

The Great Poet of Sind – Sheikh Ayaz

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Mubarak Gulshan Hussain Sheikh well known as Sheikh Ayaz is one of the greatest poets of Sindhi Adab. Every Sindhi living in Pakistan and India is quite familiar to him. The young generation has given him the place in their hearts and are inspired to write about him. Sheikh Ayaz has written a lot in prose as well as in poetry.

Sheikh Ayaz was born in Shikarpur (Sindh) on March 23, 1923. By profession, he was an advocate. He is popular not only in Sindh but also in India. His stories, prose and poetry have been published in various Indian literary magazines. His poems in the form of books "He Geet Sunhari Sindhu a Jo" (1981), and "Dodde Jo Maut", a musical play (1971) were published by "Naeen Dunyan" publication, Mumbai. In "He Geet Sunhari Sindhu a Jo" there are sonnets, wayun & poems. His poetry is liked not only by Sindhi public but also by Indian readers too. To sum up he is progressive, revolutionary, national & international poet. His poetry has also led the Sindhi society to right direction. His love for Sindh & attachment towards humanity are apparent in his poetry.

In India he occupies a high honor as a poet. He has penned on modern as well as ancient poetry that includes "Waayan", "Kafi", "Gazal", "Songs", "Kitao", "Trio", "Rhyme", "Haiko", "Free Poems", "Chhejj", couplets and folk songs. He tried his hand on similes and metaphors in his work.

During the martial law in Pakistan (1958-1968) he was sent to jail on account of joining "One unit & Jeeay Sindh" movements. In 1970, he was again sent to jail. His books "Bhanwar Bhire Akas" "Kullhe Paatum Kenro" & "Je Kak Kakorya Kapadi" were forfeited as they unveiled Pakistani government's partial policies, its autocracy & injustice done to Sindhis. He carefully faced the hardships that came along his way.

In Hyderabad, on occasion of "Sindhi Adabi Sangat" Sheikh Ayaz had read out his poem in which he had called general Niyazi 'a military dog'. He gave importance to the values of democracy, human freedom, fraternity, love, peace & humanity. His poems are always a voice of common people. His revolutionary poems have infested new spirit in dead hearts. His poetry is in easy language comprising of new words, new rhymes, new compositions, & symbols reflecting social image. His poetry is a treasure of political game based on political laws. His poetry reflects human life with its pros & cons

experiences. The chief topic of his poetry is considered about the oppressed humanity. The leno maces communism & pleads nationalism “Desi Senn Kajan” are sindhi proverbs for which he has said in his poem,

**“Aa kedi Peeda Pahaake Mei
Hin Jhune phat je taake mein
Ee dharti chha chha danhan budhe
Mun tuhinje Wakey Wakey mei”**

Once he was attracted by a well known “Thari Song” “Lamkyan Re Lo” which made him beautifully draft it for people to be easily understood.

In his poem “Karahi”, he has depicted the impact of long wait & separation between the two lovers. Folk songs have also remained the thesis of his poetry. According to him, folk songs are the mirror of Sindhi society. Sheikh Ayaz’s poetry is the pure Sindhi poetry representing both the ancient as well as the modern Sindhi society.
