

**Extracts from Nizami Ganjavi's poetry**

1.

One night desperate Majnun prayed tearfully,  
“Oh Lord of mine who has abandoned me.  
Why has Thou ‘Majnun’ called me?  
Why hast thou made a lover of Leila of me?  
Thou hast made me a pillow of wild thorns,  
Made me roam day and night without a home.  
What dost Thou want from my imprisonment?  
Oh Lord of mine, listen to my plea!”

The Lord replied, “Oh lost man,  
With Leila’s love I have your heart filled;  
The beauty of Leila that you see  
Is just another reflection of Me”.

(from ‘Layla and Majnun’ in *Islamic Mystical Poetry*, p. 65)

2.

“This text requires a single name, not two,”  
He answered them. “Majnun alone will do.  
If someone delves within a lover’s heart,  
He’ll find the loved one in its deepest part.”  
“But why,” they asked him, “from among the two  
It’s Layla who’s been cut away, not you?”  
“It’s wrong,” he said, “for her to be the cover  
That hides within itself this ardent lover.  
I am the veil for what should be internal.  
I am the outer shell; she is the kernel.”

(from ‘Layla and Majnun’ in *Nizami Ganjavi and His Poetry*, p. 23 )

3.

As the pen began its first movement  
It produced first word and speech.  
When they raised the curtain of non-existence,  
The first manifestation was word and speech.  
Until the word gave voice to the heart,  
The soul did not submit its free body to clay.

As the pen began to move,  
It opened the eyes of the world with its words.  
Without speech the world has no voice,  
They have said so much but the word has not diminished.  
In the language of love, speech is our soul,  
We are speech, these ruins are our palaces.

(from 'The Treasure of the House of Mysteries' in *Nizami Ganjavi and His Poetry*, p. 8)