

Sumaya Durrani, Babul Mora..., Transmedial Text 2023

References

Sources:

Image: Ammar Abad: Age 7, 8 or 9. (Ref: numerous/conflicting reports) Death: Sept 2023 Context: Social disorder, political violence, family disintegration, separation, terror, severe stress, and anxiety, bereavement, emotional dysregulation.

Text: Babul Mora

Babul Mora Naiher Chootto Hee Jaye is a Classical Hindustani Thumri, composed in Raag Bhairavi. It finds its roots in the historical context of the tumultuous period leading up to the Rebellion/War of Independence of 1857. Penned by Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, the 19th-century ruler of Awadh, during a time of political upheaval and personal turmoil, the composition serves as a lament for the Nawab's exile from his beloved Lucknow, enforced by the British Raj. Evoking themes of separation and loss, the poet draws upon the traditional Bidaai, or bride's farewell, as a symbolic representation of his own forced departure from Lucknow to Calcutta.

O My father! I'm leaving home. O My father! I'm leaving home.

The four (palanquin) bearers lift my palanquin. I'm leaving those who were my own.

Your courtyard is now like a mountain, and the threshold, a foreign country. I leave your house, father, I am going to my beloved's country.

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