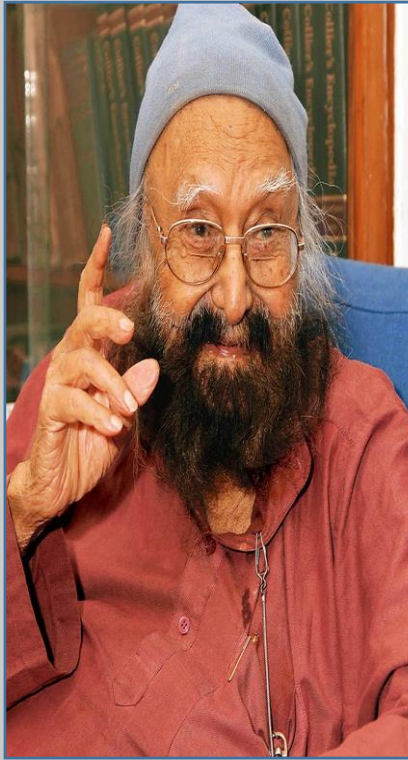




Author of the Week: Khushwant Singh



“Morality is a matter of money. Poor people cannot afford to have morals. So they have religion.”

Life and career:

Khushwant Singh was one of the paramount Indian writers and journalists of all times. He was born in the year 1915 in Hadali, Pakistan. His experience in the 1947 Partition of India inspired him to write *Train to Pakistan* in 1956 (made into film in 1998), which became his most well-known novel. Khushwant Singh was educated in New Delhi, and studied law at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and King's College London. After working as a lawyer in Lahore Court for eight years, he joined the Indian Foreign Service upon the Independence of India from British Empire in 1947. He was appointed journalist in the All India Radio in 1951, and then moved to the Department of Mass Communications of UNESCO at Paris in 1956. These last two careers encouraged him to pursue a literary career. As a writer, he was best known for his trenchant secularism, humour, sarcasm and an abiding love of poetry. His comparisons of social and behaviour characteristics of Westerners and Indians are laced with acid wit. He served as the editor of several literary and news magazines, as well as two newspapers, through the 1970s and 1980s. Between 1980-1986 he served as Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India.

Khushwant Singh was bestowed with the Padma Bhushan in 1974. But he returned the award in 1984 in protest against Operation Blue Star in which the Indian Army raided Amritsar. In 2007, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award in India. Singh died of natural causes on 20 March 2014 at his Delhi residence, at the age of 98. His death was mourned by many including the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister of India.

Awards and achievements:

- Rockefeller Grant (1966)
- Padma Bhushan, Government of India (1974) (He returned the decoration in 1984 in protest against the Union government's siege of the Golden Temple, Amritsar)
- Honest Man of the Year, Sulabh International (2000)
- Punjab Rattan Award, The Government of Punjab (2006)
- Padma Vibhushan, Government of India (2007)
- Sahitya Akademi Fellowship by Sahitya academy of India (2010)
- 'All-India Minorities Forum Annual Fellowship Award' by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav (2012)
- Lifetime achievement award by Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai Litfest (2013)
- Fellow of King's College London (2014)

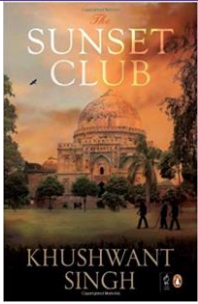
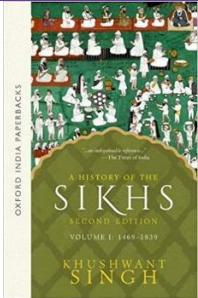
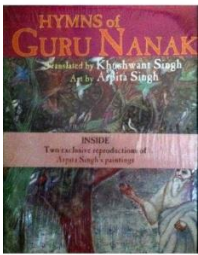
Important Links to Know More About the Author:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khushwant_Singh

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiKy9penddE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZiTVLMPw>

BOOKS BY KHUSHWANT SINGH

<p>1.</p>	<p>Title: <i>The Sunset Club: Analects of The Year 2009</i> Author: Singh, Khushwant Publisher: Viking Press Call No.: 823.3 SIN Accession No. : 009682</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Title: <i>Train to Pakistan</i> Author: Singh, Khushwant Publisher: Ravi Dayal Publisher Call No.: 823 SIN Accession No. : 009785</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Title: <i>Sahibs Who Loved India</i> Author: Singh, Khushwant Publisher: Penguin Books Call No.: 823.954 SIN Accession No. : 010757</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Title: <i>History of the Sikhs</i> Author: Singh, Khushwant Publisher: Oxford University Press Call No.: 954.020882946 SIN Accession No. : 014072- 014073</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Title: <i>Hymns of Guru Nanak</i> Author: (translated by) Singh, Khushwant Publisher: Orient Longman Call No.: 294.6 SIN Accession No. : 015944</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Title: <i>Umrao Jan Ada</i> Author: Rusva, Mirza Muhammad Hadi, (translated by) Singh, Khushwant and Husaini, M. A. Publisher: Orient Blackswan Publishing Call No.: 891.43934 RUS Accession No. : 004753, 010372, 015354</p>	