43. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Far on the horizon a tremor of light flickered.
Still plunged in sleep pain’s citadel grew conscious,
Still plunged in sleep eyes grew once more restless;
Over the ghostly house of exile, dawn.
In my heart’s cup I poured the morning draught,
Stirring in yesterday’s gall today’s poison.

Far on the horizon a tremor of light flickered,
Harbinger of a still invisible daybreak;

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

1. Far away on the horizon some ripple of light rippled;
   Still in sleep the city of pain came awake,
   Still in sleep the eye began to be restless,
   In separation’s abode of non-existence it began to be morning;
   In the cup of the heart I poured my morning-draught,
   Mixing in the bitterness of yesterday the poison of today.

Far away on the horizon some ripple of light rippled,
Bringing a presage of some dawn far out of sight;

QAID-E-TANHĀ’I

1. Dūr āfāq pē lahrā’ī ko‘ī nūr kī lahr;
   Khvāb hī khvāb meñ bedār ādā dārd kā shahr,
   Khvāb hī khvāb meñ be-tāb nazar hone-lagī,
   ‘ādām-ābād-e-judā’ī meñ sahar hone-lagī;

5. Kāsa-e-dīl meñ bharī apnī šabuḫī mainū-ne,
   Gholtār tarkhī-e-dīroż meñ imroz kā zahr.

Dūr āfāq pē lahrā’ī ko‘ī nūr kī lahr,
Ānkh se dūr kī subh kī tamhid liye;
Some melody, some perfume, some siren face
Strayed like a careless passer-by through the ghostly
House of exile, bringing all hope's torment.

Stirring in yesterday's gall today's poison
I made an offering of my homesickness
To friends in this and all lands who have drunk with me,
To earth's beauty, to the charm of cheek and lip.

Some song, some scent, some sinfully-beguiling face,
In separation's abode of non-existence a roving face
Carelessly passed, bringing the anguish of hope.
Mixing in the bitterness of yesterday the poison of today,
I dedicated my aching for the day of meeting
To cup-drinking friends in this country and abroad,
To the beauty of the world, to the fairness of lip and cheek.

Ko'i naghma, ko'i khwushbū, ko'i kāfir šūrat,
'adām-ābād-e-jūdā'ī mēn musāfir šūrat
Be-khabar guzri, pareshāni-e-ummēd liye,
Gholkar tālkhī-e-dōroz mēn imroz kā zahr,
Hasrat-e-roz-e-mulaqāt raqam kī mainī-ne
Des pardes ke yārān-e-qadah khwār ke nām,
Husn-e-ālāq, jamāl-e-lab-o-rūkhsār ke nām.