



تقریبِ رونمائی



آتشِ عشق نے جلا ڈالا
جشنِ ہمیدہ مقبول



۱۲ اکتوبر، ۲۰۱۴
اور لاندو، فلوریڈا

USA




Oh, what a night! Full of fun and excitement. Thank you for attending the Taqreeb-e roonumaii event last Sunday at the Tazkia Banquet Hall. We had an excellent program; one of the best programs we ever had in several years.

The dinner was served right on time and the guests enjoyed the delicious dishes prepared by Shazia. Thanks to Dr. Imtiaz and Tahira Qureshi for arranging the dinner. Let's have big round of applause for them.

The audience was thrilled to be a part of this exciting program and thoroughly enjoyed every moment the literary evening. We had some new faces in the crowd and met some old friends after a long time. We are grateful to them for joining us last Sunday.

The program started with a brief introduction by Dr. Arif Zaheer followed by Ahmed Tanhaa's opening remarks. He invited Mohtarma Fahmida Maqbool to the stage and presented her the

beautiful bouquet of flowers . He then invited Ejaz Malik saheb to start the evening with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by hamd and na'at reciting Mohtarma Maqbool's na'at with grace. The first speaker of the night was Tanhaa who paid his tributes to Mohtarma Maqbool with

his muqala: **نہیدہ مقبول کا تخلیقی سفر۔ بے حس دنیا کی حساس شاعرہ**

The first session started with the local poets and continued until 9:30 pm. Tanhaa recited one of his qit'a and

his new poem **نور اکبر** and left the podium in the roar of resounding applause. Then Dr. Sarfraz Ahmad arrived at the podium with his mazedaar and lutf andoz tidbit setting the tone for the evening. Mulaheza ho:


نماز میں بھی میری عشق بازیاں نہ گئیں
پڑھا اسی آیت کو جس میں ذکرِ حور آیا

میری تسبیح کے دانے ہیں اچھی صورتوں والے
نظر میں پھرتے رہتے ہیں عبادت ہوتی رہتی ہے

Isi leye hum kehtay haiN *“ishq ebadat hay so kee hum nay.”* He also recited Mohtarma Maqbool's selective ghazals and qit'aat for the audience and they responded with their thunderous applause.

Next Arfeen saheb entertained the audience with his kalaam who were very generous with their accolades followed by Janaab Faisal Dara who recited his kalaam in the context of Iqbal's "خودی". He impressed the audience with his presentation and received the well-deserved accolades as well. Then Dr. Arif Zaheer recited his heart-warming kalaam fresh off the press nazam which was a hit. The audience whole-heartedly responded with their applauses and accolades. Finally, it was Mohtaram Agha saheb's turn to recite his thought-provoking poetry. As always, he mesmerized the audience and kept them spellbound for a while. The first session ended with Shazia's melodic recitation of Mohtarma Maqbool's ghazal and Dr. Tahira Imtiaz's non-melodic but heart-touching recitation of her Mom's ghazal. The audience was once again thrilled by their performance. With that note, the first session ended with the tea break.

The second session started at about 9:45 pm and continued until 11:30 pm. Mohtarma

Maqbool recited her kalaam from her new book  and some from her other poetry collections. Her kalaam and melodic performance was superb and a pure joy to listen.

Mohtarma Maqbool is an accomplished poet; however, she is not part of the musha'era circuits like some other poets. She has composed thousands of ghazals over the period of past several decades, but has published only a handful thus far. So far she has published four books including *Fehm o Sukhan*, *Ghubar-e Dil*, *KirnoN Kee Tapish*, and *YadoN Kee Rahguzar*. These books are just a small sample of her work, however, at the pace she writes we will have many more books to read and may more opportunities to explore her writings in the future, insha-Allah. Her poetry has been published in several periodicals, magazines, and newspapers as well.

She is a down-to-earth and very sincere person who has lived a very simple life in Pakistan with her family consisting of nine children. All her kids are masha-Allah well-educated and most of them are physicians working here and abroad. She frequently travels between Pakistan, America, and Canada where her daughters reside with their families. It is to her credit that she successfully managed the affairs of a large family and devoted enough time to literature as well. Writing is not an easy task as it requires the talent as well as time. To find time for her passion and to earn the recognition in the literary circles of Pakistan, America, and Canada is an amazing feat.

Over the years, she has received several awards including Badbaan Academy Award (1966), Funkadah Academy Award (1999), Halqa-e Danish Award (2000), Qaid-e Azam Millennium Musha'era Award (2001), and Awan-e Urdu Lifetime Achievement Award (2010). Mohtarma Maqbool enjoys international recognition and has participated in several literary events in Pakistan, America, and Canada. For someone of her stature and talent who has thousands of ghazals and poem to her credit, these awards are just a small token of appreciation because she deserves more.

Her poetry is the story of our lives and she narrates it so well in a very soft and gentle manner. She has expressed her thoughts and her feelings based on her personal experiences and her keen observation of the world around her. She has developed her own style of writing using mainly the ghazal format to compose her poetry. She completely feels at ease when she pens her verses and uses simple words to deliver her message. Her thoughts are pure and her poetry is very fluid. The lucid nature of her poetry effortlessly connects her with her audience. She talks with her audience as a woman who plays multiple roles in our society. Therefore, her poetry resonates with both male and female members of our society. She does not create any illusion in the minds of her readers, but rather reminds them of the bitter realities of life. At times she may sound blunt, but as we know very well sometimes truth hurts. At many occasions we find spontaneity in her poetry as if there was a divine intervention and somehow the verses start to form as soon as her pen touches the paper. Her marvelous creation is the testimony of her fertile mind and her natural talent. Her poetry is also a reflection of her personality. She is a very soft-spoken and humble person full of humility and modesty. She is a remarkable lady indeed.

Mohtarma Maqbool is still actively engaged in her creative work. It is because her restless soul will not let her quit; it compels her to carry on; and thus the journey continues.

شاعری احساس کا سفر ہے اور اس سفر میں مقبول صاحبہ کئی سنگ میل سے گزر چکی ہیں۔ جب تک انکے دل میں تڑپ اور بے قراری باقی ہے یہ سفر جاری رہے گا کیونکہ بنوڑ کہ منزل دور است۔ "غبارِ دل" ہو یا "یادوں کی رہگزر" یہ سب کرب و مسافت کی علامتیں ہیں۔ "فہم سخن" اور "کرنوں کی تپش" انکی ذات کی ترجمانی کرتی ہیں۔ انکا اندازِ بیان بہت ہی دل لیوہ، سوز و گداز سے لدا ہوا لہجہ قابلِ تحسین، اور انکا یہ سفر قابلِ دید ہے۔ انکے اشعار کے زیر و بم، لہجے کا اتار چڑھاؤ، اور خیالات کے پیچ و خم اس بات کی گواہی دیتے ہیں کہ انکو اپنے فن پر بھرپور عبور حاصل ہے اور وہ اپنی تمام تر صلاحیتوں کو بروئے کار لا کر اپنے سامعین کو ایک سبق آموز داستان سناتی ہیں۔ انہوں نے خود اس بات کا اعتراف کیا ہے کہ کسی استاد سے کبھی اصلاح نہیں کروائی اس لئے انکے اشعار میں تھوڑی بہت اونچ نیچ ہو سکتی ہے، لیکن اسکے باوجود انکا تمام کلام بہت معنی خیز ہے۔ ہم انکو دیکھ کر بس رشک اور دعا کر سکتے ہیں۔ انکی معتبر شخصیت اور شفقت سے بھرا ہوا پیکر ہمارے لئے کسی نعمت سے کم نہیں۔ اگر ہمیں انکا کمالِ فن حاصل ہو جائے تو شاید ہم بھی شعر کہنے کے کچھ قابل ہو جائیں۔ اور اگر انکے ذات کی ایک کرن ہمیں چھو لے تو شاید ہمیں بھی وہ روشنی میسر آ جائے جو انکی ذات میں منور ہے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ انکو انکے سفر پرے رواں دواں رکھے تاکہ ہم انکے نقشِ پا سے اپنی منزل کا تعین کر سکیں اور اللہ تعالیٰ انکی صحت کو برقرار رکھے تاکہ انکا خونِ دل روشنائی بن کر ہر صفحے پر اشعار کی صورت چمکتا رہے۔ آمین۔

Thank you for being part of this exciting and memorable evening. Thanks to Malik saheb for providing the sound system and for setting up the room and post program clean up. Thanks to Dr. Idrees, Dr. Ahmad and Dara saheb for their contribution and assistance. Thanks to Dr. Zaheer for conducting the program. And thanks to the staff of Tazkiah Masjid for their help. Tazkiah Banquet Hall is an ideal place for our events due its size, location, and amenities. We should consider making this a permanent place for future events.

Photos have been posted at the Yahoo Group website; you may view the album at your leisure. As always, keeping you in my thoughts. Until next time.

Khair Andesh,

تنہا