

FAHMIDA RIAZ PASSES AWAY

Dear Ajeet jee!

Fahmida Riaz was not well. She was sick for few days but she always showed courage. She never let the sickness take control of her rather she always tried her best to defeat it. Ten days ago, She attended a feminist function at the place of Anees Haroon, who is the chairman of Aorat Foundation. She came to visit her daughter' place at Lahore and later she passed away. She is considered as the SIGN OF BRAVERY in Urdu Literature. She was an active feminist as well as writer. She hated General Zia ul Haq to that extent that she left for India when Zia imposed marshal law and she never visited Pakistan during his Govt. She always worked for the civil supremacy in Pakistan. She was also a very captivating poetess. Her poems were so filled with deep consciousness. Her novel "Karachi", is about the problems of Karachi and is one of the masterpieces. Her Sufi Translations of Shamas Tabraiz, Maulana Rumi are some of her major works.

The saddest thing is that the people, writers, philosophers of Lahore didn't bother to attend her funeral showing a deep sign of how ignorant our people are. Art is never valued and so is artist. Or may be people were scared as she was anti-establishment and in our country establishment is so cruel. It was only the courage of Fehmida that she wrote against it and wrote so openly.

She is not gone, she is still with us. She is still each in every of her words, in every of her thoughts. Her words will always be there, and becoming a memory of hers. Whenever the story of Political Tyranny in Pakistan would be written, Fehmida Riaz would be at the top of it.

Syed Najeeb Ali Shah
Pakistan

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Dear Ajeet ji,

Thnx a lot for ur kind words No doubt its a great loss of world of literature. Life is like that .We the HUMANS are so helpless in certain decisions of Almighty. We all are so sad about her departure.. I still remember her while we all were in Jaipur sufi conference . .How happy we were and hadn't the slightest idea that after 2 years she ll b no more. .
so grateful for holding my hand and providing me a shoulder to cry on ...

Love & Regards

Farheen Chaudhry
Pakistan

