Celebrating literature by Rabindranath Tagore, Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Ustad Daman

The split in the subcontinent occurred due to the basis of religious diversity and prejudice of the natives. However, the importance of collective and shared culture, history and creative literature is inevitable. Creative literature being important among the commonalities illustrates and reflects the shared wisdom of the then subcontinent and current Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

The intangible culture of the three countries can be seen in the literary works of some famous poets of the 19th and 20th centuries i.e. Rabindranath Tagore, Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Ustad Daman. Through their poetic expression, they corroborate the very fact that wisdom has no boundaries. Their poetic wisdom forms the basis of manhood thus reinstates the reason for man’s existence on the face of this earth. Guiding concepts of their literary work not only satisfies the intellect but serve as beacon for the youth especially in the current state of despair and distrust among people over the world’s situation. On the contrary, it would not be misleading if distance of youth from the guiding concepts intrinsic to these literary work is termed as the reason for this despair and distrust. The culture of reinstating and celebrating the work of legends among nations especially youth is endangered. Consequentially this is likely to form a nation with less conviction and insubstantial ethical codes. Much of it owes to the lack of commemoration and recognition at the states level. In this state of affair, it is pertinent to revive the guiding concepts in the literary work to revitalize the morality and acumen embedded in the literary works and in addition it will bridge the gaps among the regional countries i.e. Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

Year 2011 marks 100 years of Faiz Ahmad Faiz, 150 years of Rabindranath Tagore and 100 years of Ustad Daman in the months of February, May and September respectively. This serves as an opportunity for SDPI to revive the work of three famous and renowned regional poets through the proposed panel presenting the exclusive studies about their struggle and contribution to bridge the gap among communities and people of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.
Panel Organiser: Mr. Ahmad Salim, Senior Adviser, Education and Religious Diversity, SDPI, Islamabad

Email address: salim@sdpi.org