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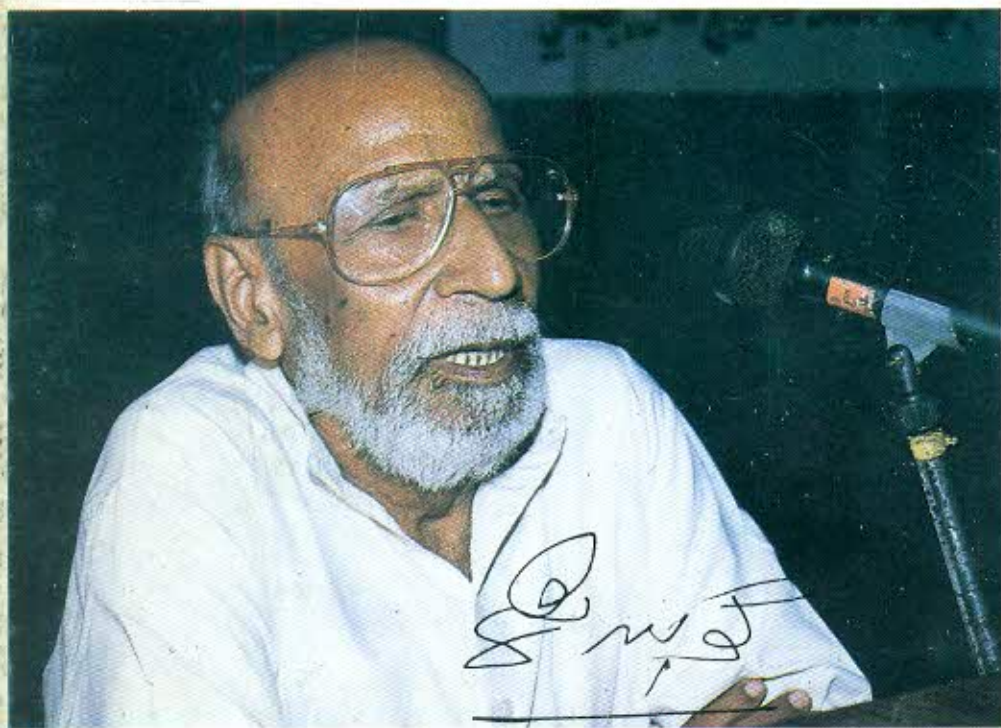


Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli  
Ain Sahit Sabha

invite you to

**meet the author**

Gobind Malhi





**G**obind Malhi is considered a high priest of progressive literature in Sindh. He is trend-setter in depicting social reality to the core in his works, and portrays the emotions and aspirations, the hopes and fears, the inner heavens and hells of the lower middle-class society in detail. His works reveal the gloomy side of life. Devoted to full-time writing, he is a consistent fictioneer, one-act playwright and essayist. Particularly in his novels and short stories, his approach is characterised by humanist insight, absence of dramatic flourishes and realistic portrayal of the social scene. He knows the craft of novel, short story as well as one-act play, and each piece of his works is an aid to a progressive understanding of the complex psychology of human beings. The novels of Malhi bear the imprints of social and political conflicts. He paints the society he has known at close quarters. Very much alive to the currents and cross-currents of time and space, he always has a different tale to tell and that too in a different mode. In almost all his writings, Malhi generally deals with social problems that confront the people belonging to the lower middle-class.

Gobind Malhi was born in 1921 at Tharushah, a small village in central Sindh, in a family of landlords. He had his primary as well as high school education at his village and shifted to Karachi for higher education. It is interesting to note that after doing his LL.B. he never practised law even for a day and threw himself in the fray of the politics of the day. He took active part in the 1942-Movement and was imprisoned for three months. At that time he came into contact with the Marxist student-leader, Sobho Gianchandani, who initiated him into Marxist philosophy. Later, he joined the Communist Party of India and remained Secretary of its Karachi Chapter for some time. Being attracted by Marxist philosophy, he was drawn to progressive literature and became a pioneer of progressive movement in Sindh.

Malhi's youth witnessed the patriotic upsurge of Gandhian era and the terrors that traumatised the Hindu population of Sindh at the time of the partition of India. He migrated to Mumbai where a literary circle, 'Nao Sahit Mandal', was set up and he became its Secretary. By virtue of this, he was again in the forefront of Sindh literary scene, carrying two missions at the same time, viz. his creative activity and the promotion of the cause of survival of Sindh language in India. He has been the General Secretary and then the President of Akhil Bharat Sindh Boli ain Sahit Sabha for many years.

Malhi established 'Kalakar Mandal' (a cultural troupe) to encourage Sindh culture in 1951, and the group has staged a large number of plays. He has been a roving ambassador of Sindh culture and with the cultural troupe he visited all corners of India and

the places of Sindhi concentration abroad to give Sindhi folk-music programmes in order to keep Sindhi culture alive. He was also associated with the Indian Peoples' Theatre Association and occupied an important position in the set-up, working with eminent theatre personalities like Ritwick Ghatak, R. M. Singh, A. K. Hangal, Sanjeev kumar and others.

Malhi writes in the language the common people speak, abounding in native flavour. His contribution to Sindhi short story and one-act play is as great as to the novel genre. He has written two dozen novels, thirtytwo one-act plays collected in three volumes, forty short stories collected in three volumes, an autobiography in five volumes and a host of literary articles. He has been the editor of a few literary journals and presently edits 'Murka', a Sindhi literary magazine.

Malhi's novel *Pyara ji Pyas* was picked up for Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 1973. The novel depicts the spiritual odyssey of a woman given to a tormenting conflict between the cosmic principles and the mundane. The dehumanising experiences she had in the hands of the males

of different strata of society who came into her life, led her to a state of disillusionment, the thirst of true love ever remaining unquenched. The whole story is narrated from the perspective of the woman, the central character, in a manner close to the stream of consciousness mode.

Although Malhi is labelled a progressive writer and is known as a forerunner of the whole progressive trend in Sindhi fiction, in his short stories he gives greater importance to human relations than the slogans dictated by ideology. He stands apart for his strong characterisation and delightful, if sometimes black, humour. Beyond its mix of captivating descriptive elements and brisk pacing, he has treated the material in his short stories with admirable clarity and human interest, and has been panoramic in his treatment of the theme. Malhi is an established fictioneer and have been extremely popular. Seldom, if ever, have the pain and wonderment of growing up been more convincingly conjured up in fiction. Fashions and attitudes may change, but the simple human truths that run through Malhi's stories ring as true today as they always did.

*Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award from Suniti Kumar Chatterji.*





*With Krishin Khatwani*

"Adab ain Adib" is Malhi's autobiographical work running into five volumes in which he recounts his life's story. Besides being a narrative of his life, development and work, it also recreates the entire background-social, cultural, literary and political - of a long period of more than five decades. While being an account of his life, his childhood and education, his career as a crusader of Sindhi culture, the book details how a sensitive and righteous temperament evolved and expressed itself in a variety of works in many genres of literature. In the first

volume he dwells on his childhood. In fact, every writer recalls the power of childhood when the tumultuous variety of the real world is charged with miracles, when inanimate objects speak out and the dreams are bigger than the night itself. But remembering and recreating are different matters and only a handful of writers can retrieve the wonders and textures of childhood.

With every successive work, Malhi has elevated his reputation as a writer of great charm, serious intent and innovative talent.

### A Select Bibliography

#### Novels

##### ANSOO

Mumbai : Sargam Sahitya  
1952 18.5cm.

##### ZINDAGI AJE RAH TE

Mumbai : Kahani Novel Malha  
1952 18.5cm.

##### JEEVAN SATHI

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1952 18.5cm.

##### PAKHIADA VALAR KHAN VICHHUDIA

Mumbai : Kahani Novel Malha  
1953 18.5cm.

##### MANA JO MEET

Mumbai : Kahani Novel Malha  
1953 15.5cm.

##### LALKAR

Mumbai : Sathi Sahitya  
1954 18.5cm.

##### LOK AAHE BOK

Mumbai : Bharat Jivan  
1954 18.5cm

##### SHARAM BOOTI

Mumbai : Sathi Sahitya  
1955 18.5cm.

##### CHANCHAL NIGAHOOON

Mumbai : Bharat Jivan  
1955 18.5cm.

##### DEHI PARDEHI THIA

Mumbai : Bharat Jivan  
1956 18.5cm.

##### ISHQ NAHE RAND

Mumbai : Kahani Novel Malha  
1956 18.5cm.

##### DESI SENA KAJAN

Mumbai : Kahani Novel Malha  
1957 18.5cm.  
Second Edition in 1968

##### PYAR JI SHIKAST

Mumbai : Kahani Novel Malha  
1958 18.5cm.

JIN SURI BHANE SEJ  
Mumbai : Kahani Novel Malha  
1959 18.5cm.

HIKU INSAN SAU TOOFAN  
Mumbai : Bharat Jivan  
1963 18.5cm.

PREETAM VIO PARDES  
Mumbai : Bharat Jivan  
1964 18.5cm.

SMUGGLER  
Mumbai : Prahaphooti  
1965 18.5cm.

MUHABBAT-JE-RAAH TE  
Ahmedabad : Marui Publication  
1969 18.5cm.

SINDHU A JE KINARE  
Ulhasnagar : Sindhyat Kitab Ghar  
1969 18.5cm.

PYAR JI PYAS  
Mumbai : Koonj Publication  
1972 18.5cm.

SOONHA JA SAUDAGAR  
Mumbai : Bharat Jivan  
1972 18.5cm.

TOON-MAAN-HOOA  
Mumbai : Bharat Jivan  
1975 18.5cm.

MUSURI-A-JI-RAANI  
Mumbai : Bharat Jivan  
1983 18.5cm.

BHABHI  
Ulhasnagar : Sindhi Times  
1995 21.5cm.

PAKHIADA VALARKHAN  
VRICHUDRA  
Mumbai : Murk Publication  
1997 (Reprint) 21.5cm.

### Collections of Short Stories

HIA BI KA AKHANI  
Ulhasnagar : Sindhi Times Publication  
1984 21.5cm.

AGTE KADAM  
Ulhasnagar : Sindhi Times Publication  
1986 21.5cm.

TRIVENI  
Mumbai : Murk Publication  
1995 21.5cm.

### Collections of Plays

GHOT KUNWAR RAAZI  
Ulhasnagar : Sindhyat Publication  
1974 18.5cm.

GUSTAKHI MAAF  
Ulhasnagar : Sindhi Times Publicaiton  
1988

SINDHU A JO SAUNGANDH  
Mumbai : Murk Publication  
1996 21.5cm.

### Travelogue

SINDHI VIA SINDH DISAN  
1993

### Collections Essays

RAHBAR MUNHJE RAAH JA  
Mumbai : Murk Publication  
1996 21.5cm.

### Autobiography

ADAB AIN ADEEB (5 Volumes)  
Ulhasnagar : Sindhi Times Publication  
1989-1992 21.5cm.

### Sindhi Translation

DADA COMRADE (Yashpal)  
Karachi : Zindagi Publication  
1946 18.5cm.

MOTHER (M. Gorky)  
Mumbai : Bharat Jivan  
1950 18.5cm.

DHARTI MATA (Tarashankar)  
Mumbai : Sargam Sahitya  
1951 18.5cm.

### English

SADHU HIRANAND  
New Delhi : National Book Trust  
1951 21.5cm.

*With Family Members*





*With Nari Gursahani, A. K. Hangal & H. G. Adwani*

## A Chronology

- 1921 Born at Tharushah, Sindh-Pakistan
- 1936 First poem published
- 1941 Married Devi, since deceased.
- 1942 Participated in Quit India Movement & was jailed.
- 1943 Became Secretary - Publisher-Editor of Nai Duniya Kitab Ghar, Runon, Sindh.
- 1947 Edited and published 'Nai Duniya' First Progressive Sindh Monthly. Elected Gen. Secretary, Sindh Adab ki Sangat, Sindh. Migrated to India.
- 1949 Elected Gen. Secretary, Naon Sindh Sahit Mandal.
- 1954 Joined IPTA, Received Best Novelist Award from Akhil Bharat Sindh Sahitya Sammelan.
- 1956 Elected Gen. Secretary IPTA (Mumbai).  
Nominated on Sindh Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi.
- 1957 Became chief organiser and Director of Kalakar Mandal.
- 1963 Elected Gen. Secretary of Akhil Bharat Sindh Boli ain Sahit Sabha,
- 1968 Produced, Directed Sindh Film - 'Sindhu Aje Kinare'.
- 1970 Member, Sindh Advisory Board Govt. of India.
- 1973 Sahitya Akademi Award for the novel 'Pyar ji pyas'.
- 1980 Elected President of Akhil Bharat Sindh Boli ain Sahit Sabha (Continued till 1987)
- 1982 Member, Sindh Advisory Board Govt. of India.
- 1984 Member, Maharashtra State, Sindh Sahitya Academy; later appointed its Vice President.
- 1987 Started Bi-monthly 'Murk'
- 1989 Visited Karachi, as a delegate to Sachal International Conference. Travelled throughout Sindh.
- 1990 Maharashtra State Sindh Sahitya Academy Award for total contribution.  
Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar.
- 1991 International Latif Award, Dubai
- 1992 Member, Sindh Advisory Board Govt of India.
- 1993 Award by Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad, Calcutta.  
Member, Sahitya Akademi Advisory Board for Sindh.  
Acting President, Maha. State Sindh Sahitya Academy
- 1994 Member, Board of Studies, (Sindh) Mumbai University.
- 1996 Buxani Award for Service to Sindh Culture.  
Gold Medal by World Wide Publicaton for Service to Sindh Culture.