Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah Nu

Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah Nu is a famous dirge by the famous Punjabi writer Amrita Pritam (1919-2005) about the horrors of the partition of Punjab during the 1947 Partition of India. The poem is addressed to the historic Punjabi poet Waris Shah (1722-1798 CE), who had written the most popular version of the Punjabi love tragedy, Heer Ranjha. In this poem, she appeals to Waris Shah to arise from his grave, record Punjab's tragedy and turn over a new page in Punjab's history.

The poem found resonance in both Punjabs - Indian and Pakistani. It featured in the Pakistani Punjabi film, Kartar Singh, where it was performed by Inayat Hussain Bhatti. It is one of the most widely read poems in modern Indian literature. This was also sung by the Mekaal Hasan Band and featured on their albums, Sampooran (2004) and Saptak (2009).

Poem inspiration

A few months after partition during her pregnancy Amrita was traveling from Dehradun to Delhi in search of work. She casually wrote some lines on the tragedy that she had witnessed in 1947. Amrita had hardly imagined that this casually jotted down piece of poetry, Aj Aakhan Waris Shah Nu lyrics, will one day acquire epic fame and make her immortal.

Poetry

- Ajj Aakhan Waris Shah Nuu,
  Kiton Qabraan Wichon Bol,
  Tey Ajj Kitaab-e-Ishq Daa,
  Koi Agla Warka Phol
- Ikk Royi Sii Dhi Punjab Di,
  Tu Likh Likh Maarey Wain,
Ajj Lakhaan Dhiyan Rondiyan,
Tenu Waris Shah Nuu Kain

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Saney Saaj Dey Beriyan,
  Luddan Ditiyaan Rohrr,
  Saney Daliny Peengh Ajj,
  Piplaan Diti Torr

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

- Dharti Tey Lahu Warsiya,
  Qabraan Paiyan Chon,
  Preet Diyan Shahzadiyan,
  Ajj Witch Mazaaraan Ron

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

- Ajj Aakhan Waris Shah Nuu,
  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
Once, one daughter of Punjab cried;
you wrote a wailing saga
Today, a million daughters,
cry to you, Waris Shah
Rise! O’ narrator of the grieving;
rise! look at your Punjab
Today, fields are lined with corpses,
and blood fills the Chenab
Someone has mixed poison
in the five rivers’ flow
Their deadly water is, now,
irrigating our lands galore
This fertile land is sprouting,
venom from every pore
The sky is turning red
from endless cries of gore
This fertile land is sprouting,
venom from every pore
The sky is turning red
from endless cries of gore
With the first snake-bite;
charmers lost their spell
The second bite turned all and sundry,
into snakes, as well
Drinking from this deadly stream,
filling the land with bane
Slowly, Punjab’s limbs have turned black
and blue, with pain
The street-songs have been silenced;
cotton threads are snapped
Girls have left their playgroups;
the spinning wheels are cracked
Our wedding beds are boats,
their logs have cast away
Our hanging swing,
the Pipal tree has broken in disarray
Lost is the flute, which once,
blew sounds of the heart
Ranjha’s brothers, today,
no longer know this art
Flood rained on our shrines;
drenching them to the core
Damsels of amour, today,
sit crying at their door
Today everyone is, ‘Qaido’
thieves of beauty and ardor
Where can we find, today,
another Warish Shah, once more

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

**Mekaal Hasan Band**

Pakistani band, Mekaal Hasan Band included a 7 minute, 27- second song "Waris Shah" on their albums Sampooran and Saptak. Javed Bashir was the vocalist. The band also released an animated video for this song, which was directed by Zeeshan Pervaiz.[8]

**See also**

- [Best Punjabi Poems](#)
- [Indian Poetry](#)

**References**

4. ^ "Popular Indian Poems".
6. ^ [Complete verse with Translation](#)

**External links**

- [Aj Waris Shah Nu, Amrita Pritam's most important poem, recited by Gulzar](#)

**Categories:**

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