

GLOSSARY OF LITERARY and HISTORICAL ALLUSIONS

7th of November: The date in 1917 on which the October Revolution started; the day on which Lenin seized power.

A

Abel: Adam and Eve's younger son who kills his brother, Cain.

Abraham: In Islam, Ibrahim is the Patriarch of the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In the Islamic tradition, he is the son of the idol-maker Azar of Ur; he has two wives, the first, Sarah, is unable to conceive, so he takes a second wife, Sarah's handmaiden, Hajar (Hagar), who gives birth to Ibrahim's first son, Ishmael; soon, Sarah gives birth to Ishaq (Isaac). Accounts of his life and works vary from faith to faith, and have been the source of continuous religious and historical controversy. Ibrahim in Islam is considered a major prophet in the line from Adam to Muhammed; because he spent a lifetime in cleansing the world of paganism and in establishing monotheism there instead, he is considered one of the foremost of Islam's twenty-five major prophets.

Acheson, Dean (1893-1971): President Harry S. Truman's Secretary of State from 1949-53; he worked with the Chinese Nationalists (Kuomintang) after they were defeated by Mao Zedong, and supported American intervention in Korea.

Adivar, Halide Edib: See Edib, Halide.

Afridis: A tribe within the large Pashtun ethnic group in Afghanistan and Pakistan known to be exceptional warriors; they twice defeated the armies of Moghul emperor Aurangzeb.

Ajanta: See *apsarās*.

Akhtar: The pen name (*takhalluṣ*) of Vajid Ali Shah (1822-87), the King of Oudh, whose kingdom was annexed bloodlessly in 1856 by the British; he was exiled to Calcutta where he lived out the rest of his life on a generous British pension; in addition to being a poet, he was also a dancer, credited for the revival of the Kathak style, a playwright, and generous patron of the arts. See Matia Burj.

Alamut: See Magician of Alamut.

Al-Muqanna: Ninth-century Persian heretic who claimed to be an incarnation of God; he wore a veil over his face, according to one tradition, to hide his beauty; by other traditions, to hide his ugliness, as he was said to be one-eyed and bald.

Alexander: Alexander the Great (356-323 BCE), Macedonian king who conquered the Middle East up to present-day Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan; for Iqbal, he a symbol of conquest and domination by the West.

Ali (601-661 CE): Son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad and the fourth caliph of Islam, known for his kindness and generosity.

Aligarh Movement: Founded by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-98) for Muslims to receive modern, western-style education to improve the condition of their community, which had been defeated and dispirited by the outcome of the 1857 Uprising.

Allā-hu-akbar: Arabic, "God is great!"

Alvand: See Mount Alvand.

anchal (*āncal*): The end piece of the sari which can be used to cover the shoulders and/or the head; it is also called a *pallu* (*pallū*) or *palav*.

andaz (*āndāz*): Literally, "style" or "gesture"; it refers to the non-verbal behavior of the beloved in the ghazal (*ghazal*) tradition; her elegance, grace bearing and gait; it is also associated with *naz* (*nāz*), a more specific kind of behavior by the beloved, her coquetry, amorous playfulness, and real or feigned disdain for the lover.

Andalusia: Al-Andalus (*al andalus*), the southern-most area of Spain, which came under Muslim rule from about 711 until 1492; it reached its zenith of political and intellectual importance around 1000; its magnificent mosque in its capital city, Córdoba, was once a church built by the Visigoths; after 1492, it was converted back to a cathedral.

Angel of Death: See Azrael.

apsaras (*apsarās*): Beautiful, sensual wives of *gandharvas* (*gandhārvas*), servants to the god Indra; they are presented in numerous sculptures and paintings in highly provocative poses in the Buddhist caves of Ajanta in Maharashtra.

Arjuna: Third of the five Pandava brothers, heroes of the epic *Mahabharata* (*mahābhārata*) he was an incomparable, ambidextrous master archer.

Arya Samaj (Aryan Society): Founded by Swami Dayananda Saraswati (1824-81), sought to return Hinduism to its Vedic purity. It held much in common with the Brahmo Samaj and started the *shuddhi* (*shuddhī*) (purification) movement to convert non-Hindus to Hinduism.

Asaf Jah VII: See Telangana.

assembly: An allusion to various types of social, literary, or political gatherings, even a branch of government. See *mahfil* (*mahfil*).

August 1952: Pakistan celebrates its fifth year of independence.

Aurangzeb (1618-1707): Sixth of India's Moghul emperors (r. 1658-1707) known for being deeply religious and antagonistic towards his Hindu subject.

Ayaz: Turkic slave who rose to the rank of general in the army of Mahmud of Ghazni (971-1030), famed for his devotion to his master and his ruthlessness against enemies.

Ayodhya: See Babari Masjid.

Azazel: Original name of Iblis, or Satan.

Azrael: The Angel of Death, one of the archangels.

B

Babari Masjid: The Mosque of Babar, constructed in 1527 by Babur, the first of India's Moghul emperors, in Ayodhya, U.P.; it was destroyed in 1992 by a mob of Hindu rioters based on the spurious belief espoused by various right-wing, nationalist Hindu organizations that the mosque was built on the site of a temple devoted to the god Rama.

Babylon: Major ancient city south of Baghdad, site of several major civilizations, notably by Akkadians; famed for its hanging gardens.

Badakhshan: Historic region in what is now northeastern Afghanistan and southeastern Tajikistan famous for its production of rare balas rubies, pale rose-pink in color, and for lapis lazuli.

Baghdad Caliphate: Golden-age period of the Abbassid rulers in Baghdad, 750-1258.

Bahadur Shah II (1775-1862): Last of the Moghul emperors who, when found guilty of treason for the Uprising of 1857-58, he, together with the remaining members of his family not executed by the British, was forced to make a humiliating departure from Delhi to Rangoon (today, Yangon), where he banished and imprisoned until his death at the age of eight-seven, ending the 300-year-old Moghul dynasty.

Balkhash: Industrial city in eastern Kazakhstan founded in 1937 expressly for mining and smelting copper.

baniya (*baniyā*): Moneylender or businessman.

“beard red with henna”: Traditionally, men who have made the pilgrimage to Mecca (*hajj*) enjoy the privilege to dye their beards red with henna.

“beautiful one of China”: This is an old, old image referring to the Manichean artists who were thought to be Chinese; see iranicaonline.org/articles/manichean-art. Web. Acc. 3 October 2018.

beggar: “A sonorous beggar”; in Faiz poem “Iqbal” an allusion to the Abbasid caliph Haroun-al-Rashid (763 or

766-809), who is depicted in the *Book of a Thousand and One Nights* (*alf laylāh wa laylāh*) as dressing up as a beggar and roaming the streets of Baghdad to learn about his subjects.

Begums of Avadh: Two incidents with the *begums* (*begams*; queens) of Avadh: the first was during the East India Company's reign under Warren Hastings 1772, where when Company troops stormed into the women's quarters of the royal women of Avadh, who were being extorted by Hastings to keep the predatory Rohillas from taking over Avadh; the second was during the 1857-58 Uprising, when the Begum of Avadh, Hazrat Mahal, proclaimed her young son ruler and led troops against the British through March 1858, after which she was forced to flee Lucknow; at this time British troops looted and pillaged the various royal quarters, and are said to have raped women of all social classes.

bell: caravan bell; a bell, usually on the lead camel of the caravan, which signals that the caravan is about to depart. Iqbal's first collection of Urdu poems, published in 1924, was entitled *Bang-i dara* (*bāng-i-darā*; Call of the [Caravan] Bell).

Bhagat Singh (1907-31): Committed nationalist who, after throwing a bomb in the Central Assembly on 8 April 1929, was arrested, tried and sentenced to death. Many prominent Indians tried to get his death sentence commuted because no one was killed in the incident, but he was hanged.

Bhagavad Gita (*bhagavad gīta*): The most sacred portion of the *Mahabharata* (*mahābhārata*) in which the god Krishna, who has taken on human form, serves as the charioteer for the Pandava archer; on the night before the great, decisive battle between the righteous Pandavas and their sinful Daurava cousins, he preaches the principle of bhakti (*bhaktī*; devotional) yoga, that is, doing one's duty (*dharma*) properly and dispassionately without concern for reward or favor.

Bharatiya Jana Sangh (*bhāratīya jana sangh*; Indian People's Organization): aka Jana Sangh; an aggressive, right-wing Hindu nationalist organization founded in 1951 as the political arm of the Rashtriya Svayamsevak Sangh (*rāṣṭrīya svayamsevaka sangha*; aka RSS; National Volunteer Organization); in 1977, in the wake the 1975-77 "Emergency" imposed by Indira Gandhi, it merged with several other political parties from the left, center, and right, to form the Janata (*janatā*; People's) Party and wrested power from Mrs. Gandhi. This party split in 1980 and reformed as the Bharatiya Janata Party, today one of India's largest political parties, which won a major national election victory in 2014.

Bhima: Second of the five Pandava brothers, heroes of the epic *Mahabharata* (*mahābhārata*); *bhīma* literally means "the terrible one"; as such, he was known for his strength, size, and valor.

biri (*bīrī*) also *beedi*; a cheap, thin cigarette filled with tobacco, wrapped in a *biri* leaf and tied with string on one end.

Black Age: A Dark Age in which human civilization has degenerated spiritually and morally; in Hinduism, this age is destroyed by the god Shiva in his cosmic dance of fire and destruction.

"Blessed is He in whose hand is sovereignty": Part of a quote from the Quran (*qur'ān*), Chapter 67 (The Sovereignty): 2 "Blessed is He in Whose hand is sovereignty; He is able to do all things."

"blue beloved": The sky.

Blue Fairy: One of the many good fairies, or *perīs*, or *jīns* in Islamic literature; or possibly one of a number of fairies who appear in the play *Indersabha* (*indersabhā*); in Iqbal's poem, a metaphor for an illusion or fantasy.

*bol*s: Rhythmic strokes made on a drum

Book of Causes: An allusion to the adversity suffered by Job.

Bose, Subhas Chandra (aka Netaji; 1897-1945?): Charismatic radical Congress politician who advocated force in opposing the British; when World War II broke out, he eventually organized the Indian National Army, backed by Germany and Japan; it was made up of Indian prisoners of war taken by the Japanese and Indian expatriates in Southeast Asia; their aim was to create a second war front to defeat the British.

Boxers: Members of a proto-nationalist group which lead a rebellion in northern China from 1898 to 1901, which they opposed foreign political and economic intervention and exploitation, the opium trade, and missionary evangelism.

Brahmanism: The ancient Indian religious tradition that emerged from the earlier Vedic religion during the first millennium BCE; its central theme is speculation about *brahman*, the universal underlying cosmic force, or Absolute Reality; men who are engaged in the study of and ritual performances in this system are a special class called brahmans/brahmins (*brāhmaṇs*), roughly, “those who pray,” the highest of the four classical castes in Hinduism.

Brahmo Samaj (*brahmo samāj*): Literally, “society of God,” founded in 1828 by Raja Rammohan Roy (1774-1833), it sought to exorcise the excesses and abuses of Hinduism from Indian society; strongly supported by the Tagore family, it was instrumental in altering many of the oppressive traditions aimed at Hindu women, notably widow remarriage.

broken thumbs of craftspeople: A reference to unscrupulous East India Company officials who ordered the breaking, or in some accounts, the cutting off, of thumbs of Bengali weavers so they could not compete with British-woven goods.

bulbul (*bulbul*): Colorful song bird common throughout much of Asia and Africa; often associated with the nightingale; one of several tropes representing the Lover in classical Urdu poetry.

bump on forehead: See *zabīb*.

C

Cain: Adam and Eve’s first son who kills his brother, Abel.

chador (*cādor*): Full-length body covering worn by some Muslim women in various Muslim societies.

Chahar: A mountainous area in Iran with many limestone caves where people have lived and have hidden in them in times of adversity.

chakra sudarshana: See Wheel of Krishna.

Chander, Krishan: (1914-77) Major progressive novelist and short-story writer; his long short story, "*Anndātā*,” about the 1943 Bengal Famine, is considered one of the major Urdu literary works of the twentieth century; *anndātā* translates as “Giver of Grain,” an ingratiating term of abasement used by peasants for their feudal landowners.

Chenab, Jhelum, and Ravi rivers: Three of the five rivers of the Punjab (Land of Five Rivers) shared by India and Pakistan

Chenghiz: See Jenghis Khan.

Chiang: Chiang Kai-Shek (1887-1975): Chinese Nationalist leader backed by the United States against the Chinese Communists.

Children of Abraham: Adherents to the Abrahamic faiths: Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Chisthi: Family of important Sufi saints, prominent among them Salim Chisthi (1478-1572), who exercised considerable religious and moral influence over the Moghul emperor Akbar (1542- 1605) after correctly predicting the birth of the ruler’s son Salim.

Churchill: Winston Churchill (1874-1965), powerful conservative British statesman and war-time prime minister, a foe of M.K. Gandhi, who strenuously opposed independence for India.

chakor (*cakor*): A fabled bird, a partridge which is said to live upon moonbeams and to eats fire at the full moon.

Clive, Robert (1725-74): British officer who established British military and political supremacy in India with his victory at the Battle of Plassey (Palashi; 1757), achieved with the treacherous betrayal of Mir Jafar (c. 1691-1765).

circumambulates: Refers to walking to encircle a sacred venue is a major ritual feature of various religions; in Islam pilgrims perform *tavāf* (circumambulation) of the Kaaba during pilgrimage (*hajj*).

civil lines: Residential area in a cantonment (military installation) for officers and their families established by the British during the Raj.

Company: The East India Company; started by Elizabeth I in 1600 as a monopolistic trading body, the company over time became involved in politics and eventually became the agent of British imperialism in India from the early 18th century to the mid-19th century.

Congress: Indian National Congress Party headed by M.K. Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, which worked to gain Indian independence from Great Britain.

Cupid's bow: The child-love god's bow which is used to shoot love arrows at humans.

cures: "no need to seek cures": In the *ghazal* (*ghazal*) ethos, pain is believed to be its own cure.

D

Darius: Darius I, the Great (550-456 BCE): Third king of the vast Achaemenid Empire.

daman (*dāman*): The hem of a robe.

dastan (*dāstān*): Elaborate type of oral history about the deeds of a people's cultural hero; some of these works are then rendered in written form; a popular literary genre in Urdu.

David: The second king of a united ancient Israel, famous for slaying the Philistine giant Goliath; he had numerous sons by various women, most notably, his successor, Solomon, whose mother was Bathsheba; he is also remembered as the composer of a number of the psalms in the Bible's Book of Psalms.

Delhi: Site of one of the most decisive events in the Indian Uprising, the successful British siege, May through September 1857.

dhoti (*dhoti*): Men's traditional lower garment wrapped around the waist and legs and knotted at the waist. In Jafri's poem, a man dressed in a *dhoti*, black coat, and black cap could typically be a fairly well-to-do, educated Indian.

Divine Submission: Islam, which literally means "submission."

E

Edib, Khalide, or Halide Edib Adivar (1885-1964): Foremost woman in the Young Turks Movement, she was one of the most gifted dramatists in modern Turkish literature.

Ehriman: In Zoroastrianism, the evil force in the universe.

F

Faiz (*faiẓ*): "successful," "victorious"; the pen name (*takhalluṣ*) of poet Faiz Ahmed (1911-1984), the preeminent Progressive poet and major leftist public intellectual.

Farhad: See Nizami.

falling of stars: In Islamic literature falling stars are thought to be devils being warded off the gates of heaven.

Fatehpur Sikri: Imperial city build by Moghul emperor Akbar, which served as his capital from 1571 to 1585; an architectural wonder, it was abandoned due to various problems, notably an insufficient water supply.

fez: The red cylindrical hat made of felt or kilim cloth popular in the Ottoman period; the "disrepute" is the fact that the Ottomans lost World War I.

Field of Resurrection: A reference to the Day of Judgment when the dead will be resurrected; a time of great chaos and horror.

final bath: In Islam, as in other religions, a corpse is required to be bathed by family members before being dressed in a shroud, then buried.

Firdausi (940-1020): Persian author of the *Shahnamah* (*shāhnāmah*; Epic of the Kings), Iran's national epic, which chronicles the country's history from its beginnings to the period of the Arabic conquest in the seventh century.

flame of the camel litter: Laila, beloved by Qais, aka Majnun ("mad one"), who became frenzied as she approached on her camel. See Laila.

floundering in dust and blood: A reference to the Turkish War of Independence (1919-23), in which Turkish nationalists fought against the Allies after the country was occupied and partitioned as a result of the Ottoman defeat in World War I.

flower-picker (*gulcīn*): Classic Urdu trope of someone who, sometimes callously, plucks the flower from the garden, thus separating the nightingale or the *bulbul* bird (lover) and the rose (beloved); a rival to the lover.

G

Gabriel: In Arabic, *jibrīl*; one of the four archangels; typically, he is God's messenger to humanity; Iqbal's second volume collection of Urdu poetry is *Bal-i jibril* (*bāl-i jibrīl*; Gabriel's Wing, 1935).

Gagarin: Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin (1934-68): First human to journey into outer space in a spacecraft—Vostok 1 (East 1)—which completed an orbit around earth on 12 April 1961; he later died in the crash of his MiG 15 training jet on 27 March 1968.

gariban (*garībān*): The collar of garments.

Gate of India: Monumental gate build to commemorate the visit of King George V to Bombay for the Delhi Coronation Durbar in December 1911.

gathering: see *maḥfil*.

Gaudalquivar: River that courses through Cordova; its name is derived from the Arabic *al-wadi al-kabir* (the great river).

Gautama: Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha.

George VI: See King of England.

ghat (*ghāt*): Literally, step; typically, the steps along a river bank where cremations take place.

ghazal (*ghazal*): A type of lyric poem, its origins in Arabic literature in the seventh century CE, which deals, in the main, with love and the separation of lovers, both secular and religious; in the former, the emotions of separated lovers are presented in in their myriad form; on the religious level, the ghazal can view God as the beloved and humans as lovers seeking spiritual union; the form is popular in many Islamic countries and literatures.

glass harmonicas (*jaltarangs*): musical instruments consisting of bowls filled with water to produce various music pitches; they are then struck lightly with a rod, generally of wood; in western music, glasses are filled with water for the same effect, though instead of percussion, the sound is made by running a wet finger over the rim of the glass; both Mozart and Beethoven composed works for this instrument.

Gnosis (*irfān*): Gnostics, or "knowers," as opposed to "believers," refer to any number of sects in the first six centuries of the Christian era which tried to accommodate Christianity to the speculations of Pythagoras, Plato, and other Greek and Asian philosophers. Their belief stated that knowledge rather than mere faith was the true key to salvation.

"God fulfills every desire": The implication is that God never goes back on His promise; as such, with his help, Muslims can overcome their present depressed state.

Gorky, Maxim: (1868-1936) a major Russian/Soviet writer, a founder of the Socialist Realism literary movement and a political activist.

Gnostics: Members of ancient Greek and early Christian cults which believed that esoteric knowledge of spiritual truth is essential to salvation; foremost of these is the that matter is evil and that emancipation from it comes through gnosis.

“great flood”: In Majaz’s “*Nazr-i khālidah* / Offering to Halida,” a reference to the Young Turks Movement, started in 1889, which eventually brought secular modernity to present-day Turkey.

Guide: See Khizr.

Gulmarg: Resort towns in the foothills of the Himalayas known for its remarkable scenic beauty.

H

Hafiz (c. 1300-88): Major Persian mystical poet from Shiraz and possibly the most popular poet of Persian literature, he is best known for his lyrics; wine, which is forbidden in Islam, is a major image in his poetry, much like that of Majaz.

Halide: See Edib, Khalide.

Haman: Chief minister of the Egyptian Pharaoh at the time of Moses; see Pharaoh; Haman in the Bible’s Book of Esther in the Bible is the name of the evil minister of the Persian King Ahasuerus (aka Xerxes) who conspired to execute all Jews; he does not succeed and is himself executed.

hammer and sickle: Symbols of Communism.

Haram: *ḥaram al sharīf*, the Noble Sanctuary, in Jerusalem; also known as Temple Mount.

harp: The image of the broken harp and playing a broken harp is a recurrent image in many of Majaz’s poems, often depicting “the smoke of despondency.”

Hashemites: Muhammad’s clan, members of the Quraish tribe. In Iqbal’s poem, a reference to Sharif Hussein bin Ali (1854-1931), the Grand Sherif, or Emir, of Mecca, who, with British assistance, rebelled against Ottoman rule in the Arab Revolt in 1916, and his several sons who, after World War I, ruled with British support over what are today Jordan, Syria, and Iraq.

Hastings, Warren (1732-1818): First Governor-General of India (1773-1785).

Hejaz: Area on the western coast of the Arabian Peninsula bordering the Red Sea; it includes Mecca and Medina.

henna: Vegetable dye used to decorate hands, feet, and sometimes face, with designs as part of a women’s makeup; it is especially associated with brides; also used to tint the hair and beards of persons who have made the pilgrimage (*ḥajj*) to Mecca.

Hikmat, Nazim: See Nazim Hikmat Ran.

Hir (*hīr*): Tragic heroine of the eighteenth-century Punjabi epic, *Hir Ranjha* (*hīr ranjhā*) by Warish Shah (1722-98); her lover is Ranjha; both die—she, poisoned by her jealous fiancé; he by purposely eating the same poisoned sweets she unwittingly ate.

Holy Spirit: Epithet of the angel Gabriel.

houris (*ḥūrīs*): In popular Islam, dark-eyed, ever-young, beautiful, voluptuous virgins in the Quranic paradise; they sing, serve wine, and are available for sex, after which they grow new hymens each morning.

Hulagu (1217-1265): Grandson of Jenghis Khan, expanded the Mongol empire in southwest Asia; he is infamously known for his thorough 1258 sack of Baghdad, the seat of Abbasid power and learning, in 1258 and other major cities in the Middle East; he later established the Ilkhanate dynasty in Persia, which, later, was notable for its strong patronage of the arts.

Husain; also Hussain: Grandson of the Prophet Muhammed who refused to pledge allegiance to Yazid I, the Umayyad caliph whose rule was unjust; he, his family, and followers were killed by Yazid’s army led by Shimr at the Battle of Karbala in 680.

I

Id (*'id*) moon: New moon that marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan and announces the time for the celebration of Id-ul Fitr (*'id alfītr*), which features the preparation of special foods, gift-giving, and exchanging visits with friends.

ikka-driver: Driver of an *ikka* (*ikkā*), a scantily constructed vehicle pulled by a single horse.

Indersabha (*indersabhā*): a verse play (1853), later an opera, attributed to Agha Hasan Amanat (1815-58) is set in the heavenly court of Indra, king of the gods; the story deals with his treatment of an *apsara* (apsara; fairy) who, through a ruse, appears in court as a “fallen woman.”

Iqbal: Muhammed Iqbal (1877-1938), India's foremost poet, writing in Persian and Urdu, during the first decades of the twentieth century; he was also a politician, philosopher and academic who is best known for this strong advocacy of a separate state for Muslims in South Asia.

J

Jacob: See Joseph.

Jahangir: See Nur Jahan.

Jai Chand: See Sanjugta.

Jallianwala Bagh: Site of the infamous gunning down of nearly four hundred congregated Indians and the wounding of over a thousand more by troops under the command of General Reginald E.H. Dyer (1864- 1927) on 13 April 1919.

Jambul Jabir: Known in Russian as Jambyl Jabayev, this poet lived from 1846 to 1945. In addition, there is some controversy as to whether he actually wrote his poems; some recent critics claim that these works were written by a number of Russian poets for political purposes. In any event, this poem was at the time one of the most popular poems in Andhra Pradesh, together with Makhdum's “*Andherā*” (Darkness) and “*Inqilāb*” (Revolution). See Abida Samiuddin, *Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Urdu Literature* 119).

Jamshed: Mythical Iranian warrior king who owned a seven-ringed magical cup, the Cup of Cups (*jām-i jām*), which held the Water of Life (*āb-i ḥayāt*), peering into which he was able to observe the universe; a patron of the arts and learning in Persia, he lost his throne due to excessive pride.

Jenghis: Jenghis Khan (1162-1227): Mongol ruler who conquered vast territories in northern China, then moved on Iran, Iraq, and eastern Europe, forming the largest contiguous empire in history; he became legendary for his ruthlessness and cruelty.

jiger (*jigar*): Literally, liver, which was thought to be the center of human emotions; metaphorically, the heart.

Jamini Roy: (1887-1972) was an Indian modernist painter, one of the first Indian painters to receive international recognition; he was highly influential on painters who came after him.

.Joseph: Yusuf, favorite son of Jacob; his brothers, jealous over their father's affection for him, sold him into slavery and brought his coat, which they bloodied, to Jacob, saying that he had been eaten by wild animals; in Egypt, Joseph was bought by Potiphar, captain of the pharaoh's palace guard; his wife, Zulaikha, was attracted to the handsome Joseph, often referred to as the Moon of Canaan, and made sexual advances to him; he refused, and she accused him of attempted rape; he defended himself by saying that if his robe is torn in the front, he is guilty, for she tore it in his attempt to rape her; if torn in the back, he is innocent, for she tore it in his attempt to get away; the robe had been torn in the back, proving his innocence. In Urdu poetry, it is the hem of his robe that is often referred to as torn. In the Bible, Zulaikha's name is not given; she is merely referred to as Potiphar's wife; she is named in the Islamic tradition.

Josh (*josh*): Persian “passion,” “intensity”; the pen name (*takhalluṣ*) of Shabbir Hasan Khan (1894-1982).

JP: Jayaprakash Narayan (1902-1979) was an Indian independence activist, social reformer and political leader, remembered especially for leading opposition against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's controversial State

of Emergency from 1975 to 1977.

Jumna: or Yamuna, River, the largest tributary of the Ganges River, runs through various major cities, including Delhi and Agra.

K

Kaaba (*ka'bah*): Cube-shaped structure in Grand Mosque in Mecca originally built by Adam, later rebuilt by Abraham and his son Ishmael; considered Islam's first mosque, it is the paramount center of ritual activity in Islam.

Kabir Das: Benares weaver who attempted to synthesize Hinduism and Islam in his mystical songs in praise of God; a major poet of the bhakti, or devotional, movement.

Karbala: See Hussein.

Kashi: City of Varanasi, aka Benares.

Kausar, Tasnim: A pond and fountain respectively in Paradise with whose waters the faithful quench their thirst before viewing the Divine Presence.

Khan, Abdul Ghaffar (1890-1988): Afghan Pashtun political and spiritual leader known for his non-violent opposition to British rule in India; a close associate of Gandhi.

Khaybar: In 629 CE, the oasis at which the forces of Muhammad conquered the Jewish Banu Qurayza tribe, who were believed to have conspired with the Meccans earlier at the Battle of the Trench in 627 CE.

Khayyam: Omar Khayyam (1048-1131): Persian astronomer, mathematician, philosopher, and poet, who is widely considered one of the most influential scientists of all time; his reputation as a poet is due in good part to a wild craze for his poetry initiated by Edward FitzGerald (1809-83), who published *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* (1859), English renderings of his quatrains (*rubā'iyāt*); wine is a major trope in his poetry, like that of Hafiz and Majaz.

Khilafat (*khālifat*): An Islamic state led by a supreme religious and political leader, the successor (*khālif*, or caliph) to the Prophet Muhammad; Khilafat Movement: 1919-24; a pan-Islamic campaign led by Muslims in British India, notably the poet Iqbal, to win support for the idea that the British should protect the Ottoman Empire in the aftermath and turmoil of Turkey's defeat in World War I.

Khizr (*khidr*) also Khizar, the Guide: Mythical person who attained immortality by drinking the Water of Life (*āb-i hayāt*); an enigmatic figure, he wanders the world as a patron saint and guide to travelers on actual or metaphorical trips (e.g., through life).

khol: collyrium used as eyeliner by both women and men; it is said to have medicinal qualities.

King David: See David.

“king, looking like a beggar”: An allusion to the Abbasid caliph Haroun-al-Rashid (763 or 766-809), who is depicted in the *Book of a Thousand and One Nights* (*alf laylāh wa laylāh*) as dressing up as a beggar and roaming the streets of Baghdad to learn about his subjects.

Kipling: Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) English journalist, short-story writer, poet and novelist, who wrote a great deal about India; his poem “The White Man's Burden” (1899) suggests that it is the “duty” of white people, especially the British, to “civilize” people of color; though popular in his day, his literary reputation as significantly diminished, George Orwell (1903-50) calling him the “prophet of British imperialism.”

Khushal Khan Khattak (1613-89): Foremost Pashtun poet and tribal chief of the Khattak tribe; author of martial poems urging his people to resist the Moghuls, thus promoting Pashtun political identity.

Khyber Pass: Famed pass through the Hindu Kush mountain range. in the northwest of Pakistan.

King of England: George VI (1895-1952) on the occasion of his coronation; small amounts of food, including sweets for children, were distributed to celebrate the occasion.

King of Delhi: See Bahadur Shah II.

Kohat: Famed pass through the Hindu Kush mountain range near Peshawar.

L

“laborer’s digging”: See Farhad.

Laila (Arabic *laylā*; night, black): beloved of the poet Qais (*qais*); in the classic Islamic love story; one of her notable features was her long, dark hair; Qais is also known as Majnun (*majnūn*), “the mad one,” because he went mad when he learned that her father had married her off to another man.

Lakshman: Devoted younger brother of Rama, hero of the epic *Ramayana* (*rāmāyaṇa*), who went into exile with Rama and Rama's wife, Sita.

“. . . large thing from something small”: A reference to the Sunni-Shia rift, which developed after the death of Muhammad.

Laylat al-qadr (*laylat al-qadr*): Night of Power during Ramadan when the first verses of the Quran (*qur‘ān*) were given to the Prophet Muhammad; on this night, God’s blessings and mercy is abundant, sins are forgiven, and he gives special attention to supplications.

League: Muslim League, headed by Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948), seeking a separate state for Muslims, Pakistan, after independence from Britain.

"Let there be, and there was" (*kun faya kun*): Allah's command that the universe be created; a statement appearing eight times in the Quran (*qur‘ān*).

Lu Hsun (1881-1938): Pen name of Chou Shu-Jen, is the author of anti-establishment works of fiction, most notably *The True Story of Ah Q* (1921); he has been posthumously adopted by the mainland Chinese as an exemplar of Socialist Realism.

M

Maari: (973-1057) was a blind Arab philosopher, poet, and writer, often characterized as a “pessimistic freethinker” who insisted that reason was the chief source of truth; he expressed other irreligious views which brought him into conflict with the religious establishment; he is considered one of the greatest classical Arabic poets.

Magician of Alamut: Hasan as-Sabah, historical leader of a branch of the Ismaili sect of Shiites, who, in 1094 CE, refused to recognize the new Fatimid caliph in Cairo; he seized the castle of Alamut (*alamūt*; eagle’s nest) near Qazvin, Iran, and set up a network of assassins and terrorists, many of whom were induced by hashish (from which is derived the word “assassin”) to participate.

Mahabharata (*mahābhārata*): One of India’s two major Sanskrit epics; it describes the events and eventual cosmic battle between the five righteous Pandava brothers and their less-than-honest Kaurava cousins to regain the throne from the latter, who won it dishonestly.

Maharashtra lions: Various successful political and military Hindu leaders in the seventeenth century who broke away from Muslim rulers, most notably the Moghuls; the foremost of these was Shivaji Bhonsle (1630-80), the “Lion of Maharashtra.”

mahfil; Assembly or gathering where poets and poetry-lovers meet to present and to listen to poetry; metaphorically, any type of refined social gathering.

Mahmands: Tribe within the large Pashtun ethnic group in Afghanistan and Pakistan considered one of the strongest in the Khyber Pass area who repeatedly fought the British in India and other foreign invaders.

Mahmud of Ghazni (971-1030): Major ruler of the Ghaznavid empire, which included much of what is today Afghanistan, eastern Iran, Pakistan, and northwest India; much of his wealth was the result of seventeen separate raids on India.

Majaz (*majāz*): Arabic “lawful,” “profane,” “metaphor”; the pen name (*takhalluṣ*) of Asrarul Haq (1911-55)

Majnun: See Laila.

Mammon: In the Bible, the representation of wealth, and the greedy pursuit of it.

Mansur (*manṣūr*): Al-Manṣūr (c. 709-775) was the second caliph of the Abbasid dynasty (754–775), generally regarded as the real founder of the Golden-Age Abbasid caliphate; in addition to his reputation as a ruthless military leader, he was also known for the simplicity of his life, his frugality, his love of poetry, and his objection to music; he is also known for establishing Madinat al-Salam (*madīnat al-salām*; City of Peace), later known as the capital city Baghdad (762–763).

Marxist second system: The Marxist socio-economic system was divided into three phases: Feudalism, Capitalism, and Communism.

Marshall, George C. (1880-1959): Secretary of State 1947-49 under President Truman, he designed the European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan) for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953; as Secretary of Defense he implemented various NATO treaties intended to limit Soviet power and influence.

marsiya (*marsiyah*): A lamentation for a dead person, an elegy, a dirge

Mary: An allusion to either the mother of Jesus, but also Mary, the daughter of Imran, one of the four perfect women of Islam.

Matia Burj: Unfashionable area along the Hoogly River near Calcutta to which Vajid Ali Shah (1822-87), the last King of Avadh, was exiled in 1856, and which he converted into a splendid center of high culture and art; it has since fallen into ruin.

maulvi (*maulvī*) Honorific Islamic religious title given to Sunni theologians.

Maxim Gorky: See Gorky, Maxim.

Mazdak: Sixth-century CE Persian religious figure who founded a religion whose theology included tenets such as holding of common property and women, which is seen by some scholars as a type of proto-communism.

Mecca Mosque: The Masjid al-Haram, the Sacred, or Grand, Mosque in Mecca.

Meerut: City where in 1857 Indian sepoys (soldiers) were the first to refuse to use bullets alleged to be packed in tallow, made of beef and pork fat; it was here that the Uprising initially broke out and the battle cry “*Dilli chalo!*” (*dillī calo*; Onward to Delhi) was first raised.

Mir Jafar (1691-1765): Bengali noble who betrayed Sirajud Daulah (1729-1757), Nawab of Bengal, to the British in order to gain the throne for himself at the Battle of Plassey (Palashi) on 23 June 1757; this betrayal earned him the title of *Gaddar-i-abrar* (Traitor of Faith).

misvak (*misvāk*): Traditional toothbrush made from a twig, the bark of which has been removed; known to be the way Prophet Muhammad brushed his teeth.

Mohenjo Daro: Major ancient settlement in Sindh, Pakistan, built around 2600 BCE, or earlier, boasting a complex, sophisticated urban drainage system and wide, straight streets, unique in the ancient world.

Mohmands: Tribe within the large Pashtun ethnic group in Afghanistan and Pakistan considered one of the strongest in the Khyber Pass area who repeatedly fought the British in India and other foreign invaders.

Moon of Canaan: See Joseph.

Moses: The legendary prophet in the Abrahamic religions who, after the Ten Plagues and the parting of the Red Sea, led the Jews out of Egypt to the Canaan, the land promised to them by God; Moses received the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai and led the Jews as they wandered for four decades before finding Canaan; Moses would not enter Canaan, but he did view it before his death from atop Mount Nebo in present-day Jordan.

Mount Alvand: One of two Iranian holy mountains; it holds ancient inscriptions by King Darius the Great and Xerxes.

Mountain Digger: An epithet of Farhad, the stone-cutter of preternatural abilities in pan-Islamic literature who loves the unattainable beautiful princess Shirin; see Nizami.

muezzin (Arabic *mu'addin*): Cleric of a mosque who calls the faithful to prayer (*ṣalāt*; *namāz*) five times a day.

Mutiny: The 1857-58 Uprising in India, formerly called the Sepoy Rebellion or Mutiny, in which Indians troops

rose up against British rule; a discredited term today.

N

Nanak (1469-1539): Founder of the Sikh religion, which sought to blend tenets of Muslim Sufism with Hindu devotionalism (*bhakti*), he was the first of Sikhism's ten gurus (teachers); the movement was centered in the Punjab, in northwest India; due to political and religious circumstances, Sikhism became a highly martial sect.

Nazim: Nazim Hikmet Ran: (1902-63) Marxist Turkish poet, playwright, novelist, screen writer, director and memoirist who spent much of his adult life in prison and exile; considered a "romantic communist" and "romantic revolutionary," he was much admired by the Progressives.

Nejd: Central highland area on the Arabian Peninsula.

Nimrod: In the Islamic tradition, Nimrod is an arrogant king who had Abraham, son of the idol-carver Azar, thrown into a fire because he would not adore king's idols; Abraham was unharmed; only the ropes burned in the fire, and an angel who looked like Abraham was sitting next to him. Nimrod boasted that he had forced Abraham's god to save Abraham.

Nineveh: Ancient Assyrian city located near today's city of Mosul, seat of the Neo-Assyrian Empire; it reached its zenith under the ruler Sennacherib (c. 700 BCE).

Nizam: Muhammad Nizamuddin Auliya (1238-1325) was a Sufi of the Chishti Order, possibly the most famous Sufis of India.

Nizami (1141-1209): Considered the greatest romantic epic poet in Persian literature, author of, among other things, the love stories, the best known of these settings is from the Five Jewels (*panj ganj* aka *Khamsa*: *khamsah*), the story of Shirin, Farhad, and Prince Khushrau; Farhad initially carves a canal from faraway pastures to the palace of the beautiful Armenian princess Shirin to transport the milk required for her bath; in the process he falls in love with her; his rival is Prince Khushrau, who, out of jealousy, commands Farhad to carve a path out of a mountainside; he then sends the false news that the Shirin has died; on hearing this, Farhad falls to the ground and dies.

Nur Jahan (1577-1645): Moghul empress, wife of Jahangir (1569-1627); a woman of great beauty, intelligence, and political acumen, she wielded great enormous power while as her husband was often incapacitated by alcohol and opium; as a couple, they are the subject of romantic legends and tales; her tomb is located in Shahdara Bagh, Lahore, near her husband's.

O

O'Dwyer: Sir Michael O'Dwyer (1864-1940): Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab when the Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred; he deemed it a "correct action" and supported General Dyer to in opening fire on the crowd; O'Dwyer was assassinated by 1940 by the Indian freedom activist Udham Singh (1899-1940) as revenge for the massacre.

"O King of Kindly Name": Josh is being eruditely sarcastic here; the name "George" in Latin is derived from the Greek word *georgos* (γεωργος) for "farmer" or "earth worker."

Omar Khayyam (1048-1131): Accomplished poet and important scientist and mathematician, best known for his four-line quatrains (*rubaiyat*); wine is a major trope in his poetry, like that of Hafiz and Majaz.

P

Paran: Both a mountain and a wilderness in the Sinai Peninsula.

Pathans: Large ethnic group made up of various tribes with populations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, also referred to as Pakhtuns, speakers of the Pashto language; often characterized as an especially fierce warrior and martial race.

Peking Palace: Magnificent Old Summer Palace built by the Qing Dynasty in the eighteenth-century and looted and destroyed by British troops during the 1860 Second Opium War.

People of the Book: In Islam, followers of monotheistic Abrahamic religions which predate Islam: Christians, Jews; the “Book” refers to the Old Testament/Torah.

People of the Cave (*aṣḥāb al kahf*): Also known as Companions of the Cave, or the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus (today Selçuk), noble Greek youths who fled in the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperor Decius in 250 CE to a cave on Mount Celion. There they slept for 230 years, watched over by their dog, Katimir. This legend exists in both Christian and Muslim versions.

Phalgam: Resort towns in the foothills of the Himalayas known for its singular scenic beauty.

Pharaoh: Supreme rule in ancient Egypt; the Pharaoh at the time of Moses was likely Thutmose II (1485-1431 BCE).

pickaxe: See Farhad

“pieces of the moon”: Beloveds.

Pleiades: In Islamic lore, the Pleiades are referred to as *an-naim* (*an na‘īm*; star of excellence); the Prophet Muhammad, according to tradition, is supposed to have told his uncle Abbas, for whom the Abbasid caliphate (750-1258) was later named, that rulers would come from his descendants equal to twice the number of stars of the Pleiades

Potiphar: Potiphar’s wife: See Joseph.

Potter: The Potter: God, as portrayed in the poetry of Khayyam.

Prince of Hijaz: Epithet of the Prophet Muhammad.

“prison / . . . my country’s prison”: A denunciation of Makhdum’s being jailed by the Nehru regime, which, he believed, had turned the entire country into a prison.

Protector of the Well-Manifested Religion: A title given to the King of England by some Islamic scholars; the Well-Manifested Religion: Islam.

Q

Qaiser Bagh: Royal complex in Lucknow consisting of various residences, buildings, and gardens, ordered to be constructed under the order of Avadhi king Vajid Ali Shah, who wanted it to look like a paradise on earth; it was looted and much of it destroyed by the British during the 1857-58 Uprising.

Qais: See Laila.

qawwali: a type of Sufi devotional poetry sung in religious settings with themes of religious love and sadness at the separation of man from God.

qazi: A lawyer; a specialist in Islamic law (*sharia*).

“Quran, memorized”: A feat of considerable magnitude, which entitles the person memorizing the Quran (*qur‘ān*) the title of *ḥāfiz* (masc.)/*ḥāfizah* (fem.); Arabic for “guardian,” “memorizer”; those who hold this title receive great respect and deference in their community.

R

Radha: The *gopī* (cowherder’s wife) lover of Krishna.

rajaz: A type of war song.

Rama: righteous and brave ruler of the kingdom of Ayodhya, and *avatara* of the god Vishnu; hero of the Indian epic *Ramayana* (*rāmāyaṇa*); see Sita.

Ram rajya (*rām rājyah*) Rule by Rama; in Hinduism, the utopian period of Righteousness established and ruled over by the god Rama, the seventh *avatāra* (manifestation) of the god Vishnu; Rama is also the hero of the Sanskrit *Ramayana* (*rāmāyaṇa*), which is an account of the life of Rama in human form.

Rani of Jhansi: Lakshmi Bai valiantly led various Indian troops against the British during the 1857 Uprising; she was killed in battle on 17 June 1858, when, dressed as a man, she was fighting the British at the battles of Marar and Koth in Central India.

Raphael: In Arabic, Israfil; one of the four archangels; he is known for carrying a trumpet, which he will sound at the Last Judgment.

ras(a) (*rasas*): Literally, “juice” or “essence”; in Sanskrit aesthetics, the “flavor” or “mood” one experiences after seeing or hearing a visual, literary or musical work; traditionally, there are nine (*nau*) of these: the erotic, humor, fury, compassion, disgust, horror, heroism, wonder, and peace.

Ravana: King of Lanka (today, Sri Lanka), who abducted Sita, Rama’s wife, in the epic *Ramayana* (*rāmāyaṇa*).

Reichstag: An historic building in Berlin which at various times has housed German parliaments (diets).

Rumi: Jalaluddin Rumi (1207-1273), the noted Persian poet, jurist, theologian, and Sufi mystic, whose major work of poetry, his *Maṣnavī* (literally, “rhyming couplets”) is cherished throughout the Islamic world. As a Sufi, he espoused the notion of *tauḥīd*, that human being seeks ultimate reunion (*tauḥīd*) with the beloved from whom (s)he has been detached and who is the object of his/her desires and longing, a metaphor for the Divine. After his death, his son founded the Mevlevi Order of Sufis, also known as the Whirling Dervishes, who dance themselves into religious ecstasy.

Rustam: Foremost Persian warrior and hero in the Persian epic *Shāhnāmah* (Book of Kings).

S

Saadi (1184-1291): Persian lyric poet; born in Shiraz; he travelled extensively in exile throughout the Middle East, India and Central Asia; his major works are *Būstān* (Orchard) and *Gulistān* (Rose Garden).

sacred thread: A reference to Hindus, many of whose men wear a circular three-string talisman looped over the left shoulder, across the chest and back.

Sahyadri: Mountain range on the west coast of India, also known as the Western Ghats.

Samiri: In the Quran (*qur‘ān*), Chapter 20 (*TaHa*):85, the man who induced the Israelites to worship the Golden Calf.

Sanjuga: Daughter of Jaichand, the twelfth-century ruler of Kanauj; she was abducted by Prithviraj, Chauhan king of Ajmer and Delhi (r. 1165-92), a rival of Jaichand. In revenge, Jaichand assisted the Muslim invader Shahabuddin Muhammad of Ghur to defeat Prithviraj; his widow Sanjuga agreed to marry the victor, provided she could perform her husband’s obsequies. She then threw herself onto his funeral pyre and died with him.

sāqi (*sāqī*): Cup bearer or wine pourer, usually Christian, in the tavern; as such, he is, metaphorically, the source of wisdom, life, and passion, and, often, as in Greek mythology, associated with Ganymede and pederastic love.

“seventy-five years ago”: A reference to the 1857 Uprising.

Shaanxi: Area in central China where people have lived and hidden in times of adversity; Mao Zedong lived in a cave city in Shaanxi province, which served as his headquarters from 1935 to 1948.

Shadow of God: One of the many royal titles of Moghul emperor Jahangir (1569-1627).

shehnai (*shahnā’ī*): An Indian double-reed wind instrument shaped roughly like a clarinet, played on various auspicious occasions, such as weddings

shaikh (*shaiḵh*): From Arabic, literally, “leader” or “elder,” an honorific title given to leaders of tribes, especially in the Arabian Peninsula.

Shakuntala: Virtuous, long-suffering wife of King Dushyanta and mother of emperor Bharata; her story appears in the *Mahabharata* (*mahābhārata*) and was dramatized by the fifth-century CE Sanskrit writer Kalidasa in the play *Abhijnānashākuntalam* (The Recognition of Shakuntala).

Shamr: See Yazid, Shamr.

Sheba: Queen of a kingdom located in what is likely present-day Yemen; in the Bible she is said to have visited Solomon to ask him a number of questions, which he answered to her satisfaction; she gave him a vast amount of gifts, including many spices.

Shiddad: Ancient, pre-Islamic Arabian monarch who built a magnificent palace he called “Paradise” and housed virgins there; he also arrogated divine powers for himself.

Shinwaris: Tribe within the large Pashtun ethnic group in Afghanistan and Pakistan active in trade, commerce, as well as politics and administration.

Shirin: See Nizami.

shoe: “our shoe”; to be beaten with someone’s shoe is especially humiliating.

Siddiq (*siddīq*): Epithet (“The Truthful”) of Abu Bakr (c. 573-634 CE), the first caliph of Islam, known for his compassion and concern for women, children, the elderly, and slaves.

Sinai: Mountain in the Sinai peninsula where Moses received the commandments.

Singh, Bhagat: See Bhagat Singh.

Siraj: Sirajud Daulah (1729-57): Nawab of Bengal, betrayed by his uncle Mir Jafar (1691-1765); he is perhaps best known for the infamous “Black Hole of Calcutta,” a small dungeon in Fort William, Calcutta, where his troops held about 150 Europeans over night after capturing the fort on 19 June 1756. Recent scholarship challenges the historical accuracy of this event; revisionist historians even question its actual occurrence.

Sita: Wife of Rama, hero of the epic *Ramayana* (*rāmāyaṇa*), who went into exile with him, was abducted by the monster-king of Lanka, Ravana; rescued, she then became the victim of a smear campaign which alleged that she had succumbed to Ravana’s sexual advances; her purity was then tested by having her walk through fire unscathed, which she did successfully, but under protest.

Siyasi lidar ke nam (*siyāsī līḍar ke nām*) / To the Political Leader: In Faiz’s poem, the leader in question is generally assumed to be M. K. Gandhi.

Shiv Sena: See Bal Thackeray.

Shiraz mystic: See Hafiz.

six directions: The four standard ones, but also up and down.

shlokas (*shlokās*): a couplet-type literary form in which many Hindu religious and literary texts are written.

Smyrna: Called Izmir today, a city on the eastern seacoast of Turkey. There on 15 May 1919 at the end of World War I, Greek forces, with Allied approval, started the occupation of Turkey, which, when violence broke out, some 300-400 Turks died. The episode is looked upon by Turkish nationalists as a milestone in their struggle for independence.

Solomon: (990-931 BCE) The fabulously wealthy and wise king of Israel and a son of David; for Iqbal and Progressives, a symbol of British rule.

“son of Mary”: Jesus.

“sons of Mary”: Christians

“sons of the Trinity”: Christians.

“Speak Up, O You Earth, Speak Up”: Majaz’s poem which, like “*Mazdūron kā gīt* / Workers’ Song,” was also written in the popular song style.

stage: “The stage of temple and mosque is left behind”; classical Marxism defines three stages of human economic development: the first stage was the feudal system; the second, the capitalist; the third, the socialist system.

stars: “falling of stars”: In some Islamic traditions, falling stars are fireballs hurled by angels at demons trying to eavesdrop on what is going on in heaven.

stonecutter: See Farhad.

“Stones and bricks are imprisoned, and dogs are set free”: A reference from Saadi of Shiraz (c. 1208-92), author of *Būstān* (Orchard) and *Gulistān* (Rose Garden), who wrote describing human folly: “They have tied the stones in the streets and set free the dogs.”

Sultana (*sulṭānah*): Literally, “wife of a sultan”; Ali Sardar Jafri’s wife’s name.

Sun; “The Sun”: Chapter 91 of the Quran (*qur‘ān*), which deals with the purification of the “carnal soul” and sanctification of the heart from vice and impurities.

Sur Das (c. 1500): Blind devotional Hindi poet from Agra who wrote *Sursagar* (*sursāgar*; Ocean of Sur), a major literary-devotional account of the early life of the god Krishna.

“sword of vermilion”: the vermilion-based red sindur streak worn by brides and married women in the part in their hair.

Sayyid’s age: Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan (1817-98) was very enthusiastic about the British and their presence in India and pioneered western-style education for Muslims.

T

tabla (*ṭabla*): An Indian percussive instrument consisting of two drums played with the hands.

Tagore: Rabindranath Tagore (1881-1941), premiere Bengali poet, playwright, short-story writer, novelist, public intellectual, winner of the 1913 Nobel Prize for Literature, the first non-European to have done so.

Tahirah (*ṭāhirih*): (1814 or 1817-1852), an influential poet and theologian of the Bahai faith.

Tai-ping: Widespread, fiercely fought civil war in southern China (1850-64) led by the crazed Christian convert, Hong Xiuquan (1814-64), who believed himself to be the younger brother of Jesus, against the Qing Dynasty.

tanānā hū!: A shout of ecstasy of Sufi mystics; roughly, ‘O God!’; see *yarābā!*

Tasnim: See Kausar, Tasnim.

Telangana: Area in south-central India, part of the Princely State of Hyderabad (today Andhra Pradesh), site of a communist-led peasant revolt against feudal landlords and eventually the Nizam Hyderabad, Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII (1886-1967); it lasted from 1946 to 1951; Makhdum Mohiuddin was actively involved in it the movement and was forced to go underground during a portion of it.

Tigris: One of the two great rivers of Iraq; it flows through Baghdad.

tika (*ṭikā*): Forehead ornament, usually decorated with jewels, a major part of a bride’s wedding outfit; not to be confused with the *bindi* (*bindī*), the cosmetic dot worn on the forehead by Indian women; in many cases it indicates that the woman is married.

Tilangan: A Telugu-speaking woman from Telangana, a district in south-central India where Makhdum Mohiuddin was born, part of the previous Princely State of Hyderabad, today Andhra Pradesh.

Timur (1336-1405): aka Tamerlane, formidable founder of the Timurid dynasty; a devout Muslim who referred to himself as the “Sword of Islam,” he was the great-great-great-grandfather of Babur (1483-1530), founder of the Moghul empire.

Tipu Sultan (1750-99): Charismatic ruler of the central Indian Kingdom of Mysore; a skillful military and political leader, he was an ally of the French in their rivalry with the British in India and, with their help, defeated the British and other Indian rivals in a series of important wars in South India.

threnody: A threnody is a wailing ode, song, hymn or poem of mourning composed or performed as a memorial to a dead person or place.

Truman, Harry S.: (1884-1972) The 33rd President of the United States (1945-53); president during the final months of World War II, he made the decision to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; his presidency ushered in tensions with the Soviet Union and the start of the Cold War.

Tulsi Das (1532-1623): Devotional poet who rendered Valmiki’s Sanskrit epic *Ramayana* (*rāmāyaṇa*) into Hindi as *Ramcharitmanas* (*rāmcāritmānas*; Holy Lake of the Acts of Rama).

Tur: Sinai mountain and peninsula east of Egypt.

U

umma/ummat (*umma/ummat*): World-wide community of Muslims.

V

Valmiki: Mythical author of the epic *Ramayana* (*rāmāyaṇa*).

vāsokht: “An impassioned style (in poetry); the burning words of unrequited love.” -- John Platts, p. 1175

vermillion: See Sword of Vermillion.

vina (*vīṇā*): South Indian classical plucked instrument.

W

“wandering in the desert”: Considered a positive step in the development of a righteous person, for it anneals people from the negative effects of civilization.

Warish Shah: See Hir.

Water of Life: See Khizr.

Wavell, Archibald (1883-1950): British World War II general, the penultimate Viceroy of India (1943-47).

“wearing flowered dress and tilted cap”: Wearing such clothing was considered unconventional and a sign of self-importance.

“What mysteries!”: The Quran (*qur‘ān*), Chapter 18 (The Cave):60-82 relates the story of the meeting between Moses, proud of his wisdom, and Khizr (Khidr in Arabic), who has the power of prescience and foreknowledge. Moses is perplexed when Khizr destroys a poor man's boat, kills the son of a righteous couple, and fixes a derelict wall that as about to collapse. Khizr explains that he destroyed the boat because it would have been unjustly seized by the king; he killed the child who would turn out to be both bad and a disbeliever, replacing him with a son who would be good; and he repaired the wall because it concealed the inheritance of two orphaned baby boys who would discover it when they grew up.

Wheel of Krishna: In the epic *Mahabharata* (*mahābhārata*), Krishna uses his powerful wheel (*chakra sudharshana* (“beautiful wheel/discus”) to behead Sishupala for his rapacious behavior; also, during the major battle, Krishna removes the wheel from his chariot and attacks the powerful Kaurava hero Bhishma, who is about to kill the Pandava Arjuna.

wine: “wine from British wine cellars”; in Iqbal’s poem this wine metaphor for the money (capital) which the British were paying for oil; the trope references the Anglo-Persian Oil Company founded in 1908, renamed Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in 1935, forerunner to today's BP (prior to the 2010 environmental oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, known as British Petroleum).

“Workers’ Song”: Majaz’s poem was probably composed to be sung chorally at meetings and similar workers’ events.

Y

yarābā!: A shout of ecstasy of Sufi mystics; roughly, ‘O God!’; see *tanānā hū!*

Yashoda: The child Krishna’s loving foster mother while he was raised in Vrindavan.

Yazid, Shamr: Umayyad leaders whose troops killed and beheaded Husain, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad and his followers at the Battle of Karbala, in 680 CE.

Yellow River: China's northern, second-longest river; its basin was the cradle of ancient Chinese civilizations; its yellow color is due to the desert sand that blows into its waters.

Yemen: "the scent of Yemen": Yeman was a major source of various perfumes and aromatics, especially frankincense and myrrh.

"You haven't come": In Faiz's poem, the use of informal *tum* rather than the more intimate *tū* second-person pronoun is significant here, perhaps as an indication of disappointment in or resentment toward the beloved's no-show.

"your father and mother": Josh's references to the great 1911 Delhi Durbar when George VI's parents, King George V and Queen Mary, had been crowned Emperor and Empress of India.

Z

Zafar: Pen name (*takhalluṣ*) of Moghul emperor Bahadur Shah II (1775-1862).

Zahhak: Evil monster in ancient Zoroastrian literature.

zibīb: Arabic "raisin"; a bump or scar that develops on the forehead of Muslims as a result of prostrations when the head comes in contact with the floor during prayer; a sign of extreme religious piety; some traditions hold that that such a bump will appear as a beacon of light on the Day of Judgment.

Zulaikha: See Joseph.

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