*Tariq Yousef*

**A letter to Nizami Ganjavi**

Peace is upon you “Aba Mohamed Al-Ganjavi “. This letter is 880 years away from you from a layman to the poet of his age and all ages. This letter is addressed to the author of his age and all ages. I learnt much about you over the past years and your various great achievements including poetry, thinking, science, philosophy and literature. You have been famous for being an outstanding thinker and innovator of the great works of renaissance literature and enrichment of oriental poetry in terms of form and content.

You are a good example of endless hard work and persistence, struggle for learning sciences through reading and study. I cannot hide my adornment that in your age you managed to master several languages including Persian, Arabic, Turkish and other languages such Greek which you learnt to study and understand the ancient Greek history, philosophy, medicine, astronomy and engineering.

You, the great poet in terms of personality and poetry, have paved the way for many late poets, men of letter and philosophers who admired you. You are at the top and they look forward to reach your position and knowledge but you are unreachable as you look like a star in the sky whose light shines everywhere at all times.

In fact, I haven’t heard about a country that respects and takes pride in its poet like the Republic of Azerbaijan. Sir, you are a poet, thinker and philosopher worthy of all respect and appreciation. Your poems and works should be mentioned at all international cultural events. I am very pleased that your dear country Azerbaijan misses you so much. In view of their love and pride, they established several centers with your name on the fronts thereof. Your special museum was established in the center of the capital Baku which contains everything related to your including your personal effects, books, manuscripts, poems and else. Several cultural events were organized under the auspicious of ICESCO and International Organization of Turkish Culture to promote and publish your great heritage. There are unique copies of your handwritten works in famous libraries, museums and manuscript centers in many cities such as but not limited to Istanbul, Moscow, London, Cairo, Tashkent, Tehran, Delhi, etc. where they are kept as precious masterpieces. You have a huge shrine in your city where you were born and raised and lived all your life until your death, namely Ganja which was named after you in view of their love, pride and recognition of your works.

My dear sheikh, I have much wished you to stand in place of me and see this great love and interest by all people in your achievements throughout your precious life. They come from everywhere in the world to closely know this poet who astonished the world with his poetic culture, thought, philosophy and science in general. Almost every house in Azerbaijan has a poet which reflects their great love of the poetry and literature you left to them. Although you died long time ago, poetry and literature have no limited time or place because like humanitarian values they are inherited by human beings and live for unlimited years.

I always ask myself how would a great poet like you at your age be at our present time? What would you have done when Armenia had occupied your and your ancestors’ land for 28 years? How would you have described the sufferings of the Azerbaijani people and the huge injustice they suffered over the last years in your poems and peerless philosophy? The Azerbaijani people including your family suffered much mischief and injustice. The Armenian enemy occupied and infringed the unity and sovereignty of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Many innocent civilians died including children, women and old people without any guilt. Many families became homeless and their lands were infringed and children became orphans. The enemy destroyed the historical and cultural monuments and mosques and turned them into animal enclosures. Therefore, I wished you we were alive now. I wonder how you as a philosopher would act using your great wisdom and philosophy to communicate the Azerbaijani people suffering and describe the extent of injustice befalling your people to the outer world to feel their suffering. What would you have written in your poems about this brutal tragedy that lasted for long years?

Our beloved poet, I want you to know that during war against the Armenian enemy the Armenian armed forces fired many missiles at your city Ganja. The people of your city did not flee away and did not permit the Armenian enemy to occupy Kanga or defeat the will of its people who bravely fought and struggled till the end like all other attacked cities and villages.

I wished you would have been alive on 8th November 2020 which is engraved in the hearts of all Azerbaijani, when the Azerbaijani people defeated the Armenian enemy thanks to Almighty Allah and the strong personality and wisdom of the president of Azerbaijan and the unity of all Azerbaijani people. Finally, the justice defeated the injustice and Azerbaijan recovered its territories after long occupation and pleasure and happiness prevailed all over Azerbaijan cities. I wish you could witness this great occasion!

Your sincerely,

Tariq