Ahmad Faraz (12 January 1931 - 25 August 2008)

Ahmad Faraz (Urdu: ??? ???) born Syed Ahmad Shah (Urdu: ??? ???? ?????) on January 12, 1931 in Kohat, was a Pakistani Urdu poet. He was considered one of the great modern Urdu poets of the last century. Faraz is his pseudonym 'takhalus'. Faraz died in Islamabad on August 25, 2008.

Faraz has been compared with Faiz Ahmad Faiz, holds a unique position as one of the best poets of current times, with a fine but simple style of writing. Even common people can easily understand his poetry. Ethnically a Hindkowan, Ahmed Faraz studied Persian and Urdu at the Peshawar University. He later became lecturer at the Peshawar University. He was awarded Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-i-Imtiaz and after his death Hilal-e-Pakistan by the government.

<b>Biography</b>

Faraz was born in Kohat, Pakistan to Syed Muhammad Shah Barq. His brother is Syed Masood Kausar. In an interview with Rediff he recalls how his father, once bought clothes for him on Eid. He didn't like the clothes meant for him, but preferred the ones meant for his elder brother. This lead him to write his first couplet:

Sab kay waste laye hein kaprye sale se
Laye hein mere liye qaidi ka kambal jail se
(He brought clothes for everybody from the sale)
(For me he brought a blanket from jail)

His parents asked him once to learn mathematics from a class fellow during the summer vacation. But he was weak in mathematics and geography, he didn't remember maps and roads.

He was from a respectable family of Syed, descendents of "Haji Bahadar" a famous saint of Kohat, he moved to Peshawar with entire family. Studied in famous Edwards College, Peshawar and then did his Masters in Urdu and Persian from Peshawar University.

During his time in college, Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Ali Sardar Jafri were the best progressive poets, who impressed him and became his role models.

<b>Literary and Political life</b>
Outspoken about politics, he went into self-imposed exile during the Zia-ul-Haq era after he was arrested for reciting certain poems at a Mushaira criticizing the military rule. He stayed for 6 years in Britain, Canada and Europe before returning to Pakistan, where he was initially appointed Chairman Academy of Letters and later chairperson of the Islamabad-based National Book Foundation for several years. He has been awarded with numerous national and international awards.

He was awarded the Hilal-e-Imtiaz in 2004, in recognition of his literary achievements. He returned the award in 2006 after becoming disenchanted with the government and its policies.

"My conscious will not forgive me if I remained a silent spectator of the sad happenings around us. The least I can do is to let the dictatorship know where it stands in the eyes of the concerned citizens whose fundamental rights have been usurped. I am doing this by returning the Hilal-e-Imtiaz (civil) forthwith and refuse to associate myself in any way with the regime..." a statement issued by the poet.

About his current writings he says: "I now only write when I am forced to from the inside." Maintaining a tradition established by his mentor, the revolutionary Faiz Ahmad Faiz, he wrote some of his best poetry during those days in exile. Famous amongst poetry of resistance has been "Mahasara". Faraz was also mentioned by actor Shahzada Ghaffar in the Pothwari/Mirpuri telefilm "Khai Aye O".

Despite his deteriorating health, he was quite active in the Judicial Crisis, in 2007. He joined personally the lawyers to protest against the government, and also encouraged his colleagues to do the same.

<b>Death</b>

Faraz died from kidney failure in a local Islamabad hospital on 25 August 2008. His funeral was held on the evening of 26th, by many admirers and government officials at H-8 Graveyard, Islamabad, Pakistan.

<b>Samples of poetry</b>

A sample of his poetry is:
Nazm: Khwaab martay naheen
Khwaab martay naheen
Khwaab dil hain, nah aankhen, nah saansen keh jo
Rezaa, rezaa huwe to bikhar jaayen ge
Jism kii maut se ye bhii mar jaayen ge

English translation:
Dreams do not die
Dream are not heart, nor eyes nor breath
Which shattered, will scatter
Die with the death of the body
Se Duur Na Ho Dil Se Utar Jaayegaa

Ahmad Faraz
Aashiqli Be-Dilli Se Mushkil Hai

Ahmad Faraz

Ahmad Faraz
Ab Ke Rut Badalii To Khushbuu Kaa Safar Dekhegaa
Kaun

Ahmad Faraz

Ahmad Faraz
Ab Kis Kaa Jashn Manaate Ho

Ahmad Faraz
Ab Naye Saal Kii Mohalat Nahii.N Milane Vaalii

Ahmad Faraz
Aise Chup Hai Ke Ye Bhii Ho Jaise

Ahmad Faraz
Baraso.N Ke Baad Dekhaa Ik Shakhs Dilarubaa Saa

Ahmad Faraz
Beniyaaz-E-Gam-E-Paimaan-E-Vafaa Ho Jaanaa

Ahmad Faraz
Mai.N Ne Kabhii Lab-O-Rukhasaar Ke Qisse

Ahmad Faraz
Dil Bhi Bujhaa Ho, Shaam Kii Parachhaa, Iiyaa.N Bhii Ho.N

Ahmad Faraz
Dost Ban Kar Bhii Nahii.N Saath Nibhaanevaalaa

Ahmad Faraz
Dukh Fasaanaa Nahii.N Ke Tujh Se Kahe.N

Ahmad Faraz
'Faraz' Ab Ko_Ii Saudaa Ko_Ii Junuu.N Bhii Nahii.N

Ahmad Faraz
Gile Fuzuul The Ahad-E-Vafaa Ke Hote Huye

Ahmad Faraz
Haath Uthe Hai.N Magar Lab Pe Duaa Ko_Ii Nahii.N

Ahmad Faraz
Har Tamaashaa_Ii Faqat Saahil Se Dekhataa

Ahmad Faraz
Havaa Ke Zor Se - E-Baam-O-Daar Bhii Gayaa

Ahmad Faraz
Hogayi Rukhsat Ghata Baarish Ke Baad

Ahmad Faraz
Huii Hai Shaam To .N Me.N Bas Gayaa Phir Tuu

Ahmad Faraz
Hum Jo Toote To Is Tarah Toote

Ahmad Faraz
I Too Was A Poet Once

I too was a poet once O life of my words, but I cannot remember
Since I have forgotten you the love of my art too, I cannot remember

Yesterday during a coversation with my heart I learnt
that any forelock, lips, any mouth, I cannot rememeber

In the city of intellect insanity is quiet as if
the very spontainety the rabid fluidity of his speech, he cannot rememebr

Firstly I was not familiar with the mannerisms required for ruins
Now the ways and traditions of the residents of gardens, I cannot remember

Everyone asks for the shop selling arrows and quiver
but his own body, any customer cannot remember

Time has brought me to such a desert of forgetfulness
Now your name even, may I perish, I cannot remember

Is this not enough that in the state of being without country
the abandonment of my fellow countrymen I cannot remember

Ahmad Faraz

Ahmad Faraz
Is Daur-E-Bejunuu.N Kii Kahaanii Ko_Ii Likho

Ahmad Faraz
Is Qadar Musal_Sal Thii.N Shiddate.N Judaa_Ii Kii

Ahmad Faraz
Is Se Pahale Ke Bevafaa Ho Jaaye.N

Ahmad Faraz
Jab Tera Dard Myrey Sath Wafa Karta Hae

Ahmad Faraz
Jis Simt Bhii Dekhuu.N Nazar Aataa Hai Ke Tum Ho

Ahmad Faraz
Juz Tere Ko_Ii Bhii Din Raat Na Jaane Mere

Ahmad Faraz
Kahaa Thaa Kis Ne Ke Ahd-E-Vafaa Karo Us Se

Ahmad Faraz
Karuu.N Na Yaad Agar Kis Tarah Bhulaauu.N Use

Ahmad Faraz
Kathin Hai Raahaguzar  Duur Saath Chalo

Ahmad Faraz

Ahmad Faraz
Khvaab Marate Nahii.N

Ahmad Faraz
Kuchh Na Kisii Se

Ahmad Faraz
Kyaa Rukhsat-E-Yaar Kii Thii

Ahmad Faraz
Mai.N To Aavaaraa Shaayar Huu.N Merii Kyaa Vaqa'At

Ahmad Faraz
Muntazir Kab Se Tahayyur Hai Terii Taqariir Kaa

Ahmad Faraz
Koii Aur Hai

Ahmad Faraz
Payaam Aaye Hai.N Us Yaar-E-Bevafaa Ke Mujhe

Ahmad Faraz
Pech Rakhate Ho Bahut Saaj-O-Dastaar Ke Biich

Ahmad Faraz
Phir Toot Ke Ronay Ki Rut Aayi Hai

Ahmad Faraz
Phir Usii Raahaguzar Par Shaayad

Ahmad Faraz
Qurbato.N Me.N Bhiii Judaa_Ii Ke Zamaane

Ahmad Faraz
Ranjish Hii Sahii Dil Hii Dukhaane Ke Liye Aa

Ahmad Faraz
Saaqiyyaa Ik Nazar Jaam Se Pahale Pahale

Ahmad Faraz
Sab Log Liye Sang-E-Malaamat Nikal Aaye

Ahmad Faraz
Sakuut-E-Shaam-E-Khizaa.N Hai Qariib Aa Jaao

Ahmad Faraz
Sholaa Thaa Jal-Bujhaa Huu.N, Havaaye.N Mujhe Na Do

Ahmad Faraz
Uthuu.N Bhii To Zaalim Terii Duhaa_Ii Na Duu.N

Ahmad Faraz
Tere Hote Huye Mahafil Me.N Jalate Hai.N Chiraag

Ahmad Faraz
Terii Baate.N Hii Sunaane Aaye

Ahmad Faraz
Tu Meraa Pehla Piyar Sajan

Ahmad Faraz
Tum Bhi Khafaa Ho Log Bhii Baraham Hai. N Dosto

Ahmad Faraz
Tuu Paas Bhii Ho To Dil Beqaraar Apanaa Hai

Ahmad Faraz
Us Ko Judaa Hue Bhii Zamaanaa Bahut Huaa

Ahmad Faraz
Us Ne Kahaa Sun

Ahmad Faraz
Us Ne Sukuut-E-Shab Me.N Bhii Apanaa Payaam Rakh Diyaa

Ahmad Faraz
Vafaa Ke Bhes Me.N Ko_Ii Raqiiib-E-Shahar Bhii Hai

Ahmad Faraz
Vafaa Ke Khvaab Muhabbat Kaa Aasara Le Jaa

Ahmad Faraz
Vahashat-E-Dil Silaa-E-Aabalaa_Paa_Ii Le Le

Ahmad Faraz
Ye Aalam Shauq Kaa Dekhaa Na Jaaye

Ahmad Faraz
Ye Kyaa Ke Sab Se Bayaa.
Dil Kii Haalate.
Karanii

Ahmad Faraz
Ye Merii Gazale.N Ye Merii Nazme.N

Ahmad Faraz
Ye Tabiyat Hai To Khud Aazaar Ban Ham

Ahmad Faraz
Yeh Dil Ka Chor Ke Is Ki Zaroortain Theen Bohat

Ahmad Faraz
Zakhm Ko Phuul To Sar, Sar Ko Sabaa Kahate Hai.

Ahmad Faraz
Zulf Raaton C Hai Rangat Hai Ujaalon Jesi

Ahmad Faraz