



# Art, History, Language and Philosophy in the Works of Qurratulain Hyder

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## Abstract:

The present paper deals with some of the most eminent aspects like of Art, Philosophy, Language, Indian History, and Characters of Qurratulain Hyder's works. Hyder's works like *River of Fire*, *My Temples Too*, *Fireflies in the Mist* and *Chandni Begum* are written with great care and intellect as they have everything a reader wants to read. They are the representation of the contemporary society but are also filled with the historical aspects that shape the lives of the characters and how they influence their present life. Females have always been a treat to read when they are written from the pen of Hyder. Most of the female characters are rebellious and courageous. The language is also carefully crafted which complement each and every character. Philosophy and art are showcased to show the grace of Hyder by which she writes her works. In and all these are the aspects that help these novels attain greatness and we would like to work upon them in the following argument.

**Key words:** Art, Philosophy, Language, Indian History, Caste, Society, Culture.

Qurratulain Hyder is the novelist that has everything in her purse. She can give us the information about history, culture, art, philosophy, and language. Females have always been a treat to read when they are written from the pen of Hyder. Most of the female characters are rebellious and courageous. The language is also carefully crafted which complement each and every character. Philosophy and art are showcased to show the grace of Hyder by which she writes her works. These aspects are ever present in the brilliant works of hers. We can always feel that the female characters of Hyder's works are narrated by Hyder with the awareness and empathetic point of views

of the history and the females of the past-partition is the element that displaced each and every one both physically and psychologically. Hyder has used this event in a *River of Fire* along with the other novels like *My Temples Too*, *Fireflies in the Mist* and *Chandni Begum*. History, Language and Female characters are the most prominent aspects of Hyder's works. These works are the reflection of society and culture.

However, *River of Fire* is the best of all these novels. This novel is written in a complex manner and the language and narration is also difficult. The readers have to connect the characters in order to establish their relativity in the novel. However, this is also an important observation. The novel begins as the depiction of a person who is an average person but who wants to be free to live the life that is not influenced or dominated by the forces of the history and the society. It is quite evident that the process of history has been used in order to thwart the desire of a person. The novel is an excellent example of the art and philosophy and we can find a group of people is seen engaging in a kind of defect that took place about the form and the non-form, the 'rup' and 'aarup'. Most of the characters are involved in the philosophy and art and that is a wonderful example of Qurratulain Hyder's extreme knowledge about these fortes.

Hyder has deliberately used the post-colonial perspective in her novel *River of Fire* and her treatment to language and history is quite an outstanding one. She has posed a question upon the language which has been polluted due to the elements like colonial subjugation and eventually the history of the nation the culture and the language all have been affected. She has been famous for such outstanding portrayal and therefore, this novel is also one of the most famous works that includes the wonderful use of art, philosophy and the language that she uses in order to present the unavoidable aspects of Indian history.

We may find the characters of different types in the course of the novel *River of Fire*. These characters may vary as they can be men, women, artists, scholars, students, travelers and other different types of people as well. They are presented in the manner as at one moment they appear and at the other they disappear, after sometime they appear again. All these have been done by Hyder to prove her worth and to show her skills. However, these characters are special in one manner as they are speaking in the language that is uncorrupted and uncontaminated. However, Hyder has made one thing clear that in India the casteism and the tribes are most important thing for them as these people believe in the particular caste and their religions and that often results into the conflict with the other castes and other tribesmen. Hyder has said that,

Since people are constantly going on long journeys the souls are full of travel goods. That is why I was surprised when I first came to India and learnt that the Hindus do not go abroad for fear of losing caste, whatever they mean by that. Although I have read that the ancient Hindus and Buddhists travelled far and wide, carrying their learning with them wherever they went. (58)

The above mentioned quote describes two different kinds of perspectives that are present in the Indian civilization: the first is the belief that the Indians are bad-mannered and uncivilized and these are the people

who need to be cultured. The second myth is that the Indian people are frightened of nomadic as they fear of trailing their religion or caste. However, Hyder advocates the fact that Indians are the masters who are at the centre of knowledge and evolution since the age-old time. She has also pointed out that the Indians are not far behind any other civilization and in fact they have achieved so many things. A momentary saddened phase cannot unfasten what Indians have attained during the long expedition of evolution.

*Chandni Begum* is the novel in which Lucknow city is shown as completely trickled and commended. Different types of expressions and descriptions in the said novel radiated Hyder's profound understanding and thoughtful mind in terms of the society which is made up of different caste, class and religions with misconception and different principles. Different kind of people their languages, their lifestyles, their behaviors, their patterns etc. are also discussed in great deal and with great care also. The readers can see the two different sides of the people in the said novel. The people of Lucknow and the 'shayrana language' are beautifully used by Hyder in this particular novel. It seems interesting when we come to know of a saint sitting on its hide, and poets who are composing verses about eyes of her face.

This novel also presents the beautiful picture of the language used by the different communities and castes along with the portrayal of the various characters. Hyder has shown the beauty of Lucknow city which is mostly known for its sweetness of language. However, the history has been presented in a manner that the readers are quite fascinated to know it. Unlike other novels of Hyder, this is a bit unpolished one yet it also shows her brilliance as a novelist.

Hyder's narrative technique and her way of portrayal are very interesting. She has portrayed a variety of female characters in *Fireflies in the Mist* who are rebellious and are actively or passively interested and involved in the freedom movement and politics. She too has described the psychological perspectives of each of these characters in good length. *My Temples Too* is also a kind of novel where she talks about one family who has been living in its ream life but with partition, everything changes. The characters like Rakshanda and Kiran have gone through a lot, especially Rakshanda who has lost her mental stability. *River of Fire*, a historical novel has all the elements which make it a tragically socio-political novel and Hyder has been successful in presenting the females of different types. Every story has one deserted female character and all of them have their different struggle. Thus, we can find different shades of females in this novel too. Similarly, *Chandni Begum* is also a novel where Hyder has shown her brilliance as she has put two Muslim families of Lucknow and covers the period from partition to present time. The novel is like a social criticism but we all know that what Hyder has written is nothing but reality. The style of narration is also very good but the novel is not that much famous as her other novels. Many critics are of the opinion that this novel is worst as compared to other of her novels.

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