

## Week 6 Lecture

- Syed Ahmed Khan did not know English
- Molvi Abdul Haq, also known as Baba-e-Urdu
- Nation & its Fragments
  - He tells us about what a premodern historians consciousness was like
  - Rajabali was written in 1808 at Fort William college
  - Bengali Syed Ahmed Khan --> very complicated name
- Mrityunjay Vidyalkar describes time
  - Very different sense of historical time
  - He shifts his focus to "India"
    - We are now talking about his consciousness of space
  - He then talks about two mughal emperors
    - He talks about Akbar Shah
    - He then talks about Aurangzeb, who was favored by the divine powers
    - Made sizable grants of land for the maintenance of temples
  - The author puts the muslim kings in the line of *Dharmic* Kings
  - Aurangzeb was cursed by a Brahman
  - He does not care about Muslim or Hindu king, there is no identifying in this pre modern way of writing

## HISTORY

### LANGUAGE, NARRATIVE, KNOWLEDGE, IDENTITY POWER

- During this period of the British, we try to forget it because it was traumatic to the people
- The British set up ways of feeling and seeing the world, changed the perspective on who we are
- Post-Colonial means we were fashioned and shaped in the colonial period.
- We are all possessed by Jinns & Jinnahs of modernity
  - Nationalism is a demon that possesses everyone
  - We need to undertake a critical historical categorisation
- History links to Language & Narratives
  - Language frames your understanding of everything. No language, no ideas
    - Language allows us to critically think & categorise
- The categories we need to use need to be sophisticated
- Our narrative shapes our identity
  - The historical narrative doesn't fall out of the sky, there are no historical laws
  - We do not just go from a primitive state to an advanced state
    - They are imposed and disseminated by the ones in power to disseminate
    - History unfolds through a series of accidents
- Power shapes through visible & invisible modes
  - Turning India into a Capitalist Nation instead of a nation with good life
  - Modi is not trying to change the fundamentals of India, just changing it enough to oppose western ideology
  - Birthdays are a western influence
  - We are possessed by different forms of power
    - Anything that shapes who you are has power
- The Three Demons of modernity
  - The nation demon has 2 layers
    - Sovereign Power (Right of death, killing). Historical
    - Biopower (Power of life: Love / Security / Race / Genocide / Fascism)
      - Emergence of the population
  - The Economy Demon (lecture ended)