

29th of October 2006

A report on an event for the introduction of two books by Lu'bat

The kindness of the people was an encouragement needed to publish my books



The council of the Iranian Writers in Exile, based in London, presented a meeting on the 28th of February in reception of the two published books by Lu'bat Vālā, entitled: (The Prayer of Love) and (Another Tomorrow).

The management of this gathering was undertaken by numerous literary figures, together with Mrs. Shirin Razavian the former head of the Council of the Iranian Writers in Exile. She first welcomed the audience and later, spoke about the life's achievements

of Lu'bat Vālā. She also read a poem composed by herself, for Lu'bat:

She was standing on the better face of the Dawn

She was tall

With dishevelled tress

With a breath of dawn

It was the continuity of her red heart

That was being spread to the fields of loneliness

The rainbow of words was pouring from her bosom

And her skirt was as vast as the eternity

Having time for Love

Every time she opened her arms

The blossoms of Love fell on the ground

And her eyes cried for everyone's pain

*And her heart
In her fragile and restless bosom
Was in thousand pieces of read and
sparkles*

*On top of the horizon
She was standing calmly*

*And she was composing verses of life
That poet
That woman
That Mother*

Following Shirin's speech, Fakhri Nikzad briefly spoke about Lu'bat's life and experiences and then she read one of Lu'bat's poems:

*You have left me with the thirst
My existence, you have created with thirst*

*In the midst of the sea, my soul you have
burnt
My soul with the flames of envy you have
burnt*

*My strings you have broken one by one
My whole soul you have enchained*

*Sometimes you call me, sometimes you
reject me
You are aware of my hidden pain*

*You know well that you are my sole desire
The servant of your pact and promises I am*

*Sometimes you disappear, sometimes you
appear
Unaware of the affairs of the depressed*

Following Fakhri Nikzad's speech and the poem, Hamid Rasti and 'Ali Tarshizi played and sang a song which was one of Lu'bat's poems and the music was by Faramarz Pāyvar. This song was originally composed for the anniversary of the master Tehrani and was played for the first time.

The next speech was from Mr. Sattār Laqā'i who was the former president of the Council of the Iranian Writers in Exile. After welcoming the audience, he praised the humbling qualities of the Lu'bat's family and added that Lu'bat referred to him as a dear friend in the foreword of her book. This kindness is the confirmation of their humbleness as a natural quality and virtue. Although I was an employee of the magazine in which Mr. Vālā owned, yet I am still referred to as a dear friend, Mr. Vālā treated me like a father and whenever I made a

mistake I wasn't questioned and told off, on the contrary, Mr. Vālā by telling a joke and by being calm and respectable would divert my attention to the mistake and hence, it was rectified.

Sattār added that Lu'bat's poetry is a way of reviewing the history, just like we can tell the political situations of Shiraz at the time of Hafez through his poetry. Following Mr. Laqā'i Mrs. Jamileh Kharrazi the founder of the Toos Foundation who also presented an event for Lu'bat two years ago spoke about Lu'bat. She said: dear friends, we all have tried the taste of pain, and smelled the scent of exile and loneliness. However, I have done all these by smelling Lu'bat's poetry since I was young. I always wondered how it was possible to be away from a person whose words were a part of me and that I lived with them, and yet I never even met this person.

However, when I eventually met her, my curiosity increased even further, a person who told me that I was a giving person and that in this art I was the best; cannot see her own talents and gifts!

During these years this gratitude was always with me, the poet who could tell my pain

better than myself and could feel my sorrows better than my heart. What else can I say?

I have put together an event for the commemoration of this great poetess; however, I am still lost not knowing whether the motive was to praise her talent and literary works or was it just a token of personal appreciations? She later, read a poem composed by Lu'bat.

Following Jamil's speech Mrs. Shiva Sheybani the daughter of Lu'bat Vālā began her speech. She spoke about the translations of her mother's poetry and then talked about the humanitarian side of the poems. She also explained some points in connection with the problems of translations. She later, thanked all those involved in this task. Dr. Shiva Sheybani is a capable surgeon as well as a painter. Her talent in translations is also admirable, not only she preserves the meanings, but she conveys the feeling and passion of the original text as closely as possible.

Shiva later asked Miss. Kittie Pakson who was referred to as her future daughter in law to read some of the translated poems in English. After Kittie, Dr. Vajdi a Professor in

Persian literature continued the speech and talked about Lu'bat's abilities in poetry, he added that Lu'bat's understanding of literature and the rules and regulations imposed in the art of poetry makes her a valuable and capable poetess.

In her poetry collections we can see the meters and the meanings are in perfect harmony. She also uses appropriate identical wordings to maintain the prosody and the meter in each poem.

Vajdi stressed out that Lu'bat's poetry takes its inspiration from the nature. Her poetry is mixed with the imageries of the nature and beauties and profoundness of mysticism. When she speaks about love in her poetry she sometimes talks about humanly love and sometimes about the divine love. These two concepts are both blended delicately and the reader can interpret the theme as she or he pleases.

Lu'bat gave the last speech on that night. Like always, she started the speech with the outmost humbleness. She said: I did not have the courage to publish my book at first. It was the encouragement of the people and

dear friends that gave me the strength. She considered the night of the event as one of the best nights of her life. Following Lu'bat's speech, Manuchehr Husainpour presented the audience with a surprise. It was a message from the Satire write Mr. Hadi Khursandi: He said in his message: even before Mr. Laqā'i could find his way to work and learn the names of the streets of Tehran, I knew Lu'bat. He referred to the time he used to work with Lu'bat in Tehran, and added that her poetry has always been the same and that there has been no significant change to her utterance since they knew each other. He mentioned that her poetry is immune from the hazard of time and is always fresh and vibrant.

In Hadi's opinion a poet cannot become good and compose good poetry simply by experience, he believes that art of poetry is a God given gift. He was pleased that her books were finally published and he wished that they would be financially successful. At the end of the program Lu'bat's grand son 'Atā played the Piano and the event ended with songs and music.