

“Pyasa jinhe naaz hai hind par” (“hind” = India): “Where are those who are proud of India?”

Singer: **Mohd Rafi**

Music Director: **S. D. Burman**—one of the finest film composers in India

Lyrics: **Sahir Ludhianvi** (1921-80, Abdul Hayee), popular Urdu poet and Hindi lyricist and songwriter. This song is a version of his poem, “Chakley” (“Brothel”). He won the Filmfare Award in 1964 and 1977 and in 1971 was awarded the Padma Shri (the 4th highest civilian award awarded by the Indian government). His poetry and musical lyrics express bitterness, criticism of society and war and materialism. His love songs are filled with sadness and about the fragility of love.

### **Brothels**

These lanes, these marts of rich delights,  
Precious lives, undone, defiled;  
Where are the defenders of virtuous pride?  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

These sinuous streets, these doors ajar,  
The clinking coins, the moving masks,  
Deals of honour, haggling fast,  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

These dimly-lighted, stinking streets,  
These yellowing buds, crushed and ceased,  
These hollow charms, for sale and lease;  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

The jingling trinkets at casement bright,  
Tambourines athrob’ mid gasping life;  
Cheerless rooms with cough alive;  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

Boisterous laughs on public paths,  
Crowds at windows, thick and fast,  
Vulgar words, obscene remarks;  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

The betel spittal, the floral wreaths,  
Audacious looks and filthy speech,  
Flaccid figures, looks diseased;  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

Lecherous eyes in beauty’s quest,  
Extended hands chasing breasts,  
Springing feet on stairs pressed;  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

This is the haven of young and old.  
Aging sires and youngsters bold,  
Wife, mother and sister — she plays a triple role.  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

Help, O Help, this daughter of Eve!  
Radha’s\* child, Yashoda’s\*\* breed;  
The prophet’s race, Zuleikha’s\*\*\* seed;  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

Call, O call the leaders wise  
Let them see these streets, these sights,  
Where are the champs of eastern pride?  
Where are they who praise, the pious eastern ways?

These centuries old sleepless, scared alleyways;  
These quashed, half-blossomed, pale buds;  
This sale of momentary merry-making;  
Where are the champions of national pride.

These lighted windows, clinking dancer’s anklets;  
Beats of tabla on weary breathing;  
Spurts of cough in lifeless rooms;  
Where are the champions of national pride.

\*Radha: childhood friend and lover of Krishna in Bhagavata Purana, and Gita Govinda of the Vaisnava traditions of Hinduism

\*\*Yashoda: the foster-mother of Krishna

\*\*\*Jewish, Christian and Muslim scriptural commentators have regarded Zuleika, wife of Potiphar as a sinner for trying to seduce Joseph. But the Sufi Persian mystic poet Rumi regarded Zuleika’s obsession with Joseph as a symptom of the soul’s longing for God.