

# A LETTER TO MADAN MOHAN

Dear Madan Mohan,

Your song "Aj socha to ansoon bhar aye" is on the air and has started vibrations in my memory. And as I think of you and of all of you from this land of films who have left us in the past years and who I believe are there with you in other world, or whatever it is called, tears are on the verge of flowing from my eyes.

My mind goes back to that fateful day when you made an excuse of an illness and before anyone could know of your being unwell, you left us "Jana tha ham se dur, bahane bana liye." to go to the other world.

Perhaps you were anxious to meet your dear ones who had gone earlier one by one and your contemporaries, the great music composers and singers. I am sure you were enjoying the company of Shyam Sunder, Ghulam Haider, Khemchand Prakash, Jaikishen, Roshan and S. D. Burman who had like yourself created sweet and soulful music for us of this world. The great singers Saigal, Pankaj Mullick, Mukesh and Geeta Dutt must also have been there in your other world.

We had hardly got over the loss of these music composers when one evening our world was stunned to know that our beloved and also your beloved Mohamad Rafi had also left us to join you in that other world. You know Madan, when Rafi sahab's mortal remains was being carried on its last journey your composition, "Kar chale hum fida jan o tan sathio, ab tumhare hawale yeh watan sathiyo." was being played. Did you ever think while composing this song that one day it will be used for a situation like

this when the hale and hearty, ever smiling, ever obliging gentleman of our film world would leave his "watan" to go to that other world? Rafi sahab had sung for you "Yeh duniya, yeh mehfil, mere kaam ki nahin.." Yes, this "unmusical and unpoetical" world was probably not a fit place for music makers like yourself and Mohd. Rafi.

But Madan, will all you music directors, singers and song writers like Shailendra, Shakeel Badayuni, Raja Mehdi Ali Khan and many more, was it necessary that you ask for one of the greatest poets of our film world, Sahir Ludhianvi, to join you all. Yes, Sahir Ludhianvi followed Rafi sahab and his joining you all must be a very big gain for you of the other world.

But Madan, believe me, the loss of a singer like Mohd. Rafi, who sang nearly twenty thousand songs in each and every language of the country, who sang devotional, patriotic, light and classical songs besides the hit film songs, his singing of "Bapu ki amar kahani" in his rich sonorous voice which could give the listeners the insight of the Mahatma's life and teachings much better than volumes written on him, and Sahir Ludhianvi, who continued writing poetry with the zeal of a progressive revolutionary even in his film songs, was not very much felt by this world.

Here the Government never recognised them as national heroes and nothing at all was done to commemorate their memory. But probably it doesn't matter. They are not going to come back to this worthless "duniya," this "mehfil".



Madan Mohan, whose death anniversary falls on July 14.

C. Ramchandra, our beloved Anna Chitalkar, also left this worthless "mehfil" to join you all in that other world. He too composed many soulful tunes like the rest of you but, Madan, wasn't Anna a man of this world where we live, sing and dance and try to drown our sorrows in music to forget our numerous problems? Did he not make us happy by giving us lively songs like "Ana meri jaan Sunday ke Sunday", "Shin shinaki boobla boo" and

"Eena Meena dika". Couldn't he stay here a little longer to lead the present music composers of the hot and lively music, of the so-called 'disco' trend?

Never mind Madan, if our loss of this world is your gain, it is alright, but now that you have with you some top directors like Mehboob sahab, Guru Dutt, Kishore Sahu and stars like Meena Kumari, Madhubala, Uttam Kumar, Balraj Sahni, Motilal and Chadramohan etc., aren't they enough to launch a big multi-starrer, as we are doing here these days, that you had to call Nargis also? And didn't you know that Nargisji was no more a screen star but was doing tremendous work as a social worker caring for the needs of the handicapped and the underprivileged and had won a place of 'honour for the film people by becoming a member of the national parliament?

Probably you wanted her to give lip movement to one of your compositions as she did in that song from "Adalat," "Jana tha hamse door bahane bana liye.." or is it that Mehboob sahab is still thinking of giving her the role of "Mother" in your world?

I end this letter here. The song "Hum safar saath apna chod chale.." from your film is being played on Vividh Bharati. Yes, it is Mohd. Rafi's voice and this voice shall always be heard in each and every corner of the land and he will be with us always and with all the music composers who gave the tune for his voice and to other singers like Mukesh and Geeta Dutt.

— KULDIP SINGH