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Sahitya Akademi



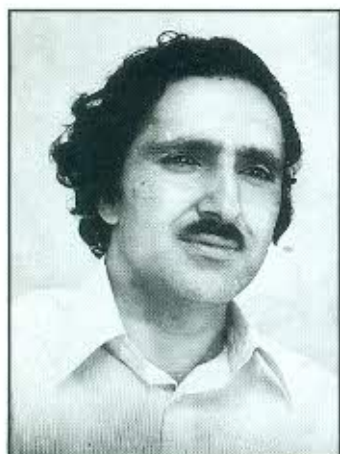
J&K Academy of Art, Culture
and Languages

invite you to

meet the author

M.Y. Taing





Major prose stylist, insightful critic and editor, Mohammed Yusuf Taing is also one of the very profound literary thinkers writing in an Indian language today. The range and depth of his work reflects his scholarship and versatility.

Taing was born in a middle class family at Shopian, Kashmir in 1935. Fruit trading was the traditional occupation of his family. He had his early schooling in his hometown and later went on to graduate from the Jammu

and Kashmir University. Thereafter, he joined the weekly journal *Jahani Nav*, published from Srinagar, as its editor. This was the beginning of his journalistic career. Later, he was to work on the editorial side of the weekly *Aaina*, in close collaboration with its editor Shamim Ahmed Shamim. During those early days, he also worked for some other newspapers of Srinagar like *Aftab*, *Zamindar* and *Haqeeqat*.

Taing joined the Department of Information of the Jammu and Kashmir Government as the assistant editor of its monthly publication *Tameer*. He took over as the editor of this journal after some time. It was during his stewardship of *Tameer* between 1958 and 1960 that it assumed the status of a prestigious literary journal devoted to Kashmiri language and literature. He



With Ahad Zargar and Dina Nath Nadim



With Faiz Ahmad Faiz

took over as the editor of the Urdu bi-monthly *Shiraza*, an organ of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, in 1962. Thus began his long association with this organisation, which he came to head in 1973. He continued to head this important body till 1993. The Academy, during his tenure, rendered yeoman's service for the promotion of languages and literatures of the state as well as the encouragement of research in all of them.

Taing has also worked as

the Director Information, of the Jammu and Kashmir Government; Advisor, Culture to the J&K Chief Minister and Director General, Culture of the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

He has published four critical works in Kashmiri, Urdu and English and edited more than a dozen books on literary subjects. In addition to this he has numerous research papers, seminar papers, introductions/ prefaces/ forewords to about five hundred literary and cultural treatises, evaluations as well as critical essays to his credit.

Taing has travelled extensively within and outside the country. Among other places, he has visited Pakistan, USA, former USSR and Guyana as a member of literary delegations. He is the very first literary figure of Kashmiri language in whose honour a private literary organisation has published a



With Dr. Hamidi Kashmiri and Prof. Rehman Rahi



With his family

full-fledged special number of its magazine. He was the sole amanuensis of the late Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah's autobiography entitled *Aatish-e-Chinar*, which won the Sahitya Akademi Award. He has compiled and edited a number of other books with critical annotations and well researched introductions. These include *Kashmiri Zaban aur Shairi* (in three volumes), *Heemal*, *Gulrez*, *Waliullah Mattoo*, *Kuliyat-e-Maqbool*, *Kuliyat-e-Rasul Mir*, *Kashmir Mein Urdu*, *Kuliyat-e-Mahjoor*, *Parbat aur Panghat* and *Yi Chhu Son Watan*.

A collection of Taing's Kashmiri writings was published in 1988 under the title *Talash*. This was followed by a collection of his Urdu writings under the title *Shinakht*. His critically

acclaimed work *Mahjoor Shinasi* won him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1998. This work comprises of fourteen articles on the life and works of Ghulam Ahmad Mahjoor, the harbinger of modernism in Kashmiri poetry. This work, which comprehensively evaluates the poetry of the outstanding Kashmiri poet, takes full advantage of the methods and principles of historical and biographical criticism and discusses the intrinsic literary worth of Mahjoor as well as his influence on modern Kashmiri poetry.

Mohammed Yusuf Taing won the Best Book Prize from J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in 1994, Robe of Honour and Silver Plaque from the President of Anguabi Islami in 1986 and the Robe of Honour from Adabi Markaz



Being honoured at the Dargah Hazratbal for his literary accomplishments; also present, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir

Kamraz in 1998. The J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages also conferred on him its Robe of Honour in 1999 and made a documentary film on him.

Mohammed Yusuf Taing is the most written about Kashmiri litterateur. He was nominated in 1999 to the J&K Legislative Council to represent art and culture.

A Select Bibliography

Kashmiri

Talash 1988 (Criticism)

Kuliyat-e-Mahjoor; 1982 (Edited)

Kuliyat-e-Rasul Mir; 1997 (Edited)

Maqbool Shah Kralwari (2 vols.), 1972, 1978 (Edited)

Mahjoor Shinasi; 1993 (Criticism)

Urdu

Shinakht; 1987 (Criticism)

Himal; 1974 (Edited)

Kashmiri Zaban aur Shairi, 3 vols. (Edited)

Kashmir Mein Urdu, 3 vols. (Edited)

English

Yusuf Shah Chak; 1980 (Research)



*Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award from Shri Ramakanta Rath.
Also present, Prof. G.C. Narang*

A Chronology

- 1935 Born, Shopian, Kashmir.
- 1955 B.A. (Hons.) from J & K University.
- 1958 Appointed Editor of J & K Govt. Cultural magazine *Tameer*.
- 1962 Appointed Editor monthly journal *Shiraza*.
- 1973-1993 Secretary, J & K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.
- 1983 Visited Pakistan for a research mission.
- 1987 Leader of the Indian Cultural Delegation to USSR.
- 1988-1997 Convener Kashmiri Advisory Board and Member, Executive Board, Sahitya Akademi.
- 1988-1992 Director General, Culture, J & K Govt.
- 1994 Received Best Book Award from the J & K Academy
- 1994-1998 Member, State Public Service Commission.
- 1998 Received Sahitya Akademi Award, for *Mahjoor Shinasi*.
- 1999 Robe of Honour from J & K Academy.
- 1999- Member, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council.
- 2000 Member, Executive Board of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language and Chairman of its programme committee.