



General & Higher Academic Programme

NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Epithalamiums: An Anthology of Marriage Poems from Chaucer to the Modern Age

edited and annotated by Masoodul Hasan & Syed Naqi Husain Jafri

The book

Anthologies provide ready, expansive insights into specific forms of literature. In the genre of poetry, nuptial poetry is singularly under-represented. The only extant anthology on nuptial poetry, published in the last decade of the nineteenth century, is now difficult to find, and does not have entries beyond the eighteenth century. The present anthology aims to compensate for this, and offers a comprehensive selection of epithalamic poetry from the fourteenth to the twentieth centuries. Apart from its wide coverage, the anthology also presents, for the first time, an epithalamic extract from Chaucer, and the hitherto uncollected pieces from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, all put together in one volume. For the first time, also, specimens of spousal poetry from four different countries—England, the USA, Australia and India—are gathered together. Significant changes in poetic taste and fashion, along with changing cultural nuances and matrimonial customs can be traced in the poems chosen here. The 'Introduction' to the volume, in a fresh perspective, sets up comparisons with the Oriental traditions—Sanskrit, Hebrew, Arabic and Chinese—of nuptial verse along with their Greek and Latin versions which are the original models for the English epithalamiums.

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Introduction

1. *Geoffrey Chaucer*

'I grant it you', quod she; and right anon

2. *Sir Philip Sidney*

Let mother Earth now deck herself in flowers

3. *Edmund Spenser*

Ye learned sisters which have oftentimes

Calm was the day, and through the
trembling air

4. *George Chapman*

Come, come, dear night. Love's smart kisses

Sing, sing a rapture to all nuptial ears

O you, this kingdom's glory, that shall be

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Thus far we handsomely have gone

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Hymen: peace, ho! I bar confusion

O blessed bond of board and bed!

Honour, riches, marriage blessing

7. *Thomas Campion*

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Glossary

The Editors

Masoodul Hasan, who has a doctorate from the University of Liverpool, has taught at the Aligarh Muslim University for more than four decades, and served as Chairman of the Department of English and Modern European Languages. He was also the Dean, Faculty of Arts at the same university and retired in 1988. His publications include *Donne's Imagery*; *Francis Quarles: A Critical Assessment*; *Rare English Books in India*; *Nineteenth-Century English Literary Works Available in India* (with appendices of leading periodical holdings of major Indian libraries), *Miltoniana in India* (which contains, among other things, translations of Milton's works into the major Indian and foreign languages); and *Sufism and English Literature: From Chaucer to the Modern Age*.

Syed Naqi Husain Jafri taught English at the Christian College, Lucknow, and Anwar-ul Ulum College, Hyderabad, before joining the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, which he served for about three decades. His publications include *Aspects of Drayton's Poetry* (1988) and an edited volume entitled *Critical Theory: Perspectives from Asia* (2004). A collection of his essays entitled *Essays on Literature History and Society* (2010) has been published posthumously.

Equally comfortable in Urdu, Jafri also published *Kuchh Mashriq se Kuchh Maghrib se* (Of the Orient and the Occident) in 1993, and an omnibus of his other Urdu writings entitled '*Ahd-e Wusta ka Hindustan: Muslim Thaqafat, Tassawuf aur Adab* (Muslim Civilization, Sufism and Literature in Medieval India) in 2009.

Market

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