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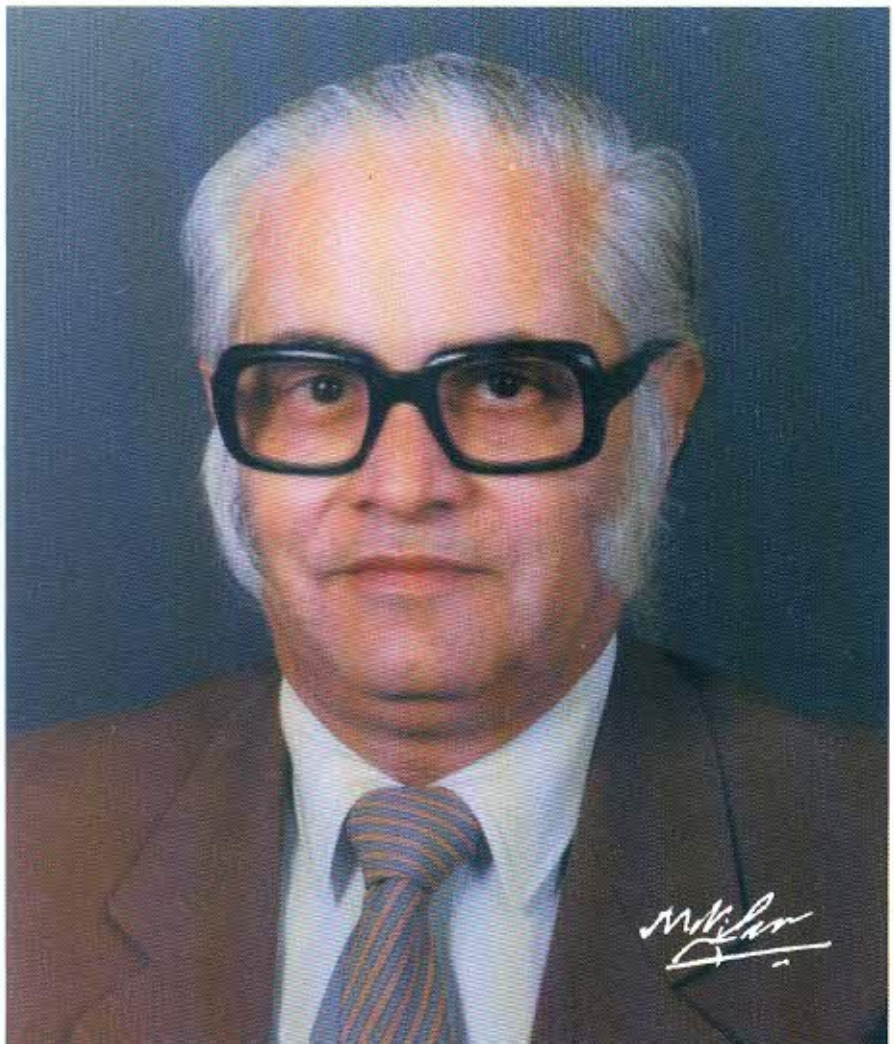


Indian Institute
of Sindhology

invite you to

meet the author

Moti Prakash





Moti Prakash is one of the outstanding poets of the post-Partition Sindhi literature. Besides being a poet of greater eminence, he has contributed to other genres, such as short story, novel, drama, literary criticism, literary sketches and journalistic columns in a few newspapers.

Born in 1931 at the village Daro, situated in the southern part of Sindh, Dr. Prakash migrated to India in the wake of Partition, when he was 16. His literary interest was nurtured through stories that his uncle used to narrate to him in his childhood. Thus he was introduced to literature. He read avidly almost all children's magazines and started contributing to them. Soon, Moti Prakash became its youngest editor ever for *Bal Sandesh*. Moti Sukhramdas Sharama became Moti Prakash. Thus, his love for literature has endured full lifetime.

Uprootment of entire Sindhi Hindu community during the time of Partition was a numbing experience for them. It landed them in penury, close to starvation. It was when mere

struggle for the time, existence obliterated everything else. In such a challenging situation too, the artist in him asserts himself. His quest to satisfy his creative urge took him to Sindhi Sahit Mandal, an organization of Sindhi writers who had accepted the challenge to cling steadfastly to cultural and literary heritage and to take it further in tune with changing times. At that juncture the community required the promise of change of the dark times - thus a vision of revolution became quite a bewitching dream and it was only natural for Moti Prakash to join the Progressive stream of literature which was predominant in many other Indian languages.

His poetry started to pour out the message of time when all inequalities, sorrows, and sufferings would come to an end giving place to new, just and equitable system. This was the background when he wrote his first novel *Andhero Ujjalo* (1963) (Darkness, Light). He has successfully tried his hand at short stories too, but his identity remains that of a poet. It was during this time, that Kala came into his life as a fresh poem and has ever since permeated his life with love, zest for life, imagination and his creativity as a steadfast anchor. She has remained a fountainhead of inspiration for him.

Dr. Prakash has given a Sindhi community anthem which is sung in almost all Sindhi literary or cultural events. It has become de facto National Anthem for Sindhi diaspora. Before that, he had published his first book of poetry, *Ao Ta Choriyoan Chang* (Let's Stir the Strings!) in 1959.

Moti Prakash is a multifaceted personality. He has, as troubled times demanded, responded to many challenges and acquitted himself with distinction in every field he has ventured in to. He has been actively involved in organizational work of literary and cultural institutions as office bearer. His love for theatre led him to obtain Diploma in Dramatics for drama writing/direction. His

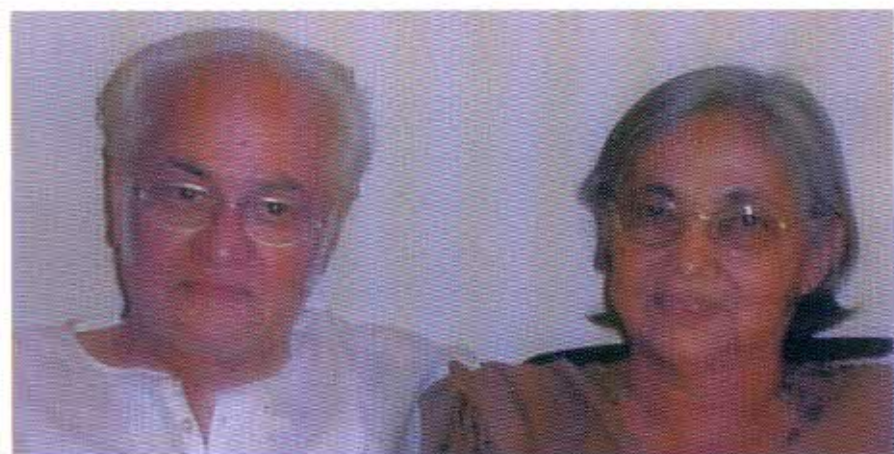
first full length Sindhi play after Independence, *Raat Hika Toofan Ji* is his remarkable contribution. Based on this play, movie was made for which he wrote screenplay, dialogues and lyrics. He wrote dialogues for *Naqli Shaan* and lyrics for *Anjan ta maan Nandri Ahiyan* films.

In fact, Dr. Prakash took up teaching as a profession from 1951 as a school teacher in Sindh Cosmopolitan High School, Chembur, Mumbai and retired as the Principal of Indian High School, Dubai, one of the most sought after school in the Gulf.

A notable phase in his life was his association with All India Radio starting in late fifties, which lasted for nearly two decades during which period many new singers and composers emerged and many



Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award (1988) from Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya, the then President of Sahitya Akademi



With his wife Kala Prakash

a playwright blossomed, as AIR was the only medium of entertainment and information. Thus, Moti Prakash became a household name.

He visited Sindh in the year 1984 after a gap of 37 years. He wrote a travelogue of those 14 days in his native land entitled, *Se Sabh Sandhyam Sah Seen* (1987) (All those Cherished in Breath) which won him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1988. It is a journey of an exile who has yearned for his soil and its people. It takes one into innermost recesses of the subconscious and in the process, the reader along with author, some time bleeds, some time moves along the path strewn with glowing ambers of memories and soars into spiritual atmosphere. Moti Prakash and Kala Prakash can be said to be only husband and wife duo who have won the Sahitya Akademi Award.

Chining Vich Choley (1983), a collection of poems and *Dithe Deehn Thiyaam* (1986), character sketches are his other significant writings. His book of songs for children *Gulram Ja Geet* (1963) received an award from NCERT.

Dr. Moti Prakash has won many accolades such as Award for outstanding contribution to Sindhi Literature from Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli Ain Sahitya Sabha in 1988, Maharashtra Sindhi Sahitya Academy Award, Life Time Achievement Award by Sindhi Sahitya Academy, Delhi etc. besides the Sahitya Akademi Award. He occupied important positions as the Convener of Sindhi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Delhi, for five years.

At present he is associated with Indian Institute of Sindiology, which promotes Sindhi literature, Language and culture.



With Sobho Gianchandani, Kirat Babani, Thakur Chawla and others

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

POETRY

Aao Ta Choriyoon Chung (1959)

Chining Vich Choley (1983)

Tuhinjee Galia Jun Galhriyoon (2006)

Pirah Khan Poi (2007)

NOVEL

Andhero Ujjalo (1953)

ESSAY

Adabi Gul (1953)

PLAYS

Raat Hik Toofan Ji (1963)

Parde Agiyan Parde Puthiyan (1975)

REMINISCENCES

Dil Jun Ghalhiyoon (1972)

Dithe Deehn Thiyam (1986)

TRAVELOGUE

Se Sabh Sandhiyam Saah Sen (1988)

ARTICLES

Jee Andhar Jhatiyoon (2004)

Muhinjo Vas Vaka (2008)

TRANSLATED WORKS

Kalindi (1953)

Adeena (1953)

Kako Kaloo (1957)

Under Secretary (1965)

SCRIPTS AND DIALOGUES FOR FILMS

Raat Hik Toofan Ji (1967)

Naqli Shaan (1970)

Anja Ta Ma Nandri Ahyan (1975)



With eminent poet Hari Dilgir

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1931 Birth (Village Daro, Sindh)
- 1951 Joined as a school teacher
- 1959 Published *Aao Ta Choriyoan Chang*, a poetry collection
- 1963 The novel *Andhero Ujjalo* published
- 1967 In-charge, Sindhi News unit, AIR
- 1968 Principal, K.J. Khilnani High School, Dadar, Mumbai
- 1975 Received NCERT Award for *Gulram Ja Geet*
- 1977 Founder Principal, Indian High School, Dubai, a reputed school in Gulf
- 1988 Maharashtra Sindhi Sahitya Akademi Award
- 1989 Sahitya Akademi Award
National Award for Teachers
- 2003-07 Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Delhi
- 2006 Received Life Time Achievement Award from Sindhi Academy, Delhi
- 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award from National Council for promotion of Sindhi language
- 2008 A. J. Uttam Lifetime Achievement Award from Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli Ain Sahit Sabha



Receiving National Award for Teachers (1988), from Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, late President of India, (Then Vice-President of India) in 1989