asiasociety 2012

shauq har rang raqiib-e sar-o-saamaaN niklaa Qais tasviir ke parde meN bhii 'uryaaN niklaa

{6,1}, composed in 1821 by Mirza Asadullah Khan 'Ghalib' (1797-1869); handout by Fran Pritchett, Asia Society, Apri. 2012

shauq

ardor, passion, enthusiasm, zeal, desire, yearning

har

[in] every

rang

color

"Hindi, Persian: Colour, colouring matter, pigment, paint, dye; colour, tint, hue, complexion; beauty, bloom; expression, countenance, appearance, aspect; fashion, style; character, nature; mood, mode, manner, method; kind, sort; state, condition;—a suit of cards;—a place of public amusement or for dramatic exhibition, theatre, stage; dancing; singing; acting; sport, entertainment, amusement, merriment, pleasure, enjoyment;—a field of battle." (Platts p. 601)

raqiib-e

rival, competitor, enemy [of]

sar-o-

dignity, propriety, respectability; also, sar = "head"

saamaaN

"Apparatus, necessaries, requisites, effects, goods and chattels, bed and bedding, &c."

(Platts p. 649)

niklaa

turned out to be; emerged as

Qais

The proper name of "Majnuun" (literally, "jinn-possessed"), the mad lover of Laila; he

was (in)famous for wandering naked in the desert

tasviir ke

[of a] "Picture; drawing; sketch; painting; portrait; an image." (Platts p. 326)

parde

[in the] veil, screen, guise

meN

"A curtain, screen, cover, veil, anything which acts as a screen, a wall, hangings, tapestry; film, fine web, pellicle, lid (of the eye); drum (of the ear); sail (of a ship); the piece which covers the chest in an *angarkhā* or coat; the surface of the earth; secrecy, privacy, modesty; seclusion, concealment; secret, mystery, reticence, reserve; screen,

shelter, pretext, pretence." (Platts p. 246)

bhii

even; also

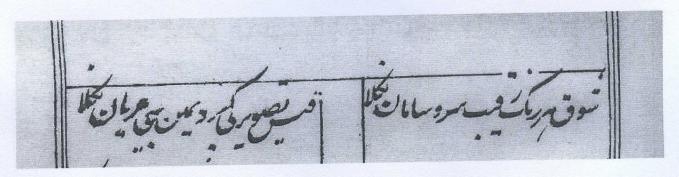
'uryaaN

"Naked, nude, bare, stripped, deprived (of), devoid (of)." (Platts p. 760)

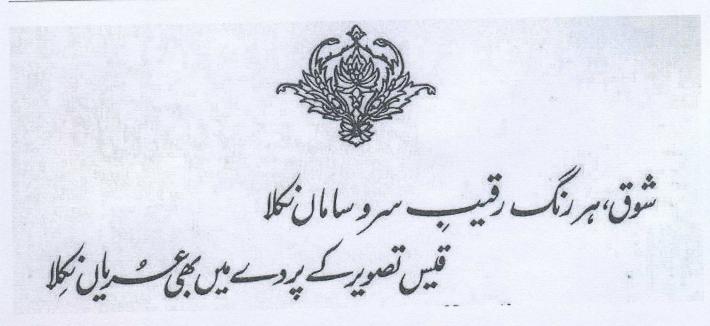
niklaa

turned out to be; emerged as

Ghalib,[in a letter, 1865:]: raqiib has the meaning of 'opponent'. That is to say, ardor is the enemy of proper possession. The proof is that Qais, who in life wandered around naked, remained naked even within the veil of a picture. The pleasure of it is that Majnun is always pictured with his body naked, wherever he is pictured. (Khaliq Anjum v. 2 p. 837)



{6,1} from the Nuskhah-e Sherani manuscript, 1825



{6,1} from the modern Hamid edition, Lahore 1969

" ستوق ہر رنگ الن" " رقیب " معنی مخالف " یعنی شوق سروسامان کا دستی معنی مخالف " یعنی شوق سروسامان کا دستی ہے ۔ دسیل پر کہ قایس ہو زندگی میں نسکا بھرا پھرتا تھا یصویر کے پردے ہیں بھی سکا ہی رہا ۔ لطف یہ ہے کہ بجول کی تصویر یا تن عریاں ہی شیخی ہے ' جہال شیخی ہے"۔ ن

{6,1} from Ghalib's own letter of 1865; it was prefaced by the remark "First listen to the meaning of the meaningless verses," so apparently at least one correspondent, Shakir, had trouble with it. (Khaliq Anjum v. 2 p. 837)