

Poem No.

15

# He Came to Know Himself

(Sachal Sarmast)

He came to know Himself  
 Naught else had He in view  
 To be able to realize this  
 He got enmeshed in love  
 He alighted from high heaven  
 To pour a cascade of love  
 Became Mansur to mount the gallows  
 Just to have His head cut off.  
 He treaded the bazaars of Egypt  
 Just to be sold for a slave  
 Sachu speaks the bare Truth  
 To speak of His sojourn on earth.

## Glossary

naught	nothing
enmeshed	entangled
cascade	waterfall
Mansur	a saint
gallows	wooden framework on which criminals are put to death by hanging
sold for a slave	reference to Hazrat Yousaf (عليه السلام) who was sold as a slave in the bazaars of Egypt
sojourn	temporary stay (in a place)

## Theme

One who knows himself and knows also that he is a wonderful thing created by the Creator, Allah, cannot have a view of anything else except Allah Almighty. He starts loving Him, Who blesses him with great love. In such state of affairs every other thing becomes useless to him, and like Mansur, he feels pleased and is willing to be hanged on the gallows to get his head cut off only for the Love of his Beloved, Allah. The poet thinks that a person's stay in this world is temporary. It is better for a man to have been loved and love all of the mankind. The union of one soul with another soul through the alchemy of love is the highest mystic truth.

### EXERCISE

Answer the following questions.

1. Why does the poet put emphasis on how to know himself?
2. What makes one entangled in love?
3. Why did Mansur mount the gallows?
4. What is the bare Truth?
5. Explain these lines:  
He alighted from high heaven  
To pour a cascade of love
6. What does the poet say about "His sojourn on earth" in the last line?