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## Faiz Ahmed Faiz

Faiz Ahmad Faiz was one of the finest Urdu poets of the 20th century. His poetry is emblematic of the turmoil and travails of his native Pakistan and the world at large. Bristling with restlessness, his work is as much a sharp rebuke against the injustice and arrogance of our time as it is steeped in the exquisite beauty and lyricism of the Urdu language. By giving voice to the voiceless and by speaking truth to power, Faiz gave a new purpose and direction to Urdu poetry. This recital of his poems is a tribute to his genius and his courage.



## Hamida Banu

Hamida Banu is a well-know figure in the South Asian community in the Bay Area, and a devoted teacher and passionate lover of Urdu. She has taught Urdu at Berkeley, and now regularly organizes seminars on Urdu writers and poets in an effort to keep the flame (shama) of Urdu burning. She has selected, and recited Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poems in her inimitable style.