

“ Ode to the Sun”
An English Translation of Iqbal’s Urdu poem

Abdul Rashid Dar

O Sun! Thou art the soul and impulse of the whole world
Thou art the strong string that binds the book of the whole world
Thou art the cause of existence of the life and death of all the things
Thou art the cause of the Spring-like verdure in the garden of existence
It is due to thou that the spectacle of this world of elements is organised
It is due to thou that everywhere life is fairly maintained in every living thing
With the appearance of thy first light at dawn, everything gets stability
In fact, thy regular rising and setting is the embodiment of life itself
Thou art the Sun with which there is illumination in every age of life,
the Sun with which heart, intellect, spirit and wisdom exist in every age
O Sun! O ever-shining sphere of light! Bestow on us the light of wisdom,
bestow the light of thy unmatched lustre on the eye of our intellect
Thou art the paraphernalia of embellishment for the celebration of life
Thou art the care-taker of the denizens of both-the heights and the plains
The excellence of thy existence is found in every living thing of the world,
the proofs of thy omnipresence also lie in the gorges of mountain ranges
Thou art the sustainer of everything blessed with the unique gift of life

Thou art the crowned king of the vast realm of all the products of light
There is no alpha and no omega to thy existence, so limitless art thou
Thy light is free of all the binding limits of the beginning and the end.

About the Author: Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) was a renowned poet, philosopher, politician and scholar who was born in Sialkot of the Punjab Province of undivided India. He is admired throughout the world as a philosopher-poet who produced influential prose and poetical works in three languages-Urdu, Persian and English. In 1923, he was knighted by King George V, granting him the title of "Sir". His poetry containing depth of meaning and artistic use of figures of speech, appeals to millions of people across the globe.

About the Translator: Abdul Rashid Dar did his Masters in English in 2011 and qualified SET in English in 2013. As an Assistant Professor in English (on contract basis) he taught 'British Drama' and 'Indian English Poetry' at the Department of English, Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar for four years.