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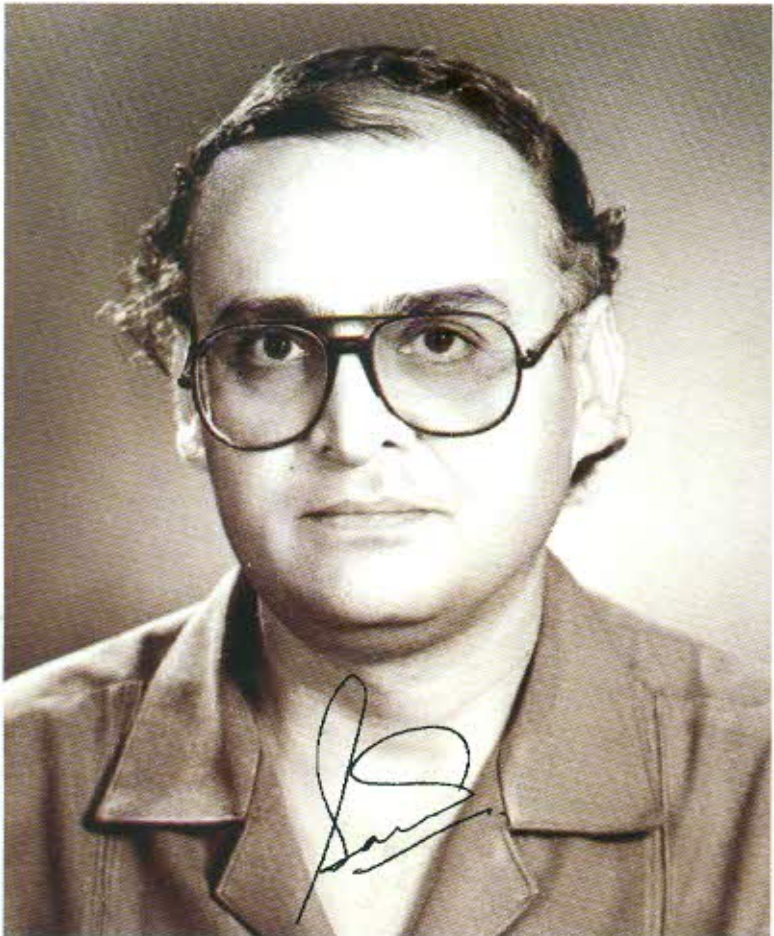


Sahitya Akademi

18th August 2009

meet the author

Abdus Samad



Abdus Samad, was born in Nalanda in Bihar in a Zamindar family, on 18 July 1952. He was a science student but later on he shifted to Arts and did his BA (Hons) in Political Science, and topped in his MA accreditation in Magadh University (1973).

His journey into the land of literature started, as early as, when he was 15, when he wrote a short story that was published. His first award came in the form of Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy award in 1981 for his collection Bara Rangonwala Kamra, when he was in his late twenties. Quickly followed another award from the Bihar Urdu Akademy for his Pas-e-Diwar in 1983. Soon to follow were many awards in Urdu for his book *Do Gaz Zameen*, in 1990; "The novel is significant for its characterisation, its lucidity of style and portrayal of problems. For its perception of cultural identity as shaped by emotional intellectual and historical compulsions, this novel is regarded as an outstanding contribution to Indian literature in Urdu". Thus reads the award citation.

To quote Mohd Hasan's words "Around 1980, Samad's writing, underwent a significant transformation. Suddenly he gave up highly symbolic and abstract short stories and took to more socially significant and more politically related contemporary issues. The writer seemed to be perturbed by the



With his wife Afsana Khatoon



At the Sahitya Akademi Award Presentation Function

events around him- communal riots, corruption, destitution, poverty and the distressing debasement of human values. Undoubtedly, this period was extended to a much earlier decade, which witnessed the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971-72, the creation of Bangladesh and the resultant uprooting of the migrants of that country, euphemistically called Biharies. This accentuation of human suffering touched the author. His novel *Do Gaz Zameen* narrates the story of this suffering, which incidentally marks the maturing of an 'experimenting' abstract artist into a responsible and committed writer."

This well acclaimed novel has been translated in 21 languages. It was also approved for a serial by Door Darshan. The novel got exceptional reviews from a wide variety of audience.

To quote from Anwer Azeem, Patriot, Delhi, “ A daring choice of extremely complex canvas with a remarkable range of characters and situations, Samad's novel “Do Gaz Zameen” will long dominate the intellectual scene for its robust and deft treatment of the apocalyptic experience of our times. What provides the fictional matrix in its developmental narration is an outstanding example of restrained take off. The writer has painted no flowers, stars or skies. He has not even bothered to depict the fields under a plough, the fragrance of the 'virgin soil upturned', no frills and embellishments. He is conscious of the magnitude and variety of men and women and their destiny in all their complexities in a heightened socio-political situation plagued by some evil forces yet invisible to the readers but inexorably perceptible to the writer. And therein, lays the naked power of miraculous creativity.”

His another novel in Urdu, *Khwabon Ka Savera*, was published later. It was translated into English by Ms Mehr Afshan Farooqi , and acquired a rare review from none other than Dr A P J Abdul Kalam himself, “Dawn of Dreams , is indeed a thought provoking novel.”

His book, *National Movements and Indian Constitution* also has been a notable contribution. He has liberally extended his support to his Home State by being a Member of Number of State Level Committees Govt of Bihar, Bihar Urdu Academy



Speaking at a Urdu Conference



In a contemplative mood...

and has also represented India at an International Meet at Almaty, Kazhakistan , in August 1995.

After being an award recipient of Sahitya Akademi, he served as the Convenor, Urdu Advisory Board and Member, Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi from 1993 to 1997.

He was in the Board of Prestigious Jnan Peeth Award Committee, New Delhi (1994-1996).

He has been a member of the Syndicate of both Magadh University, Bodh Gaya(1995-2002) and B.R.A Bihar University, Muzaffarpur (1997-1998).

He was also the Chairman of Board of Editors of the English Journal "Uttara" New Delhi (1997-1998), published by Sahitya Akademi.

He has given a good number of talks, discussions and interviews which were broadcast and telecast on different AIR and TV stations of India. Noteworthy of them is a serial named "Manzil" by Patna television.

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Collections of short stories :

Barah Rangonwala Kamra	1980
Pas-e-diyar	1983
Seyah Kagaz Ki Dhajian	1995
Musical Chair	2002
Aag ke ander rakh	2007

Novels

Do Gaz Zameen	1988
Mahatma	1992
Khabon Ka Sawera	1994
Mahasagar	1998
Dhamak	2004

Others

National Movement and Indian Constitution (Urdu)	1985
Muslim Mind in India (English)	1995

Chronology

18th July 1952	Birth
1973	MA
1967	First story was published
1981	UP Urdu Academy Award
1981	Bihar Urdu Academy
1985	Bihar Urdu Academy
1990	Bihar Urdu Academy
1990	Sahitya Akademi
1990	UP Urdu Academy
1998	Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad
1996-98	Principal, R.N. College, Hajipur
Since 1998	Principal, Oriental College, Patna