

Har lehza ba shaklay...

by Hazrat Rumi r.a

Har lehza ba shaklay but-e-ayyar baraamad
Dil burd-o-nihaan shud
Har dum ba libaas-e-digar aan yaar baraamad
Gah peer-o-jawaan shud

O' that trickster idol-beloved! Every time he made an appearance, he had a different face-
He pulled the people's hearts,
And hid from view.
Every time he came out
in a different garb-
He was sometimes young,
And sometimes he was old.

Khud kuza 0 kuza garo khud
gil-e-kuzaa
Khud rind-e-subu kash
Khud bar sar-e-aan kuza khareedaar baraamad
Ba shikast o rawaan shud

He was himself clay and flask,
And potter, and also the wine tippler.
And then he himself came out
As buyer for the flask,
And he broke it, and moved on.

Nai nai ke hameen bood ke mi aamad o mi ruft
Har qarn ke deedum

Nay! It was he that came and went
In all the ages, as I saw,

Taa aqbat aan shakl-e-arab vaar baraamad
Dara-e-jahaan shud

Till finally, he showed himself
In the Arabian's form and took the
world for his kingdom.

Nai nai ke hamoon bood ke mi guft anul haq
Dar soorat-e-Mansoor
Mansoor na boodaan ke baraandaar baraamad
Naadaan ba gumaan shud

Nay! It was he who proclaimed
"I am the Truth" In Mansur's words;
It wasn't Mansur who was in public view,
On the scaffold, Fools fell into error.

Rumi shukhanay guft na guftast 0 na goyed
Kas dar hama aalam
Kafir shavad aan kas kay ba inkaar baraamad
Mardood-e-jahaan shud

Rumi has spoken in denial,
And none in the wide world speaks or Spoke thus.
Those who come out in denial Are cast out,
And become rejects, world-wide.

Translated by S. R. Faruqi