

## Concept of Social Change in the Writings of Shaikh Ayaz

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**"I belong to the religion  
Of all men, all women and all children,  
I am everyone.  
I am as old as the hills of Aror." .....Ayaz\***

*Shaikh Ayaz* widely known as pictogram of renaissance and resistance in Sindhi Literature because of his exclusive focus on the concept of social change through art and literature.

Shaikh Ayaz took Sindhi literature from its traditional and mediaeval expressions and subjects and started responding to new cultural and social demands and dimensions with modern trends, approaches, ideas and thinking. Ayaz become symbol of a new generation of progressive writers, poets and artists came to dominate Sindhi literary scene. Shaikh Ayaz revolutionised almost all genres of Sindhi literature and is rightfully called the doyen of the 20th century Sindhi writers and poets.

A graceful style and socio-political consciousness characterise the writing of Shaikh Ayaz who came to the forefront in the 40s, and amalgamated the concept of social change and political activism with a modern consciousness. Creativity and diversity remained the fundamental characteristics of his writings.

Ayaz was a great scholar and reader of literature and he quenched his thirst by reading international literature specially the revolutionary literature of Latin America, Eastern Europe, sub-continent and the Far East. Ayaz has offered a comprehensive solution for the people of Sindh especially for the social and economic change through political paradigms. Most of his inspiration of the social change is drawn from the international experiences of literature and writings which were at his command.

This paper will review the above parameters of Ayaz's prose and will link them with the existing conditions of Sindhi society. Ayaz was creator of such excellent trends and verosity of literature three decades ago that we find in today's literature especially prose from the world experts like Garcia Marquez, Carlos Fuentes, Robert Fisk, Tariq Ali, Arundhoty Roy, Desai and Herald Pinter.\*

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\*This poem is translated by K.R. Malkani in Sindh Story:  
<http://home.pacific.net.sg/~makhdoom/ayaz.html>

\* Main theme of the article is taken from my Sindhi work on Shaikh Ayaz, published in daily Ibrat, Hyderabad (from 2002 to 2006), on the topic of introduction of International literature and references in Sindhi literature by Shaikh Ayaz.