

Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi: A harbinger of divine love

ABU SYED GOLAM DASTGIR

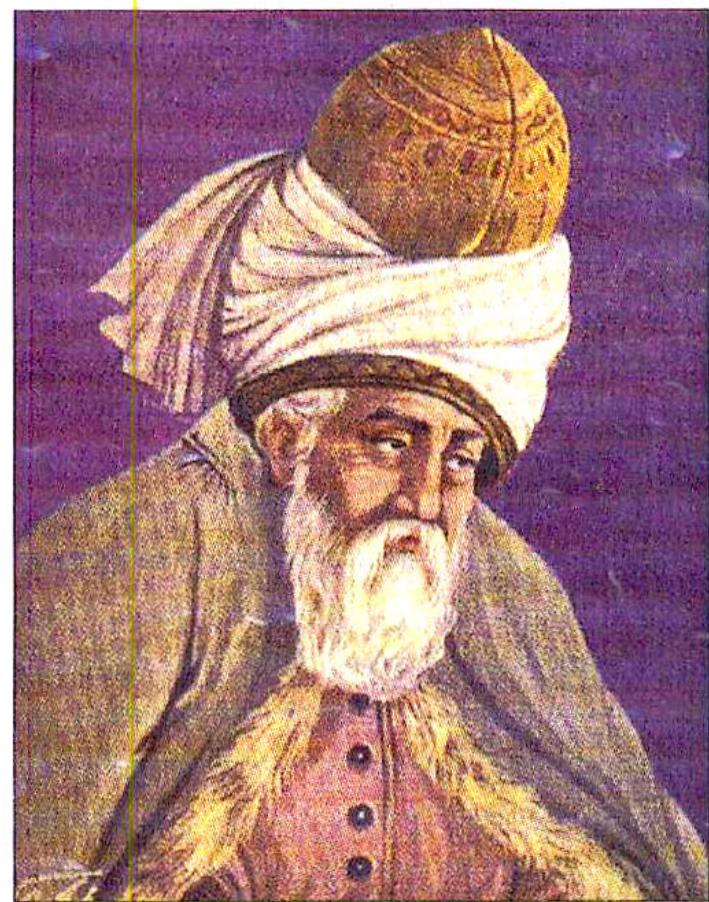
OME months ago, the Rumi Society held a seminar in which I presented a paper on Jalaluddin Rumi's Sufi philosophy at the RC Majumdar Hall, Dhaka University.

In May, I attended an International Symposium on Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi in Turkey. The title of my paper was "Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi's Divine Love for World Peace".

Jalaluddin Rumi was a harbinger of divine love. It is this love that made him humble, a prerequisite to understand Allah as the Quran states: "Seek help in patience and prayer; and truly it is hard save for the humble-minded, who know that they will have to meet their Lord, and that unto Him they are returning. (2:45-46)".

In seeking this true divine love, a devotee finds an inexplicable beauty with unlimited inspiration to return to the origin from which separation has taken place. One can realise the mysteries of creation when one understands the meaning of this divine love. He/she blissfully rises above the everyday narrow-mindedness. Once love empowers one with the sense of reality, man attains the strength of humility and nobility.

Osman Bechjet, teacher at the Kadikoy Imperial College, Turkey, has aptly written in his book on Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi: "Mawlana sips from the elixir of divine love of Allah the Almighty as he reaches His nearness with his



A portrait of Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi

religious ecstasy..."

In fact, the theme of Rumi's famous *Masnavi* is love and separation; that is, the sublime, profound and perennial union of the

reaching the Almighty Creator Allah, the nearest sample to a human being is again he himself. The more people who love each other for Allah's sake, are genuine and deep in their love, the better they help each other and become each other's step to reach the divine truth to be in the immediate vicinity to the eminent Creator Allah."

Mawlana Rumi described 'Miraj' (ascension to the presence of Allah in heaven) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as an ineffable condition of seeking divine love, Rumi said, "jisme khak az Ishq her afak shod," which means, "Due to the power of divine love, the body made of earth could rise to the heavens."

The inaugural programme of the symposium was attended by 162 participants from nearly 32 countries.

On the second day, I delivered a speech under the chairmanship of Professor Nasrollah Pourjavady from Iran. Later, I was interviewed by a TV Channel, on three subjects: Hazrat Ali (Radiallahu anhu), Mawlana Rumi, and Sufism.

After sunset, we had a gala dinner at Hotel Ciragan Kempinski, a spectacular palace of Sultan Abdul Majid, by the Bosphorus strait.

Sacred relics of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) collected during the long Turkish rule are preserved in Turkey with love and respect. Although Kamal Ataturk modernised Turkey and freed it from religious fanaticism, symbols of valuable Islamic heritage were carefully guarded.

We also went to Konya where individual soul with the pure universal soul. Professor Dr. Dilawar Guler of the Seljuk University's Department of Theology wrote, "According to Islamic mysticism in

Mawlana Rumi was buried 800 years back.

We attended the Sema Ceremony, typical of the Mevlevi Sufi Order, at the Mevlana Cultural Center. It had a sober, solemn environment. To explain briefly, Dr. Jalaluddin Bakir, grandson of Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi, had written, "Sema is the unification with Allah in order to hear the question of Allah to spirit particles: Am I not your Lord and the answer of them, 'Yes you are our Lord' and be in an ecstatic attitude.

Those particles whirl around the light of the Sun performing Sema like Sufis; however, no one knows which tune, which beat, and with what sort of instrument they do that. Sema is a greeting from the secret corners of the heart...Sema is the comfort and peace to the soul of the living. The ones who have spirit in their soul know this." We loved the Sema Ceremony.

On our last day in Konya, in the morning after saying prayers, we reached the Mevlana Cultural Center for a two-and-a-half-hour symposium, chaired by Professor Dr. Mahmud.

After exchanging greetings, we were taken on a guided tour to the shrines of Hazrat Mawlana Rumi, Hazrat Shames-i-Tabrizi, Hazrat Konevi and Sircali Madrasah.

The visit was greatly educational - a hub for a large number of scholars, mystics, writers and poets and learned Sufis.

Group Captain Abu Syed Gholam Dastgir (Retd) is former Director of Education, Bangladesh Air Force

Call to highlight the ethnic heritage in Channel i programmes

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Speakers in a discussion held on October 1 said, Electronic media Channel i is making outstanding contribution both nationally and internationally. Several encouraging programmes on the channel are appreciated by millions. *Hridoy Mati o Manush*, directed and hosted by Shykh Siraj, has done wonders in educating and informing not just the farmers of the country but also people interested in agriculture and related issues.

The discussion was organised by 'Amra Channel i Darshok' at Khagrachhari Zilla Shilpakala Academy.

Mohammad Shaney Alam, district president of Amra Channel i Darshok' presided over the discussion while Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura was present as the chief guest.

Discussants also expected that Channel i will play a key role in broadcasting programmes that highlight the heritages of the 12 local ethnic communities of Chittagong Hill Tracts.



'Amra Channel i Darshok' brought out a rally in Khagrachhari

PHOTO: STAR

Among others Khagrachhari District Channel i correspondent Dilip Chowdhury, KHDC member Sanu Mong Marma, Animesh Chakma Rinku and Dainik Pratidin Khagrachhari editor Tarun Kumar Bhattacharjee also

spoke at the event. Prior to the discussion a colourful rally led by Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura marched the major roads of the hill town.

Hugo Chavez releases CD of traditional Venezuelan music

AFP, Caracas

President Hugo Chavez has released a CD of traditional Venezuelan folk music that features him singing, and which will be distributed free inside the country, presidential sources said.

The CD, titled *Canciones de Siempre* which roughly translates to *Songs For All Time*, includes tunes that Chavez has sung during his regular Sunday *Holla*, President television and radio program.

At the close of each broadcast, Chavez regularly sings folk songs along with guest musicians and dancers.



Hugo Chavez poses with his CD

Anubis, god of dead, floats down Thames

AP, London

A giant statue of the ancient Egyptian god of the dead floated down the Thames on Monday, turning heads as it crossed under London's Tower Bridge.

The 25-foot fiberglass representation of the jackal-headed god was taken down the river on the back of a cargo ship to Trafalgar Square, where it will stand for three days before moving to various locations around the capital.

Anubis' arrival is part of an effort to promote an exhibition of the treasures taken from the tomb of the ancient Egyptian King Tutankhamun. The show, "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs," opens November 15 at London's O2, previously known as the Millennium Dome.

Tutankhamun ascended to the throne more than 3,000 years ago -- during Egypt's 18th dynasty period -- while still a child. He reigned for only nine years and had no surviving children. His two stillborn babies were buried with him.

The exhibit, which has previously been touring the United States since June 2005, includes the golden diadem worn by the mummified king when archaeologist Howard Carter uncovered the tomb in 1922 and four miniature gold coffinettes that held Tutankhamun's internal organs. Items from other royal 18th-dynasty graves will also be on display.

Organisers said the presence of the 5.6-ton black-and-gold statue was a nod to ancient Egyptian belief that Anubis escorted the dead to the underworld and



The golden Anubis passes under Tower Bridge in London

protected them on their journey.

"That's really his role here, today: He's protecting the Tutankhamun exhibition as it leaves America and heads for the U.K." said Ken Kelling, spokesman for Visit London, the city's tourism authority.

More than 300,000 tickets already have been sold or reserved for the exhibition, which runs until August 30, next year, organisers said.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Ei Shob Ondhokar
On Banglavision at 9:45 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Pijush Bandyopadhyay, Farah Ruma



Dark Water
On Star Movies at 8:45 pm
Genre: Horror/Thriller
Cast: Jennifer Connelly, John C. Reilly

BTB	08:35 Drama Serial: <i>Bohemian</i>	09:00 Drama Serial: <i>Chhayamukh</i>	11:00 <i>That's So Raven</i>	05:00 <i>Brothers & Sisters</i>
11:15 Drama Serial: <i>Shangshoptak</i>	09:00 Drama Serial: <i>Chhayamukh</i>	11:30 <i>Taking Point</i>	06:00 <i>Scrubs</i>	06:30 <i>The Simpsons</i>
12:05 <i>Maa O Shishir Kotha</i>	12:00 Grameenphone Lead News	12:00 <i>Grameenphone Lead News</i>	07:00 <i>Friends</i>	07:30 <i>Friends</i>
01:30 <i>Bulbul</i>	01:15 <i>Hoi Tora!</i>	12:30 <i>Kasuri</i>	08:00 <i>Seinfeld</i>	08:30 <i>Beauty And The Geek</i>
02:15 <i>Golpo Theke Nolok</i>	01:30 <i>Selected Programme</i>	12:55 <i>Boly V - Star Plus</i>	09:30 <i>Ugly Betty</i>	09:30 <i>Boston Legal</i>
03:05 <i>Cartoon</i>	01:45 <i>Selected Programme</i>	01:00 <i>Kasauti Zindagi Kay</i>	10:30 <i>Most Shocking</i>	10:30 <i>Seinfeld</i>
03:30 <i>Shukhi Ponir</i>	01:50 <i>Selected Programme</i>	01:30 <i>Kumkum - Pyara Se</i>	11:30 <i>Scandal in Bohemia</i>	11:30 <i>Scandal in Bohemia</i>
04:05 <i>Computer</i>	01:55 <i>Selected Programme</i>	02:00 <i>Bandhan</i>	01:30 <i>Real UFOs</i>	01:30 <i>Real UFOs</i>
04:30 <i>Cookery Show</i>	02:00 <i>Selected Programme</i>	02:30 <i>Karam Apna Apna</i>	02:30 <i>H.G.Wells</i>	02:30 <i>H.G.Wells</i>
04:50 <i>Sisimpur</i>	02:15 <i>Selected Programme</i>	03:00 <i>Saamhi</i>	03:00 <i>Antakshari - The GfB</i>	03:00 <i>Antakshari - The GfB</i>
05:10 <i>Documentary</i>	02:30 <i>Selected Programme</i>	03:30 <i>Kyunji Saas Bhi Kabhi</i>	04:00 <i>Global Pendant</i>	04:00 <i>Global Pendant</i>
05:15 <i>Mahe Ranjan</i>	02:40 <i>Mega Serial: Pribhash</i>	04:00 <i>Bahu Thi</i>	04:30 <i>Vertical Take-Off</i>	04:30 <i>Vertical Take-Off</i>
06:10 <i>Shiloppongan</i>	02:45 <i>Talk show: Microcredit</i>	04:30 <i>Kayamath</i>	05:30 <i>Tactical to Practical</i>	05:30 <i>Tactical to Practical</i>
06:40 <i>Shondhya Melo</i>	03:05 <i>Selected Programme</i>	05:00 <i>Kahani Ghar Ghar Ke</i>	11:30 <i>Wonder Brand</i>	11:30 <i>Wonder Brand</i>
07:00 <i>Mati O Manush</i>	03:15 <i>Selected Programme</i>	05:30 <i>V. Trailers - Star Plus</i>	12:00 <i>Brahmagyan</i>	12:00 <i>Brahmagyan</i>
07:30 <i>Gronho Kothin</i>	03:30 <i>Selected Programme</i>	06:00 <i>Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi</i>	12:30 <i>Spartacus</i>	12:30 <i>Spartacus</i>
08:35 <i>Drama Serial: Alo</i>	03:45 <i>Selected Programme</i>	06:30 <i>Roshni</i>	01:30 <i>A Scandal in Bohemia</i>	01:30 <i>A Scandal in Bohemia</i>
08:35 <i>Drama Serial: Alo</i>	04:05 <i>Muktiyuddho Pratibha</i>	07:00 <i>Kasturi</i>	02:30 <i>Real UFOs</i>	02:30 <i>Real UFOs</i>
08:35 <i>Drama Serial: Alo</i>	04:30 <i>Eid Ananda</i>	07:30 <i>Kayamath</i>	03:00 <i>Mahatma: A Great Soul</i>	03:00 <i>Mahatma: A Great Soul</i>
09:05 <i>Drama Serial: Alo</i>	04:30 <i>Srostir Shakthikor</i>	08:00 <i>Karam Apna Apna</i>	04:30 <i>Antakshari - The GfB</i>	04:30 <i>Antakshari - The GfB</i>
09:30 <i>Talk Show</i>	04:30 <i>Islamic Programme</i>	08:30 <i>Antakshari - The GfB</i>	05:00 <i>Kids Sipi</i>	05:00 <i>Kids Sipi</i>
10:30 <i>Prithom Ontra</i>	04:45 <i>Cookery Show</i>	09:00 <i>Kasauti Zindagi Kay</i>	05:30 <i>Boys' Toy</i>	05:30 <i>Boys' Toy</i>
10:30 <i>ATN Bangla</i>	05:00 <i>Selected Programme</i>	09:30 <i>Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi</i>	06:30 <i>Spartacus</i>	06:30 <i>Spartacus</i>
10:30 <i>ATN Bangla</i>	05:30 <i>Selected Programme</i>	10:00 <i>Roshni</i>	07:30 <i>Reincarnation</i>	07:30 <i>Reincarnation</i>
10:30 <i>ATN Bangla</i>	06:00 <i>Selected Programme</i>	10:30 <i>Kasturi</i>	08:30 <i>The Warrior Tradition</i>	08:30 <i>The Warrior Tradition</i>
10:30 <i>ATN Bangla</i>	06:30 <i>Selected Programme</i>	11:00 <i>Kahani Ghar Ghar Ke</i>	09:30 <i>The Blue Carbuncle</i>	09:30 <i>The Blue Carbuncle</i>
10:30 <i>ATN Bangla</i>	07:00 <i>Selected Programme</i>	11:30 <i>Brinks Robbery</i>	10:30 <i>Cities of the Underworld</i>	10:30 <i>Cities of the Underworld</i>
10:30 <i>ATN Bangla</i>	07:30 <i>Selected Programme</i>	12:30 <i>The Blue Carbuncle</i>	11:30 <i>The Blue Carbuncle</i>	11:30 <i>The Blue Carbuncle</i>
10:30 <i>ATN Bangla</i>	08:00 <i>Selected Programme</i>	12:30 <i>Ghost Whisperer</i>	03:30 <i>Walking The Bible</i>	03:30 <i>Walking The Bible</i>
10:30 <i>ATN Bangla</i>	08:30 <i>Selected Programme</i>	12:45 <i>Cyborg 2</i>	04:30 <i>Reindeer</i>	04:30 <i>Reindeer</i>
10:30 <i>ATN Bangla</i>	09:00 <i>Selected Programme</i>	13:15 <i>Star Wars: Ep. I - The Phantom Menace</i>	05:30 <i>Man vs. Wild</i>	05:30 <i>Man</i>