

Name:

Date:

Ajj Aakhan Waris Shah Nu - Today I Say unto Waris Shah

Ajj Aakhan Waris Shah Nuu,
Kiton Qabraan Wichon Bol,
Tey Ajj Kitaab-e-Ishq Daa,
Koi Agla Warka Phol

Today, I call Waris Shah¹,
"Speak from inside your grave"
And turn, today,
the book of love's next affectionate page

Ikk Royi Sii Dhi Punjab Di,
Tu Likh Likh Maarey Wain,
Ajj Lakhaan Dhiyan Rondiyan,
Tenu Waris Shah Nu Kain

Once, one daughter of Punjab cried,
You filled pages with songs of lamentation,
Today, a million daughters,
cry to you, Waris Shah

Uthh Dard-Mandaan Diya Dardiya,
Utth Tak Apna Punjab
Ajj Bailey Lashaan Bichiyaan
Tey Lahoo Di Bhari Chenab

Rise! O' narrator of the grieving;
rise! look at your Punjab²
Today, fields are lined with corpses,
and blood fills the Chenab³

Kisey Ne Panjaan Paaniyan Wich
Diti Zahar Rala,
Tey Unhan Paniyaan Dharat Nu
Dita Paani Laa

Someone has mixed poison
in the five rivers' flow
Their deadly water is, now,
irrigating our lands galore

Iss Zarkhaiz Zameen Dey
Loon Loon Phuttiya Zahar
Gitth Gitth Charhiyaan Laaliyan
Fuut Fuut Charrhiya Kaheer

This fertile land is sprouting,
venom from every pore
The sky is turning red
from endless cries of gore

Wey Waleesi Wha Phair,
Wan Wan Wagi Jaa,
Ohney Har Ikk Waans Di
Wanjli Diti Naag Bana

The toxic forest wind,
screams from inside its wake
Turning each flute's bamboo-shoot,
into a deadly snake

Pehla Dang Madaariyan,
Mantar Gaye Guwaach,
Doojey Dang Di Lag Gayi,
Janey Khaney Nu Lag

With the first snake-bite,
charmners lost their spell
The second bite turned all and sundry,
into snakes, as well

Laagaan Keeley Lok Moonh,
Bas Phir Dang Hi Dang,
Palo Palee Punjab Dey,
Neeley Pay Gaye Ang

Drinking from this deadly stream,
filling the land with bane
Slowly, Punjab's limbs have turned black
and blue, with pain

¹ Punjabi Sufi Poet who is known for writing the popular tragic romance of *Heer Ranjha*

² Land of the Five Rivers: Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas

³ One of the five rivers of Punjab



Name:

Date:

Galeyon Tutey Geet Phir,
Takaleyon Tuti Tand,
Trinjanon Tutiyaan Saheliyan,
Charakhrrey Ghuukar Band

The street-songs have been silenced;
cotton threads are snapped
Friends parted from one another;
The hum of spinning wheels fell silent.

Saney Saij Dey Beriyan,
Luddan Ditiyaan Rohrr,
Saney Daliyan Peengh Ajj,
Piplaan Diti Torr

All boats lost the moorings,
their paddles have cast away
Our hanging swing,
the Pipal tree has broken in disarray

Jithey Wajdi Si Phook Pyar Di,
Wey Oh Wanjhli Gayi Guwaach
Raanjhey Dey Sab Veer Ajj,
Bhul Gaye Ohdi Jaach

Lost is the flute, which once,
blew sounds of the heart
Ranjha's brothers, today,
no longer know this art

Dharti Tey Lahoo Warsiya,
Qabraan Paiyan Chon,
Preet Diyan Shahzadiyan,
Ajj Wich Mazaaraan Ron

Blood rained on our shrines;
drenching them to the core
Damsels of amour, today,
sit crying at their door

Ajj Sabhey 'Qaido' Ban Gaye,
Husn Ishq Dey Chor
Ajj Kithon Liyaiye Labh Ke
Waris Shah Ikk Hor

Today everyone is, 'Qaido'⁴
thieves of beauty and ardor
Where can we find, today,
another Warish Shah, once more

Ajj Aakhan Waris Shah Nu,uu,
Kiton Qabraan WichoN Bol,
Tey Ajj Kitaab-e-Ishq Da,
Koi Agla Warka Phol

Today, I call Waris Shah,
"Speak from inside your grave"
And turn, today,
the book of love's next affectionate page

⁴ Qaido or Kaido is Heer's uncle in the story *Heer Ranjha*. He poisons and kills Heer in order to punish her for loving Ranjha



Name:

Date:

Analysis Questions

Who is the speaker of the poem? What kind of a person are they?

To whom is the speaker speaking to?

Does the speaker seem attached or detached from the subject matter? How do you know?

What is the situation/setting of the poem?

What is the purpose of the poem?

What is the poem's central idea or theme?

What is the tone of the poem? Find specific examples from the text that support this.

What is the effect of the figurative and sound devices?



Name:

Date:

Further Analysis

This poem is one of the most popular poems written about Partition on both sides of the border. Why do you think it has this sort of mass appeal?

This poem is a personal account of the Partition of 1947. How does this poem differ in its portrayal of Partition compared to a history text or a newspaper article? What are the advantages/disadvantages of using a poem to understand a historical experience?

What is the significance of the snake? Why would the author choose a snake over something else?

What do you think is lost when a piece of writing is translated?

