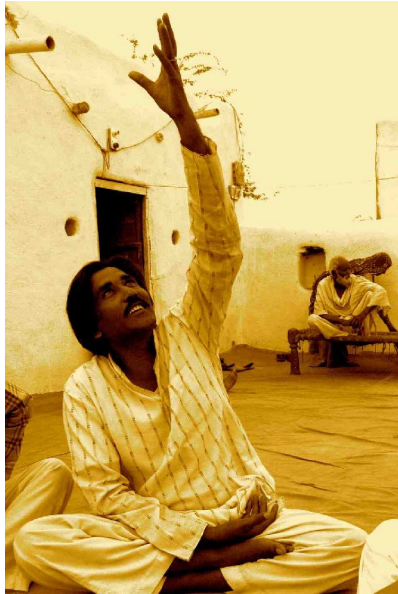


Mir Mukhtiyar Ali



Mir Mukhtiyar Ali from the small village of Pugal on the North West frontier of India in Rajasthan belongs to the semi-nomadic Mirasi Community, which hails from the Thar Desert. Mukhtiyar represents the 26th generation of this humble community which has successfully kept alive the oral tradition of Sufiana Qalam.

The Mirasi lineage which has preserved the heritage of Sufiana Qalam the lyrics are composed by Sufi Saints who were striving for equality and tolerance between the different castes, religions, nationalities and sexes. Most of these compositions stress love as the basis of the relationship with God.

As a community that is into singing, they perform for all sorts of social gatherings be it for Hindu community or for the Muslims. They regularly perform in the Sufi shrines of the village singing lyrics of the sufiana kalam- the compositions of the Sufi saints- such as Kabir Das (1398-1448), Quaja Gulam Farid 1844-1901), Bhulle Sha (1680-1758), Mira Bhai (16th century), Sha Hussain (1539-1599) and so on.

Mukhtiyar has a voice which can only be experienced and never expressed. Recently, his stirring rendition at Sophia school, Bangalore, immersed a full house in soulful Kabir. He has preserved the ideology of Sufiana music which impels divine communion with an ecstasy created in total detachment. He pervades this very essence of sufiana qalam with his involvement not just in the music but also in its poetry. He has made the best of the few opportunities that have come his way. His performances in festivals like Belgium and Sweden got overwhelming responses, as did his recital in New Delhi last year, as part of the IIC festival of arts. He has performed in most of the metros in India.