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Description

The Poetics and Politics of Faiz Ahmad Faiz's Poetry

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Abstract: This paper is an attempt to interrogate the supposed 'political turn' that Faiz Ahmad Faiz's poetry is assumed to have taken in *Naqsh-e-faryad?* (Remonstrance) through his popular nazm "Mujh se pahli si mohabbat meri mahbub na mang" It is understood as marking a departure from his writings on the beloved (*mahmoob*) to turn towards the concerns of the society steeped in oppression. However, I argue against reading it as a 'departure' and instead see this as emerging from his love for his beloved, through a reading of "Raqab se," a nazm from *Naqsh-e-faryad?*. In doing so the paper engages with the poetics and politics of Faiz Ahmad Faiz's poetry, in order to argue that his writings enmesh the themes of love and politics in a way that makes a separation between the two impossible. Lastly, the article argues, in reference to Faiz's writings, that the concept of unrequited love, *hijr* (separation), *vasl* (union) of the traditional/classical Urdu poetry can itself be read politically. The paper thereby concludes that Faiz never really 'departed' from Classical Urdu poetry and neither did he make a fresh entry into the 'political', since the essence of love and affection remains, blends and informs his poetries on resistance and revolution.

Keywords: Urdu Poetry, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Love, Resistance, Politics.

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