

# L6: NN

Monday, 25 September 2023 4:45 PM

NN recap from last week:

Showing us that syed ahmed khan was the first to give us the muslim qawm title and to bring the idea of religious nationalism into the subcontinental muslims.

He did not know english but there were no urdu equivalents of 'modern' words in the urdu language. He added those words into the urdu vocabulary as they were.

He started using qawm to be nation, and was the one to birth the idea of qawm to equal nation within the muslims - this is stated by baba e urdu.

Vidyalankar:

- There was also a bengal equivalent of syed ahmed khan, and he called out for a modern history with which the historian IDENTIFIES
- Made the argument for modern historical consciousness
- What the heck was he on, had a very strange concept of time
- Talks about the misplacement of india as bahrat: considers his own elemental idea of the formation of existence.
- He calls india bharat?
- He is a hindu writer yet:
- He proclaims akbar
- Says aurangzeb was favoured by divine powers
- He was interested in the idea of dharmic kings, ie their religion does not matter, but its about him being a good king.

## L6: Najeeb Jan

Made us listen to Tubular Bells by some guy

The song is from the exorcist movie

What does an ecorcistr do? What does a good exorcist require to cure the individual from the demons possessing him?

They call on a higher power which in most cases is god or christ

They have to know the name of the demon that is possessing the individual.

The demon is a liar and If they know the name then they can rightfully point out how to deal with the demon

We are possessed by jinns and jinnas of our own.

We are possessed by the demon called a nation, nationalism is a major demon.

When we are doing histroy there is a lot going on. Its not just about battles but the enterprise of factors is much larger.

What are the demons that WE are possessed by?

Doing history requires a careful relationship with language.

Language, text, narrative.

The language we use frames our understanding of concepts.

We need to think critically about the language we use as without language there are no ideas.

It is more intriguing than simply being a tool we use to communicate.

How have we come to be who we are in the present moment?

We are possessed by various demons of modernity.

When any 'league' comes to power in pakistan, it is 'muslims' in rule.

'muslim' rule is a vacuous category.

We need to be more specific when categorizing these so it actually does tell us something.

The idea of nation and qawm was constructed and it actually is something that is modern.

This limits our ability to understand the world. We are forced to use modern language, which in turn forces us to see the world from the narrative which was created, and for which that language and those words were created.

Historical narrative and language don't 'fall from the sky'

There are no 'historical laws'

Teleological concept of progress is an inadequate way of thiking about how history works.

History has a lot to do with coincidences. There is no linearity. But isnt to suggest that there is no linearity require there to be a form of measure of what constitutes linearity? Hence, is it not then linear?

## Identity and Power:

The narratives we are given are imposed, written in a certain way, and then disseminated to wherever they want them to go.

Whoever controls the dominant discourse very highly controls the way we understand the world.

The real effect of power

It operates visibly and invisibly.

We in pakistan got rid of the formal physical colonial structure, but we havent been rid of the colonial mindset and the mental trauma, as it completely rewrote and changed the way we interact with the world. We need to reverse that.

Even if we remove physical structures as long as the concept or idea or mindset lives on, that colonization lives on

There are additional layers to the demon of 'THE NATION'

Language, Narrative, Knowledge, Identity, and Power - these are all LINKED.

THE THREE DEMONS OF MODERNITY:

1. NATIONALISM
  - a. SOVEREIGN POWER (RIGHT OF DEATH, KILLING)
  - b. BIOPOWER (POWER OF LIFE: LOVE/SECURITY/RACE/GENOCIDE/FASCISM
    - i. The mergence of the ppl populations
2. ECONOMY - NEOLIBERALISM