

## **Shaikh Ayaz: His Poetry and the People of Sindh**

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**"Poetry is a river  
On whose banks today  
I have seen Saraswati and Mahakali;  
The two together were drinking moonlight;  
They have come together after long ages,  
No doubt today will be born a great Maha Kavi." .....Ayaz**

Shaikh Ayaz, a Sindhi poet of high stature and international repute, sung for the downtrodden people of Sindh. Sindh, being his motherland, had faced many difficult days and injustices. Language and culture had come under severe attack from various quarters. Ayaz, through his writings, looked at these difficulties and worsening political, social and economic conditions which had started affecting the security and the future of the people and his motherland. Ayaz wrote most of his poetry revolving around its people. His prose, of which he was staunch writer, pointed towards such conditions.

The paper under discussion will look at the struggle, which was waged by the citizens of Sindh for their national honour and security to which Ayaz had offered various ways to come out of this situation by penning down on the ethos of Sindhi nationalism and its social emancipation. Ayaz's most of poetic themes have really contributed much to the awakening of the people of Sindh. Ayaz, no doubt, was a revolutionary national poet of Sindh. Ayaz loved Sindh. During One Unit period and Ayub Khan's Martial Law Ayaz had seen very difficult days for himself as he was put behind the bars along with many Sindhi leaders and workers. Ayaz loved democracy, loved freedom of thought; he loved social, political and economic liberty for its people. He believed not in abhorrence but believed in humanity and protection of human rights for all and especially for Sindhi people all over the world.

The paper, will review critically the above mentioned parameters and his intellectualism that he portrayed, which, in fact, showed that he was not bound by any religious and ideological dogmas, orthodoxical doctrines and ethnic or racial biases. Ayaz will also be seen and examined as a thinker and visionary.

This paper will also review the impact of his poetry on three generations of Sindh and will also see how the coming generations will perceive Sindh and its development in the future in the light of works of Ayaz and his strong message of patriotism and commitment with the nation and the motherland.

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