



## **RASUL MIR**

Rasul Mir was born in Dooru Shahabad, an administrative unit in the Anantnag district of Kashmir. His year of birth and death, remains a debatable subject. According to oral traditions, the poet lived in Khanqah Faiz Panah, which was constructed by Hazrat Mir Mohammad Hamadani, the son of Hazrat Amir-i-Kabir (Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani).

The house has since been demolished, and a vegetative garden can be found in its place there. It is widely believed that he had attended a local traditional makhtab (an academy), where he was introduced to the **Persian language**. He descended from a family of zamindars (landowners), who used to be the village heads in Mir Maidan at Dooru. It is said that the poet was a tall, handsome man with a fair complexion, who used to cover his head with a turban and sported a long moustache extending across his face. The poet's well known contemporary Mahmud Gami was also a native of Doru Shahabad. The first attempts of scripting the Ghazal form in Kashmiri have been revered to him but they lack the artistic finish which is the hallmark of Mir's ghazals. In Mahmud Gami and Rasul Mir's legacy, two parks and a cultural library namely 'Mahmud Gami Rasul Mir Bazm-e-Adab' have been inaugurated as a token for these poets.

The Mughal Garden at Acchabal, the deep woods of Kokar Nag and Vernag Lake, are not far from the place where Rasul Mir lived. The poet, with his romantic bend of mind, must have been influenced by the abundance of natural beauty all around him. He

was often seen mentioning the name of these picturesque places in several of his poems. Rasul Mir's life spans over the reigns of three different sets of rulers in Kashmir - Afghan, Sikh and Dogra empire. He was born during the later years of Sikh rule over Kashmir.

**One of his famous poems is:**

*Gaste wesiye lal chhum durey*

*Mea chhu mooray lalvun naar*

**ranslation:**

Go, my friend,  
My love stays for away.

I have to nurture the fire of love every day.

**The last couplet of this poem is:**

*Rasul Mir chhuy Shahabad Duray,  
Aem chhu trovmut ashq dukaan!*

*Yeevo ashkow cheyiv turi turay*

*Mae chu mooray lalvun naar*

**Translation:**

Rasul Mir of Shahabad Dooray,  
He has opened a love tavern

Come lovers, drink cupful's away.

I have to nurture the fire of love everyday

It is believed that he formed his way into the basic principles of poetry prevalent in his times and did not follow the conventional principles of poetry. In the skillful use of alliteration-*assonance* and the shuffling interplay of internal rhymes, Rasul Mir stands unrivalled in Kashmiri literature.

Dear Goenkans, refer to one of the popular song sung by him.

<https://youtu.be/vMzHtMO45xY>