27. WHILST WE BREATHE

Whilst we breathe, still in the Street of Rapture robed
Grandee, gowned preacher, crowned king, stand abashed;
Through us God-crazed Mansur, love-crazed Majnun,
And tilted cap and gay flowered coat, live on.

STANZA

1 Through our living, in the street of ecstasy are still abashed
The holy man's cloak and the nobleman's robe and the royal crown;
Through us the tradition of Mansur and Qais is still alive,
Through us survive flowered-dress-wearing and cap-tilting.

QIṬA'

1 Hamāre dam se hai kū-e-junūn meñ ab bhi khajil
‘abā-e-shaikh o qabā-e-amīr o tāj-e-shahi;
Hamiñ-se sunnat-e-Mansūr-o-Qais zinda hai,
Hamiñ-se bāqi hai gul-dāmanī o kaj-kulahi.