

I'm human



Themes of sachal sarmast poetry

Sachal Sarmast: A Sufi Saint and Poet of Sindh Hazrat Sachal Sarmast was a renowned Sufi saint and poet who played a pivotal role in spreading Islam in the Indo-Pakistan region. Born in 1739 CE, in Daraza Sharif, near Ranipur, Khairpur district, Sindh province, Pakistan, he was known as Abdul Wahab Farooqui but used Sachal as his poetic nickname. The name Sachal is derived from Sachu, meaning truthful, while Sarmast means ecstatic in Sindhi. Thus, the name Sachal Sarmast literally translates to a "truthful mystic" or an ecstatic saint. Early Life and Upbringing Sachal's father, Khawaja Salahuddin Farooqui, died soon after his birth. In his absence, his uncle, Khawaja Abdul Haq Farooqui, took responsibility for his upbringing, teaching him both religious and secular education. This uncle played a crucial role in Sachal's grooming, becoming not only his teacher but also his spiritual leader and father-in-law. Philosophy and Poetry Hazrat Sachal Sarmast was deeply influenced by the Sufi philosophy of Wahdat-ul-Wujood (unity of existence). He was known as Shair-e-Haft Zaban, meaning poet of seven languages, with mastery over Sindhi, Persian, Punjabi, Saraiki, and other languages. His poetry is renowned for its philosophical verses, compiled into nine books in Persian. Shrine and Urs The Shrine of Sachal Sarmast is located 40km southwest of Khairpur, near the N-5 Highway and Gambat-Ranipur Road in Daraza Sharif. Thousands of devotees from across Pakistan attend the annual Urs celebration, which features mehfil e Sama and mushaira for three days. The Sachal Yadgar Committee manages the event arrangements. Written by: Kulsoom Malik Posted on: April 15, 2021 Sachal Sarmast's ancestry traced back to the Second Caliph of Islam, Umar ibn al-Khattab, with roots in Sindh since Muhammad bin Qasim's arrival in the 10th Century. After his father's death, Sachal was raised by his uncle, who became his spiritual guide and gave him the nicknames 'Sachal' (the truthful) and 'Sarmast' (the ecstatic). Legend claims that as a young boy, he met Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, another great mystic of Sindh, who prophesied Sachal's future significance. As a Sufi by heart and an ascetic by disposition, Sachal preached the unity of existence, emphasizing the interconnectedness of sacred and secular matters. Despite being a master of seven languages - Sindhi, Saraiki, Urdu, Arabic, Balochi, Punjabi, and Persian - Sachal's poetry is most celebrated in Sindhi and Saraiki. His followers took on his teachings, but none matched his intensity; his yearning for the Divine gave his poetry an almost magical quality. Sachal was a lover of music and poetry, speaking in verses that his followers would note down. He warned his followers of British conquest 25 years before it occurred and emphasized unity against division. After living a humble life, Sachal passed away at 90, buried next to his father and uncle. His shrine was built after his death by Mir Rustam Khan Talpur. His poetry raised the standard for Sindhi literature and Sufi poetry, popularizing Kafi and Ghazal forms and introducing vivid metaphors that inspired many Sindhi literary figures. He stressed Divine love above all else, rejecting social structures like caste, race, gender, and any distinction that hampers connection with the Divine Being. Break free from customs and ceremonies, banish thoughts of slavery, be a hero wearing a royal turban of splendor. Sachal Sarmast's legacy extends far beyond his shrine in Daraza Sharif, which boasts stunning tile work and geometric patterns. In fact, the Talpur rulers' reverence for Sufi saints led to numerous shrines being built across the province in honor of Sachal's disciples. The shrine courtyard itself is a testament to this, with Sufi singers reciting his verses and people from all faiths - Hindus, Christians, and Sikhs alike - coming together to celebrate his life and work. His teachings continue to inspire harmony and understanding among communities. Each year, the 13th day of Ramadan marks Sachal's urs, a festival that honors his contributions through literary conferences, musical concerts, and prayer. Despite current restrictions due to COVID-19, Sachal Sarmast's influence on Sindhi literature and the Sufi tradition remains unparalleled in its depth and importance, reminding us of the power of faith in bridging divides.