

# RAJ दायरा MOHAN DAAYRA

## I for sahar

This is your city, your path  
your vision, your words  
your turf, your earth  
your flag, that sails so proudly, in your name  
your love, your veil  
your religion, your view  
your (good)luck, your wishes/wants  
your sum, your part.  
When will you place your feet  
on the floor from my ground;  
Sit in my shadow;  
Listen to my ups and downs;  
Share yours?

I run after you  
leaving myself behind.  
But for how much longer, how long, how long, how long?  
I trust my instincts thoroughly  
Don't question them, though I may not understand.  
But for how much longer, how long ,how long, how long?  
Know not why your hand invariably  
loses touch with mine.  
Know not why  
our nights never meet.  
Perhaps you think that I'm a fool,  
coming too close to you,  
to soothe your mind.  
Maybe you still want  
an empty space between us.  
When will you bathe your feet  
in the teardrops from my eyes?  
Tell me. When will you?  
When will you place your feet  
on the floor from my ground;  
Sit in my shadow;  
Listen to my ups and downs;  
Share yours?

# RAJ दायरा MOHAN DAAYRA

## **Daayra**

Vicious circle

This existence is in essence  
a repetition.

Ultimately, there is here almost nothing left to gain.

It is a vicious circle, a circle within a circle.

When was this life my own?

When did she leave me?

She was, for me, ever present

Sometimes below, sometimes above me.

And sometimes she strayed away.

# RAJ दायरा MOHAN DAAYRA

## Kaise boli

How to say, "stay."  
How to say, "don't go."  
Everyday I shall sing a lullaby for you.  
Everyday a new song.  
You are a star in the heavens  
You are a star in the heavens.

You are the sparkling diamond in both of my eyes  
Vacantly, they now look out at you.  
Come, even if it's only as an image in my mind.  
Bring sparkle to my life again.  
You are a star in the heavens.  
You are a star in the heavens.

Now that I have lost my way, I seek an explanation.  
Distant from you, I seek a solution.  
Since you have disappeared from my life,  
disappear then from my spirit.  
You are a star in the heavens.  
You are a star in the heavens

# RAJ दायरा MOHAN DAAYRA

## **Jab aawa jaahi**

If you continue day and night  
to walk in and out of my soul,  
with your gaze  
absorbing entirely into my thinking  
how can I do anything else  
but accept you with heart and soul?

Already for a while,  
your face knocks at  
the doors of my spirit.  
My mind has lost itself  
within your heavenly thoughts  
and I, in my love, idolize you.  
Now you have discreetly become, dearest,  
the queen of my heart.

My mind's eyes  
have recognized you  
and realize now what  
your heart holds.  
Coloured in all your glory,  
in love with everything you are;  
entrust then, with all your body and spirit,  
your youth to me.

# RAJ दायरा MOHAN DAAYRA

## Dekha

Only after I saw you and got to know you,  
did I lose my heart.  
Finally, I know what love is;  
the heart cries out only one name

It is your beauty  
that has driven me madly in love.  
My sleep has been blown away  
with the breeze from your hair.  
It is now difficult living  
without you, my darling.  
Come then to me now.

I am anxious and confused.  
I see nothing clearly anymore.  
Only your face,  
appears in my thoughts, nothing else.  
It is now difficult living  
without you, my darling.  
Come then to me now.

# RAJ दायरा MOHAN DAAYRA

## Har ek baat

Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib (1797-1869)

At everything that I say, you say, "Who art thou"?  
Tell me what kind of talk is this?

We do not believe in only running through the veins  
When it does not drip through the eye, then is it blood at all?

# RAJ दायरा MOHAN DAAYRA

## Ham na mangila

I don't want to live this existence hastily,  
rubbing too quickly my body in yellow tumeric paste.  
Let me softly simmer on a low flame;  
gently ripen on the tree.  
For you,  
yes, for you.

With my hands in my pockets,  
my head held high, not yet humbled,  
I walk  
and dance  
on the borrowed time of joy and pleasure.  
Let me rest at the door of sweet dreams,  
triumphant,  
after first losing everything.  
For you,  
yes, for you.

Lay me down next to my own shadow,  
Resting peacefully in the breeze from an open window.  
Let the tender rainstorm tease me,  
even if it goes too far  
and further away from a pure pitch.  
May I bang on life's stringed instrument.  
Swing between the blade of a melody.  
For you,  
yes, for you.

# RAJ दायरा MOHAN DAAYRA

## Mai re mai

Oh my darling mother, even so,  
you must not cry,  
although I go far away from you,  
must you think of me often,  
(yet) you must not cry.

The wind suits me no longer  
nor does the rain touch me.  
Gone is my resting place  
in joy's cool shadow.  
Before I left, I was  
cleansed from all sin.  
Nothing impure should go with me  
except for the guilt  
of remembering you,  
which I've stolen away  
hidden deeply from everyone.

No, search no longer for me  
in life's vain hope.  
The oil of my burning light  
spent long ago.  
The dreams silently withered  
through the heavy burden.  
My light overshadowed  
by the night,  
as if my breathing  
was conned  
by a stranger.  
Now I allow only memories,  
although these are slowly dissolving,  
still, you must not cry.

# RAJ दायरा MOHAN DAAYRA

## **Mangila**

I want to lead my own life  
But how?  
How can I sail opposing ships simultaneously?  
How can I travel diverging  
paths together?  
How long must I chase after others  
keeping my own beliefs at a distance?

Deliberately, I tread  
the opposite path;  
walking away from rituals and traditions  
towards a remote land  
where the priest doesn't preach,  
mothers never grieve,  
family refrains from criticising.

How much longer must I wait  
before my life takes root  
in this land?  
How will I save my own culture  
locked in between a hundred other races?  
Values and ethics of another  
I make my own,  
breaking my bonds  
with rice, lentils, and chokhá (tapas).  
Traditions from my ancestors,  
I bind up around both shoulders  
And, tearfully, bury them at sea.

## ***Dhir tom and Nisa sa***

*For there's no text but syllables and sounds from Indian music in these songs, there's no translation.*