray in the refrigerator.

Once set completely, chop the barfi pieces and garnish with nuts of your choice.

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Sooji Cheela



Ingredients:
1 cup semolina
1 large chopped onion
1 chopped capsicum (green pepper)
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
3 teaspoon vegetable oil
1 cup yoghurt (curd)
1 medium chopped tomato
salt as required
1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder

How To Make:

Firstly mix together semolina and curd in a large bowl. Whisk properly to attain a thick mixture. You can also add 3-4 tbsp water if required.

Now add chopped onions, tomatoes and capsicum to the semolina mixture. Add red chilli powder, black pepper powder and salt. Mix everything well.

Heat 1 tsp oil on a non-stick tawa. Now pour some batter on the tawa and spread it a bit. Let the cheela cook from both sides until golden-brown.

Repeat the step with the rest of the batter to make more cheelas. Serve them hot with mint chutney, tomato ketchup or coconut chutney.