

Zubaan ki kadar aye gi/Now you will learn the value of language

Sabz Khan*



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About the author

Growing up in the UK as a British Pakistani, Sabeena 'Sabz' Khan grew acutely aware of the challenges and issues associated with the learning, maintaining and embracing of her native language, Urdu. Considering this experience as one she shared with many other British Asians, she set about to highlight the issue in an attempt to combat what she felt to be declining skills in these languages, faced with the more dominant use of English. Her entry onto the literary scene as a British Pakistani poet has been warmly welcomed. This poem, written in two languages and two scripts, was one of her first, published in 2015 in her book, *Rahein/ The Way*. Alongside her poetry, Sabz has raised four wonderful children with her partner, has published 7 books, continues research and media reporting, and broadcasts her own radio show, 'Desi Fusion'.

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زبان کی قدر آئے گی

زبان کی قدر آئے گی
 پھر اپنے وطن کی یاد آئے گی
 کہ وہ جوڑ کمزور ہو چکا ہوگا
 غربت سے نفرت اب تو آئے گی
 بچے واپس مغرب کے گھر تک بھاگے گے
 اور کچھ خون کے آنسو روئے گے
 کہ اس فاصلے کو دور ہم کیسے کریں
 بچے فرمانبردار کیسے کریں
 پھر زبان کی قدر آئے گی
 پھر اگلی نسل کو ہم سمجھائیں گے
 اسے اپنا اختیار بنائیں گے
 اور مشرق لے جائے گی
 اور نئے سرے سے ایک امید جاگے گی
 اب زبان کی قدر آئے گی

جب بکڑے جاؤ گے مغرب کی زنجیروں میں
 تو لوٹ کے وہ واپس آئیں گے اور نسل منکھل میں پڑ جائے گی
 پیسوں کی پٹی چڑ گئی ہوگی
 کوئی صبر نہ ہو پائے گا
 والدین بڑوں سے معافی مانگے گے
 مجبور ہو کے سوچیں گے
 پیار محبت کیسے بڑھا ہیں
 مشرقی ماحول کیسے بنائیں
 کہ کیا ہم نے کھویا ہے
 زبان کی تعلیم اور ادب ہم سکھائیں گے
 کہ وہ نسل پھر ہمیں ملائے گی
 تنہی ہڈیوں کو سکون آئے گا
 مشرقی زبان اپنا اثر چھوڑ جائے گی

ZUBAAN KI KADAR AYE GI...

Zubaan ki kadar aye gi...
 Jab jakrey jao ge maghrib ki zanjeeron meh,
 Phir apne wattan ki yaad aye gi,
 Toh loht ke woh wapas ayenge or nasal mushkil meh par jaye gi,
 Keh woh johr kamzohr ho chuka hoga,
 Pesoun ki patti char gaye hoge,
 Gurbat se nafrat ab to aye gi,
 Koi saber naa ho paye ga,
 Bache wappis magrib ke ghar tak bhagen ge,
 Valedain baro se maafi mange ge,
 Orr kuch khoon ke ansoo royen ge.
 Majboor ho ke ab sochen ge...
 Keh is fasle ko dohr hum kese kar
 Pyar, mohobat kese barhaein?
 Bache farhm-o-bardar kese karein?
 Mashriki mahol kese banaein?
 Phir zubaan ki kadar aye gi,
 Keh kya humne koya hai!
 Phir agli nasal ko hum samjayein ge,
 Zubaan ki taleem or adab hum sikayein ge,
 Ise apna hathyaar banayein ge,
 Keh yeh nasal phir humain milaye gi,
 Or mashrik le jaye gi.
 Tabhi purkho ko saqoon aye ga,
 Or naye sire se aik umeed jaage gi,
 Mashriqi zubaan apna asar chor jayegi,
 Ab zubaan ki kadaar aye gi...

NOW YOU WILL LEARN THE VALUES OF LANGUAGE...

*Now you will learn the values of language...
 When you become engrossed in the lifestyle and culture of the West,
 Then you will remember your motherland,
 And so you will return, but the children will be in great difficulty,
 The link would have been weakened,
 The blind fold of money would have taken its toll,
 Now even the thought of poverty would make you all cringe,
 No longer is there any patience left,
 The off-spring will run back to their Western homes,
 Parents will seek forgiveness from their elders and families,
 And some will shed tears of blood.
 This realisation will now trigger them to think...
 How can this gap be erased?
 How can their love be enhanced?
 How can we mould our children towards being more respectful and
 obedient?
 How can we instil our Eastern culture and values?
 So, now you have begun to value the worth of your language,
 Now you will re-educate the children and generations to come,
 And what you have lost!
 Transferring your language skills, the etiquettes & mannerism that it
 teaches,
 It will now take form as your weapon,
 For this generation will make us meet,
 They will take us to the East.
 Ancestors will now rest peacefully,
 For a new seed of hope has been planted,
 Our Eastern language will have delivered its flavour,
 Now you have begun to value your language...*

