

# Dawn Newspaper

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### Some work on Maulvi Ghulam Rasool

DOOHNGAY RAAZ, editor Sahibzada Masood Ahmad; pp 296; price Rs350 (hb); publishers, Ghulam Rasool Alampuri Academy, P. O. Box 612, Faisalabad.

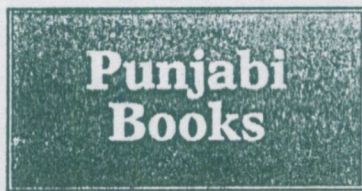
MAULVI Ghulam Rasool of Yusuf-Zulekha fame was among the three poets of the last classical generation of Punjabi literature. Two other were Mian Muhammad Bukhsh and Khwaja Farid, the former from Jammu and Kashmir and the latter from Bahawalpur. Maulvi Ghulam Rasool was the third angle of the triangle. He belonged to east Punjab but all three poets used the Lehnda dialect which is the standard language of Punjabi poetry.

The three poets had witnessed the fall of the local rulers and occupation by the British. Mian Muhammad did not marry. Khwaja Farid had married and had male issues, while Ghulam Rasool married thrice. He had one daughter who died before partition. The editor, Masood Ahmad, is the great grandson of Maulvi Ghulam Rasool who had established an academy in the name of Maulvi Sahib who started writing *Dastan-i-Hamza* at the age of 16.

It was one of the relatives of Maulvi Sahib, Muhammad Alam, from Kapurthala, located close to Alampur, who was inspired by the writings of Allama Muhammad Husain Arshi Amritsari on the life and poetry of Ghulam Rasool, published by the defunct Urdu language daily *Imroze*. Alam Kapurthalvi took a cue from Allama Arshi and gathered a lot of informations about the late poet. His first book on Ghulam Rasool was *DooHngay Wehnan Da Sha'ir*. Alam Kapurthalvi was settled in Mananwala, Sheikhpura, where he was murdered. After Alam nobody did anything worthwhile about the Maulvi. Perhaps this vacuum forced the father of the compiler, the late Chaudhry Ghulam Qadir to seek the help of

Punjabi writers and scholars of Faisalabad to establish the academy of which Masood is the head. They first inquired about the earthly remains of the poet in his village in east Punjab. They contacted Sardar Nirmal Singh, headmaster of the Bonga High School, Kapurthala, which again is closely located to the village of Alampuri. Sardar Nirmal Singh visited the grave of the poet and then raised funds and constructed a modest mausoleum on it. He sent the photographs of the grave before and after the construction of the mazar. The fact is that Maulvi Ghulam Rasool is still a very popular poet in east Punjab.

Sahibzada Masood Ahmad was extended cooperation by the local writers for the publication



of this collection of articles, including the scholarly one written article by Muhammad Husain Arshi.

A former prime minister of India, Mr Inder Kumar Gujral, and his wife, also a poet of Punjabi, have always shown a keen interest in the literary and cultural heritage of united Punjab. Gujral's message has been included in the book:

"The ever fertile and beautiful land of the Punjab has given birth to generations of great poets and artists whose talent and creativity have been widely recognized. Their contributions have nourished and enriched the social and cultural life of the entire subcontinent. The late Maulvi Ghulam Rasool Alampuri was once such a remarkable personality whose contribution has left an indelible mark on Punjabi literature and folklore of both Pakistan and India. His influence transcends political boundaries and his legacy creates a unified response in

the two countries, which is a matter of great pride. I am happy that the Maulvi Ghulam Rasool Academy is celebrating his centenary and I take this opportunity to associate myself with the memory of Maulvi Ghulam Rasool Alampuri."

The contributors to this collection includes: Dr Karnail Singh Thhinda, Dr Sadiq Janjua, Dr Allama Arshi, Sibtlul Hasan Zaigham, Harbhajan Singh Gill and others.

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