Poetics of Coherence: Notional, Real, and Necessary Connections in Poems of Two Lines (University of Pennsylvania, October 8 and 9, 1997)

I October 8, 1997

I am separate from you in appearance, not in reality. Our distance is like the distance between the two lines of a she'r. (Sâ'ib, d. 1669)

مار فرمداشم بر مورث فر برسنی حون نا مدار سبت بود نا مدار ا

دوريم برعور زنوتر كريدها

I'm away from you in appearance, yet close in reality: we're like

in reality: we're like two lines of a she'r. (Mîr Husain Shauqî, fl. 17th cent.) المراجعة ال

"Poems two lines long"
why it became necessary to develop the concept of coherence.

(Mîr on the Dakani poets: they lack coherence.)
Incoherent (nâ marbût) perhaps the most telling indictment against a poet.
End stopped lines make task more difficult.

(1) End-stopped lines: complete statements, incomplete utterance

My friend, what unique honours
there are in wandering (1)
Thorns get to my feet in supplication
and pray for me to be seated (2) (Saudâ, d. 1780)

(2) End-stopped lines, complete statements, complete utterance

Out of neglectfulness, I didn't realise the worth of those who are now gone (1)

And when those gatherings became a dream, my eyes opened them, as if from a sleep (2) (Mîr, d. 1810)

The world is a house of mirrors, if one has the eyes to see (1) faces can be seen in the walls (2) (Mîr, d. 1810)

منے بوؤا کنے خانے ہے دہر سنم نظرا آ ہے دلوادوں کے سیج (3) End-stopped lines, cokplete statements, parallel utterances

Heart's luxury: to be wounded by desire,(1) Delectation for the heart-wound: to be immersed in salt (2) (Ghâlib, d. 1869)

She, with a dagger to my heart (1)
I, rapt, by admiring
the lightness of her hand (2) (Soz, d. 1794)

(4) Incomplete statements need to be completed

Your wixing

Yoursix freely with everyone (1)

What can I say? I don't like it (2) (Mîr Hasan, d. 1786)

Your friendliness with everyone oh what can I say? (1) I had to sever relations with the whole world (2) (Saudâ)

- (5) Complete utterances need to be
 - 5.1 supplemented
 I got acquainted with the
 cruelty of the rose, and also
 with the bulbul's fidelity (1)
 Instead of the bulbul, one finds
 just a handful of feathers
 in the garden (2) (Mîr)
 - 5.2 complemented
 The heart is not
 a city that can be repeopled (1)
 You'll repent, you hear?
 laying this place to waste (2) (Mîr)
 - 5.3 provideded a parallel for Wherever could there be an enemy so attractive? (1) Love is one's enemy, and also one's objective (2) (Mîr)

مرثرت يارة ول زخ عنا مه ا درت ركش مركز ف مكر وال مرنا

وہ محبرکو ذیخ کرنا تھا جوی کے سی بان کہ نیز رشی تک بانکا میر ثرا اختلاف مراک کے کو کہی مم کو فرکس بانی (86)

من نرا براکرے سی تیا بیا ن کو^{ون} عالم سے محصر کو نرک ملا ناست مو^ک

گیل که خوا بهی حانی دی و زا عملی رید مذت بر بڑے ہیں گھٹن سی جانے لمل

> رل وه ، را بن کر عوراً او مولا کشاری کے سویو برلٹی اجار کر رفات المالماں کو بن جاں مربی ہے میں ماے کشت

(6) Statements/propositions need to be

6.1 proved through "poetic proofs" or "poetic universals"

(Poetic proof)

Who did ever support

anyone in their dark hour? (1)

Even one's shadow goes away

when it is dark. (2) (Nâsikh d. 1838)

(Proof: "poetic" and also "universal")

True seeing is possible only by

keeping the eyes shut (1)

The bubble can't see a thing

when it opens its eye (2) (Mîr)

6.2 responded to

Desire for the flame did to me

whatever a flame couldn't have (1)

Oh how some burnt in pain

on account of a fireless heart (2) (Ghâlib)

I, and open my mouth

to delcare my love? Let

my tongue be burnt (1)

Ask the sorrow that you gave me

for it is my true confidante (2) (Soz)

6.3 improved upon

Wine does not flow down my throat

when you're not here (1)

A sword of fine water

playing upon a dry neck (2) (Saudâ)

It's spring and I

am defenceless without the

wineglass and beloved to shield me (1)

The morning breeze

pierces the heart like an arrow (2) (Saudâ)

كدكي ا وق روس من عمر رياب الم أربي من المحاصر رباع المال

مورز لفنا حشم کامتی س عمم دم ہے کھے بنی (نا نظر حب (کھے کو کے حا

شرك ، وق مر ستعد نه جرك

وكورة را ورك رك والم

من رون الماركة المن المن المناح الماركة الماركة الماركة الماركة الماركة المناركة المناسكة الم

ا نے ان کے اور کے مرادے

w nat a load of trouble are the tresses on the beloved's waist (1)

Well, after all, who rears and keeps dangerous beasts should in for trouble (2) (Nâsikh)

رزاب مل سے رقی بنی فرو مخم س کرے خیک می آمار گذرے ہے ج

بد ب کے جام ویا روز ہے لنم برنی سنے عرفزی ہے

- (7) If statement/utterance in a line is weaker or thinner than in the other one, there is lack of coherence then too.
 - 7.1 weak proof or utterance
 - 7.2 poor progression
 - 7.3 insufficient response
 - 7.4 bad parallel
- (8) Connections can be made stronger or better by *munâsibat* (consonance). *Munâsibat* means using words which strengthen or support or uphold the meaning of a key phrase or image in the poem. These are real connections.

Going away from this confined world is exactly like (1)
A prisoner being led to his execution (2) (Mîr)

But to live again, after death is doomsday dire (2) (Âbrû, d. 1733)

مے جان شاک جانا بعینیاں کرے خراب رے کے طبی سی حسے زیزان کے زیز کان فر ہوئے کا آن

مرك اور جونا فياست

- (9) Aborn's Sher above is an example of national Connection.
 In Such Cases, are uses a word phrase having two or
 meanings, and are of the meanings seems belowant
 to another statement in the poem. Such connections
 one not real, but add piquamay and wit to the
 poem.
- 9.2 9 know nothing but ghazal on coming into this world (1) only this little piece of land was under my sway (Min)

جانا بن کچر جز نزل آکر کے جان سی کل مرے لفر ف سی لی مگھ (سی تھا ملا

II October 9, 1997A Ghazal by Ghâlib (composed before 1816)

- 1. Not a particle of dust is without use in the garden (1)
 Even the narrow dirt path is the fiery fuse that burns the scar on the poppy's heart (2)
- 2. Who can bear the burden of the afflictions of knowledge without wine? (1)

 The level-limiting line on the wine-glass was drawn by ambition's lack. (2)
- 3. The rose laughing at the bulbul's business: (1)
 The thing called Love is mental derangement (2)
- 4. The intoxication of poem-thought is nothing new for me (1)
 An ancient smoker of opium from the smoky lamp (2)
- 5. A hundred times I got free from the bondage of love (1)
 But what could I do?
 It is my heart itself which is the enemy of peace and quiet (2)
- 6. Without the heart's blood
 the power of sight is dust in the eye (1)
 This wine-house is devastated
 looking and searching for wine (2)
- 7. You, a garden in bloom, the whole property of the heart's joy (1)
 Spring-clouds:
 a cask full house of wine, for whose brain? (2)

ملے درہ زس بنی ہے کار باغی کا الماده معي فسلم علال كرواغ ما جے کے جو فائٹ آنوب آئی كليجاج فيزدوه لم خط را في كا ملل کے کا روبار ہم سی خدرہ یا کی کنے سے حس روٹ خلاے واغ کم نا زه بن سالم أكرائن في الم الك عرم مول درد حراف كما سوار شرفت آراد ہوئے مرد رور جي مرد جي الح ال ب خون رل محتم من موج لله نبار

مے کرہ فراب ہے مے کر انے کا

بغ شُفَة م لبد فنا درل

ابه بن کده که که داخ کا