

# A history of urdu literature 1st indigo edition

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Urdu Literature: A Legacy of Richness and Expression\*\*

### **Origins and History**

Urdu, a sweet and expressive language, has a rich literary heritage that spans centuries. It is native to South Asia and finds its roots in the Indo-Aryan languages. The first known writings in Urdu date back to the 13th century, with Amir Khusrau being considered the father of Urdu literature.

### **First Literary Publications**

The earliest literary publication in Urdu is generally believed to be "Gulshan-i Ishq" (Garden of Love), a romance poem by Mahmud of Ghazna. Written in the 11th century, this work marks the dawn of Urdu literature.

### **First Poet and Novelist**

The first renowned poet of Urdu literature is considered to be Wali Deccani (1667-1707), who hailed from the southern Indian state of Telangana. As for the first Urdu novel in India, it is widely attributed to Mirza Muhammad Hadi Ruswa (1857-1931) for his masterpiece "Ummrao Jaan Ada."

### **Four Pillars of Urdu Literature**

Four eminent writers are often regarded as the pillars of Urdu literature: Mirza Ghalib, Bahadur Shah Zafar, Munshi Premchand, and Muhammad Iqbal. Their profound contributions have left an indelible mark on the literary landscape.

## **Golden Period of Urdu Literature**

Urdu literature experienced its golden period during the 19th century, known as the "Asr-e Shera" (Era of Tigers), marked by the rise of renowned poets like Mirza Ghalib, Bahadur Shah Zafar, and Asadullah Khan Ghalib.

## **Urdu Literature in Pakistan**

In Pakistan, Urdu is the national language and has a rich literary tradition of its own. The father of Urdu literature in Pakistan is considered to be Maulana Altaf Hussain Hali.

## **Noted Writers**

Throughout its history, Urdu literature has produced literary giants such as Mirza Ghalib, Munshi Premchand, Ismat Chughtai, and Saadat Hasan Manto.

## **Cross-Cultural Influences**

Urdu literature has been influenced by various languages and cultures, including Persian, Arabic, and Indian regional languages.

## **Modern Urdu Literature**

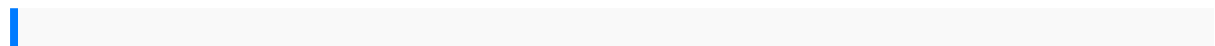
Contemporary Urdu literature continues to flourish, with poets and writers exploring themes of modernity, identity, and social change.

## **Languages that Speak Urdu**

Besides India and Pakistan, Urdu is also spoken in Bangladesh, Nepal, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries.

## **Why Study Urdu Literature?**

Urdu literature offers a rich tapestry of stories, poems, and writings that explore diverse themes, providing a valuable window into the human experience and cultural heritage.



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