

LEYLA and MAJNUN

(An ancient love legend as told in a long narrative poem by FUZULI, a Turkish poet who lived in the XVIth C.)

LEYLA and KAYS fell in love at a tender age in school. Their love was no secret and LEYLA's mother intervened, took her daughter from school and kept her away from her lover...Meanwhile the unfortunate KAYS, crazed with suffering, wandered to the desert, where, lost in soul and spirit, he became MAJNUN, meaning demented. His father thought he would put an end to all misery by asking for LEYLA's hand on behalf of his son. LEYLA's parents refused to give permission, after all the suitor had the reputation of being insane.

MAJNUN is left without hope or much of anything else. He nurses his pain and comes to cherish it as the truest value in the world. He goes about wandering, befriending birds and other animals. The legend of the crossed lovers is heard far and wide, a warrior of reknown set out to abduct LEYLA to bring her to MAJNUN. All such attempts are thwarted by MAJNUN himself his suffering is dearer to him than his life. LEYLA'S parents are determined to free her from her infatuation. They ~~they~~ marry her off to IBNI SELAM.

LEYLA is desperate. She manages, on her wedding night, to hold her wretched husband at bay by spinning an elaborate tale of magic ^{and} witchery. The marriage is never consummated. Frustrated love causes the demise of the forlorn husband. LEYLA is at last free to join MAJNUN. Her lover doesn't recognize her. He is in the throes of a purely spiritual love dissociated from the material world. Broken hearted, LEYLA soon dies. The news of her death reach MAJNUN in his exile. He is galvanized into action, rushes to her graveside and prays the ^{Lord} to take his own life as well. His wish is promptly granted and the two lovers are united in heaven.

This poem sounds like pure music specially when it renders MAJNUN's feelings during the transformation of his worldly love into a lyrical and mystical one.

Leyla + Majnun

(An ancient mideastern legend as told by the Turkish poet Fuzuli in the XVIth century)

Leyla and Kays fell in love at a tender age in school. Their love was no secret and Leyla's mother intervened, took her daughter from school and kept her away from her lover.. Meanwhile the unfortunate Kays, crazed with suffering wandered to the desert, where lost in soul and spirit he became "Majnun" (demented). His father thought he would put an end to all this misery by formally asking for Leyla's hand on behalf of his son. Leyla's parents refused permission for their daughter to marry a demented suitor. Majnun is left with no hope, all he has is pain, he cherishes it and continues his wanderings befriending birds and other animals. The woes of the crossed lovers are heard everywhere and many a fine warrior tries to bring them together. These attempts are thwarted by Majnun's obsession with his suffering. Leyla's parents are determined to save her from her infatuation and they marry her to a certain Ibni Selam.

On her wedding night Leyla is desperate; she manages to hold her wretched husband at bay by inventing tales of witchery and magic. The marriage is never consummated and Ibni

Selam dies of frustrated love

Leyla is free at last to go in search of her Majnun. She finds her lover only to realize that he is now dissociated from the material world and in the throes of a purely spiritual love.

He does not recognize the object of his love. Broken hearted Leyla leaves him and soon afterwards dies. The news of her death reach Majnun in his exile. He rushes to the graveside of his beloved and prays the Lord to take his life as well. His wish is promptly granted and the two lovers are united in Heaven.

The poem is pure music specially when it renders the intensity of Majnun's feelings during the transformation of his worldly love into a lyrical and mystical one.

Leila & Majnun
Shah Jihan & Mumtaz Mahal
Soliman the Magnificent & Roxalane
Napoleon + Josephine
Hitler + Eva Braun
Lenin + Krupskaya
Anna Karenina + Count Wronsky
D^r Zhivago + Lara
Harlequin + Columbine
Adam + Eve
Don Quixote + Dulcinea
Paul + Virginie
Camille + Armand Duval
Carmen + Don Jose
Tristan + Isolde
Werther + Charlotte
Voltaire + M^{me} du Châtelet
Ingrid Berman + Rossellini
Alma Mahler & Gustav Mahler & Walter Gropius & Oscar Kokoshka
& Franz Werfel !!!
Chopin + George Sand
Oscar Wilde + Sir Alfred Douglas
Edward VIII + Mrs. Simpson
Goya + Duchess of Alba
M^{me} de Pompadour + Louis XV
Maria Callas + Ari Onassis
Helen of Troy + Paris
Skywalker + Princess Leia
Petrarch + Laura

meğân - resmî şîrî sîrâf yâr — — — — —

râz = sır.

Şîrî râz-î dîlîni etti tekrâr
Re'yîne muvâfâ eddu takdîr

Gönlümün sürmü söyleyice
Ahu-yârı hüsnü sine
niçün dîrî bî

rey = fikir

Gül derdi hadîka-î emelden
Meğîste sîrâhî-î ecelden

Emel batmasında, gül derdi
Ölüm sîrâhînde saad. 14

Kabrîni kucalladı nigârın
Cân sudkese etti ol meğâren

meğârın kucalladı ve gölümün
O meğârâ hedîyesi cân oldı
grâve

Leylî dedî verdi cân-î şîrîni
Ol âşk-î bî-karâr ü miskin

Leylâ dedî verdi battı cânını
O karârı ve zarârî âşk

Final verses of Fuzulî's Leylâ and Meğrân:

The moment he spoke his heart's secret
His thoughts became one with his fate

He plucked a rose from the garden of Love
And drank wine from the decanter of death.

He embraced the tomb of the beloved
And his life became a gift to her grave

Leylâ he cried giving his last sweet breath
This wretched wavering lover

karârı: undecided
incomplete
unstable
hesitant
wavering
hesitating

miskin: poor, wretched

şîrî: sweet, charming

battı: uttered
said
spoke
expressed
declared

şîrî: jewel
treasure
mercy

breath

şîrî: offering
present

finally
said

What Majnun says on meeting Leylâ in the desert:

So drunk am I with love that I know the world no longer?
Who am I? Who is the cup bearer? What is the wine doing here?

Though the foolish heart longs to enjoy the beloved
If she asks, I could not tell what is my heart's desire.

This reunion is turning the lover away from his beloved
What is the meaning of his growing estrangement?

alienation
withdrawal

The wise man is not the one who knows the secret of the universe
The less he understands the wiser man becomes.

The Poet's wails and laments cause pain all around
If you are blessed with the curse of love what is the uproar about?

uproar

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