

themselves from the misery of others. This is followed by thanksgiving congregational prayers of Eid in mosques and open spaces (Eidgah) in the early morning.

On Eid day, Muslims dress up, wearing their best and finest clothes and perfume themselves with attar. The new clothing represents spiritual renewal. After the Eid prayer, most Muslims focus on gift giving and family gatherings. They also have a special thought for those who have left this world and they pay visit to their graveyards. For Muslims, it is important to have this time with family so that they may celebrate one of the most important holidays of the year. Children receive new clothes, gifts and cash from their parents and close relatives. During Eid, Muslims are prohibited from fasting and therefore must eat and drink. In Mauritius, it is customary to serve sweet vermicelli and biryani.

Eid-ul-Fitr is one of the most auspicious occasions awaited by Muslims all over the world. This festival helps Muslims come close to each other, spread joy and love to all the people on the earth.

Assad Bhuglah

**DEDICATED TO GORA RASOOL
REMINISCENCES OF A GREAT FRIENDSHIP**

"The friends thou hast
Their adoption tried
Grapple them to thy soul
With hoofs of steel."

I am thankful to "Sada-e-Urdu" for having so kindly asked me to pen my appreciation of someone whose very memory makes tears run down our cheeks as the creator does send down people to comfort us in a world torn by hatred, animosity, jealousy, warring attitude and what not. Thinking of Gora Rassool immediately brings us to Shakespeare when he says:

"Under the greenwood tree
Who loves to lie with me
And tune his merry note
Unto the sweet bird's throat"
Come hither, come hither, come hither
Here shall he see no enemy
But winter and rough weather"

Gora Rassool was also known for his amusing jokes that could make whole audience laugh even when a tragical situation had enveloped the atmosphere. Thus Gora Rassool proved to be an asset to Roger Lecoultre, the former animator of the French Theatre in Mauritius, as he engaged him in many of his stage shows.

Gora Rassool had theatre running in his veins as his father was an able producer of Urdu plays at Cinema des Familles etc. Indeed, Kwaab-e-hasti was one of its resounding successes.

No wonder then that Gora Rassool was a member of the Urdu Speaking Union and sat on the board of Sada-e-Urdu. He was an active writer for the Sada-e-Urdu where he used to write articles in French Language related to Urdu Language and Literature in all issues of the newspaper.

As a writer, Gora Rassool had a style of his own, which pleased the readers so much. He would never ever have recourse to plagiarism or copy from others' work. To him originality emerged from his very soul and thus the English quotation suited much his way of writing:

"We were born originals
Let us not die copies"

