



Abul Hasan Yamin ud- Din Khusrow popularly known as Amir Khusro (Khusrau or Khusrow) was an influential personality in the field of music and culture. He is a prominent Indian musician, scholar and a poet to be born in Indian subcontinent. Very often, His name is taken with Sufi saint Nizamuddin Auliya of Delhi as he was a devoted disciple of the saint. Born in 1253 AD, this legendary poet was born to a Turkish officer and a Rajput mother in Patiali near Etah in Uttar Pradesh. His poetry and ghazals are still sung by singers and qawwals in India and Pakistan. He died in 1325 AD at the age of 72 and was buried in a mausoleum close to the tomb of his mentor, Sufi Saint Nizamuddin Auliya in the Nizamuddin Dargah complex, in Delhi.

His works

He has made outstanding contribution to music in the form of ever lasting qawwali, poetry, songs and folk songs, legends and playful riddles. He is often called "father of qawwali". He wrote his poetry mainly in Persian but also in Hindu or Hindavi or Hindustani. But he spoke Arabic and Sanskrit too. He is remembered for his contribution to Hindustani classical music with Persian and Arabic elements in it. He is also credited with the invention and introduction of tabla. According to sources, he also invented the sitar as he was related to the son-in- law of Tansen, great singer in the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar. He is the author of texts like *Khamsa*, one of the great classics of Persian poetry, *Tuhfat-us-Sighr*, *Wastul-Hayat*, *Ghurratul-Kamaal* and many more. Therefore, he is regarded as one the early authors of Persian epics.

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Interesting Fact....

As a young boy, Amir Khusro moved to Delhi from his hometown Patiali. He wrote on the separation from his birth place and in this he found similarity between himself and Joseph, father of Jesus Christ.

"As Joseph, after having been taken away as a captive from his home town, Kanaan, used to sing the praise of his home town, so is the case with me. Though I happen to be far away from my home town, yet I always sing of its beauty. My place was Quwat-ul-Islam (a title of Delhi) a qibla of the kings of seven climes (i.e. of the entire world). That place is Delhi, which is a twin sister of the holy paradise and true copy of Arsh (throne of God or a highest heaven) on the page of the earth."



Amir Khusro used to interact with young people and music enthusiasts. Imagine you get a chance to speak to this legend. What will you ask him? What will be your first two questions?

1. _____

2. _____

Khusro the Royal poet

Amir Khusro, the classical poet, served seven kings and three princes from the times of Sultan Balban to Mohammad Bin Tughlaq. He was a much sought after multi-cultural musician who with his lyrics attracted and influenced royalties like Alauddin Khilji. He was the author of *Tarikh-i-Alai* during Alauddin Khilji's times and *Tughluq Nama*- Book of the Tughluqs in 1320. He was regarded as the ambassador of Hindu- Muslim unity in his time. He abstained himself from improper acts and offered discipleship to all kinds of men, high or low, wealthy, noble, learned or ignorant, high born or low born, soldier or warrior merchants and ordinary men, slaves and servants etc. He called himself a Hindustani Turk and Tuti-e-Hind or parrot of India for speaking the truth. His poetry is still sung today at Sufi shrines throughout Pakistan and India as people call him Hazrat Amir Khusro.

Amir Khusro composed many riddles or Pahelis mainly in Hindavi. Read the riddle given below. Write your own riddle in the box in your local language with the translation in English. Give the answer too!

ایک پرکھ ہے سندر مورت جو دیکھے وہ اسی کی صورت
فکر پہلی پائی نا بو جھن لاگا آئی نا

*Ek purukh hay sunder moorat, jo dekhay woh usi
ki soorat;*

Fikr paheli paayi na, boojhan laaga aayi na.

This fellow is beautiful like an idol,
whoever sees him, looks like him;
Haven't understood this riddle,
am guessing but can't figure out.

(Note: The last two words *aayi na* have the answer
in them.)

Answer- Mirror

