



Abdul Ahad Azad (1903-1948) was a well-known Kashmiri poet of the twentieth century. He was one of the pioneers of modernist movement and the first revolutionary socialist poet of Kashmiri literature. He belongs to the famous Dar tribe of Kashmir. He was one of the most explicitly political and nationalist poets of Kashmiri literature. But Azad's nationalist attitude is tempered by his socialism.

Azad wrote one of the most influential literary histories of Kashmir in Urdu language, *Kashmiri Zabaan aur Shaeri* (1984). He was also closely associated with the progressive strand of the Kashmir nationalist movement in 1940.

Many literary critics of Kashmiri literature like Avtar Krishan Rehbar (1997), Trilokinath Raina (2002) and Naaji Munawwar (1998) unanimously estimate the two poets (Mahjoor and Azad) as harbingers of a sort of renaissance in Kashmiri poetry.

According to Prem Nath Ganju (1987) and Chaman Laal Chaman (1979) two distinctive qualities which make Azad prominent as a perceptive intellectual and a powerful creative talent are:

- First, enjoying inspiration from **Mahjoor and Iqbal** both, he treated the action-urging thought of his poems as the most dominant features of his radically untraditional poetry, and allowed that feature to take the central position amidst all his later poetic outpourings;
- Secondly, proceeding a few steps forward from **Mahjoor's pure and simple patriotism**, Azad expresses not only his egalitarian views and his ardent belief in all-embracing equality of men but also stresses the need for a socialistic, classless and universal pattern of human society.

As such he established himself as the very first Kashmiri poet representing overwhelmingly three tendencies, namely, action urges, egalitarianism and social equality, synthesizing all the three into a single dominant and distinctive note of his later poetic utterance.

### Popular Poems

#### The Stars Speak To Man

You , the light of lights, imperilled the world  
You discredited the human

You discredited the human  
You trade in faith and religion

All the doors to the world's treasures opened up for you  
You do not share but accumulate this world's wealth

We are all one, one flesh, nothing but One  
Who put the discord of the Two in your heart?  
Are you a leader of religion and faith?  
You care for neither religion nor faith  
But the whole humanity mourns your fall

Should we take into our heart a religion which divides the human?  
A religion which turns the unity of the world into a chaos and wilderness

You name mischief in the world 'religion,' 'nation'  
What you call enlightenment is mere intoxication

There is a restlessness in the heart, there is a veil over our dreams  
All this is an illusion. When will you wake up?

The heartbroken, the dejected, my friends and well-wishers  
How you destroy human hearts in the name of the human?

You sprinkle the leaves and desert the roots  
You are destroying your own house in the name of the human  
by [Abdul Ahad Azad](#)

The poem is addressed to Man. The poet tells Man that he was the light of reason but he put humanity to disgrace. Nature had provided him with treasures of bounties to share them equally, but he sat like serpent on them. His heart is restlessly vibrating and his vision is clouded by fantasies.