

Još Malīḥābādī: ‘Azmat-i Insān [selections]
The Grandeur of Man

translated by Jillian Ingold and Till Luge

[76]

karbalā āj bhī hai ek laḡātār pukār
hai ko’ī pairavī-yi ibn-i ‘alī par ṭayyār
Karbalā is today, too, a continuous call
Is anyone flying along the [path of] devotion to the son of ‘Alī?

‘asr-i ḥāzīr meṅ yazīdoṅ kā nahīn ko’ī šumār
tum muṣalloṅ peḥ dozāno ho, musallaḥ ašrār
In the present age, the tyrants are uncountable
You are, on your knees, on the prayer-rugs, [while] the wicked [persons are] armed

šor-i mātām meṅ kahīn teḡ kī jhankār nahīn
lab peḥ nāle haiṅ magar hāth meṅ talvār nahīn
In the noise of *mātām* there is no sword’s clink
Slogans are on the lip, but no sword is in the hand

[85]

karbalā ek tazalzul hai muḥīṭ-i daurān
karbalā ḡhirman-i sarmāyah peḥ hai barq-i tapān
Karbalā is an earthquake encircling time
Karbalā is a hot lightning on the harvest of investment

karbalā ṭabl peḥ hai zābat-i āwāz-i azān
karbalā jur’āt-i inkār hai peš-i saltān
Karbalā is the strikes of the call to prayer on the kettle-drum
Karbalā is the bravery of refusal in front of the Sultān

fīkr-i ḥaqq-soz yahān kāšt nahīn kar saktī
karbalā tāj ko bar-dāšt nahīn kar saktī
The truth-incinerating thought cannot be cultivated here
Karbalā cannot tolerate the crown

[86]

jab tak is ḡhāk peḥ bāqī hai wujūd-i ašrār
doš-i insān peḥ hai jab tak ḥašam-taḡht kā bār
As long as the wicked people’s existence remains on this soil
As long as the burden of the retinue of the throne is on the shoulders of man

jab tak iqdār se aḡrāz haiṅ garm paikār
karbalā hath se phenkeḡ nah har-giz talvār
As long as the [selfish] motives are eager to fight values
Karbalā will not ever drop the sword from [its] hand

ko ī kah de yēh ḥukūmat ke nigahbānoñ se
karbalā ik abadī jang hai saltānoñ se
Someone tell the custodians of this government
Karbalā is an eternal war with the Sultāns