

Quratul Ain Hyder



Quratul Ain Hyder-Introduction

- Life of the Writer
- Formative Influences
- Major works
- Philosophy in her writings
- Quratul Ain Hyder and the Experience of Partition and Migration
- River of Fire-her magnum opus

Aini Apa-Biography

- Qurratulain Hyder-an influential Indian Urdu novelist and short story writer, an academic, and a journalist.
- daughter of writer and pioneers of Urdu short story writing Sajjad Haidar Yildarim.
- Her mother, Nazar Zahra, later as Nazar Sajjad Hyder-also a novelist
- Quratul Ain started writing at the age of 11.

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- Education from Indraprastha College, Delhi and Lucknow Women's College University
 - Her Migration to Pakistan in 1947
 - Publication of River of Fire met with controversy in Pakistan.
 - She left Pakistan and settled in India in 1960

Major Works

- Her first short story, Bi-Chuhiya-published in children's magazine Phool
- At the age of nineteen wrote her first novel:Mayray Bhee Sanam khanay.
- River of Fire
- Mere Bhi Sanam Khane , Safina-e-Gham-e-Dil, Patjhar ki Awaz, Raushni ki Raftar, Agle Janam Mohe Bitiya Na Kijo, Kar e Jahan Daraz Hai, Gardish e Rang e Chaman, Aakhir e Shab kay Hamsafar and Chandni Begum.

The Grande Dame of Urdu literature

- Influence of her family
- Exploitation of women
- Trauma of Partition
- Riots and Migration

Bibliography

- *Quratul Ain Hyder and the River of Fire-The Meaning, Scope and Significance of her Legacy*(2011) edited by Rakshanda Jalil
- *Urdu/Hindi: An Artificial Divide: African Heritage, Mesopotamian Roots* (2006) by Abdul Jamil Khan
- *Pakistan: A Cultural Metaphor* (1993) by Jilani Kamran

River of Fire (Aag ka Dariya)

- Publication in Urdu language (1959)
- Transcreated by Aini Aapa (1998)
- Magnum opus of the novelist
- The novel timeline spanned over two thousand years: starting from the time of Chandragupta Maurya to the partition of 1947

River of Fire-What is it all about?

- bangs the wall of stillness in the universe
- searches for the meaning of human existence in particular space and time
- records immigrations and settlements, politics and cultures, calendar years and timelessness, and combines all of these elements into some *Entire Silence* finally.

Structural Division

- 101 Chapters in Urdu (no titles)
- 73 Chapters in English (titles)
- Encompasses four historical epochs (2500 years of history)
 - i. 1-9: 340-298 B.C. (Mauryan Empire)
 - ii. 9-17: 1394-1479 (Sharqi Dynasty of Jaunpur)
 - iii. 18-30: British Rule
 - iv. 31-73: Freedom and post partition

Main Characters

- Gautam Nilamber
- Kumari Champak
- Hari Shankar
- Nirmala
- Sujata

(reincarnation of characters in the four phases of the novel)

Discussion on Text
