



## ĀZĀD, MOḤAMMAD-ḤOSAYN

**ĀZĀD**, MOḤAMMAD-ḤOSAYN, scholar and writer in Urdu and Persian, born about 1834 in Delhi. Āzād cultivated literary and Islamic studies under his father, Mawlānā Moḥammad-Bāqer, a leading journalist in north India, and under the poet Moḥammad-Ebrāhīm Dawq. After the Mutiny of 1857, which resulted in his father's execution by the British, he left Delhi and finally settled in Lahore, where he was employed by the Punjab Education Department. In 1867 he became secretary to the Anjoman-e Panjāb, a literary society founded in 1865 by Dr. G. W. Leitner, the director of the government college, aiming at inducting realistic themes in Urdu poetry. His journeys to Central Asia (on a secret mission for the government of India) and Iran in 1865 and 1883 gave him insight into the life of those regions. In 1887 the British government of India honored him for his services to literature and education. He died at Lahore in 1910.

Āzād's literary interests touch upon history, biography, literary criticism, journalism, and story-telling, making him an outstanding figure in the nineteenth-century history of Urdu and Persian literature in India. His prose writings are noted for their picturesque style.

*Works.* The better known of his nearly seventeen published works in Urdu are: *Qeşaṣ-e Hend* (Lahore, 1872, repr. Lahore, 1961, Karachi, 1962), a collection of stories from Indian history; *Neyrang-e kayāl* (Karachi, 1961), a collection of allegorical stories in moral science adapted from the essays of Samuel Johnson and Joseph Addison (*Tārīk-e adabiyāt-e mosalmānān-e Pākestān wa Hend* IX, pp. 308ff.); *Āb-e ḥayāt* (Lahore, 1881, 1950, Fayzābād,



1966), a history of Urdu poetry written in a colorful style; *Sokandān-e Pārs* (Lahore, 1907), dealing with Indo-Iranian philology, traditions, and the development of Persian prose style (M. Ṣādeq, *Āb-e ḥayāt kī ḥemāyat mayn* [Ṣādeq, in the defence of the *Āb-e ḥayāt*], Lahore, 1967, pp. 382-84); *Darbār-e akbarī* (ed. Mīr Momtāz ‘Alī, Lahore, 1898, ed. Moḥammad-Ebrāhīm, Lahore, 1910, Lucknow, ca. 1965), a biographical work on some courtiers of the emperor Akbar of India (ibid.); *Negārestān-e Pārs* (Lahore, 1922) on nearly thirty-six Persian poets of Iran and India from Rūdakī to Ārzū. The *Dīvān* of Dawq Dehlavī, edited by Āzād, carries useful notes. A selection of Āzād’s articles has been published by Āgā Moḥammad-Bāqer, *Maqālāt-e Mawlānā Moḥammad Ḥosayn Āzād*, Lahore, 1966. His *Dīvān* was published under the title *Naẓm-e Āzād*, Lahore, 1910.

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*EI*<sup>2</sup>, Supp., p. 107.

*Search terms:*

آزاد	azad, mohammad	aazaad, mohammad	azad, mohamad
حوسین	hosayn	hosein	hossein