



Sunset ghazal

Write a ghazal of five shers inspired by Beadnell's sequence of autumn sunsets.

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The ghazal is a simple formal structure made up of **couplets, called shers**. The second line of all the shers ends with the same word – **a repeated word called the radif**.

The first sher uses the radif in both lines, not just the second. This opening couplet sets the poem in motion.

Traditionally a ghazal invokes melancholy, love, longing, and metaphysical questions.

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www.poets.org/poetsorg/text/poetic-form-ghazal

Ghazal

by AGHA SHAHID ALI

*Feel the patient's heart
Pounding—oh please, this once—
—JAMES MERRILL*

I'll do what I must if I'm bold in real time.
A refugee, I'll be paroled in real time.

Cool evidence clawed off like shirts of hell-fire?
A former existence untold in real time ...

The one you would choose: Were you led then by him?
What longing, O Yaar, is controlled in real time?

Each syllable sucked under waves of our earth—
The funeral love comes to hold in real time!

They left him alive so that he could be lonely—
The god of small things is not consoled in real time.

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