



## River of Fire

By Qurratulain Hyder

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The most important novel of twentieth-century Urdu fiction. Qurratulain Hyder's *River of Fire* makes a bid to be recognized in the West as what it has long been acknowledged in the East: the most important novel of twentieth-century Urdu fiction. First published as *Aag ka Darya* in 1959, *River of Fire* encompasses the fates of four recurring characters over two and a half millennia: Gautam, Champa, Kamal, and Cyril. Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Christian. In different eras different relations form and reform among the four: romance and war, possession and dispossession. Interweaving parables, legends, dreams, diaries, and letters, Hyder's prose is lyrical and witty. And she argues for a culture that is inclusive: *River of Fire* is a book that insists on the irrelevance of religion in defining Indian identity.

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## River of Fire By Qurratulain Hyder Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #191563 in Books
- Brand: Brand: New Directions Publishing
- Published on: 2003-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.70" h x 1.00" w x 5.00" l, 1.08 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 428 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

A glorious tapestry of India's history....Brilliant and thought-provoking...this book is fascinating! -- *India Edghill, Historical Novels Review*, February 2004

A rich and ancient tapestry, interweaving the tiny threads of individual human experience into a panoramic spread of cultural diversity. -- *Linda B. Osborne, WorldView*, November/December 2004

An Urdu classic with a breathtakingly vast canvas. -- *Outlook*

Hyder is a wonderful writer. Hers is one of the most important Indian voices of the twentieth century. -- *Amitov Ghosh*

To Urdu fiction what *A Hundred Years of Solitude* is to Hispanic Literature. -- *Times Literary Supplement*

#### Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

#### About the Author

Qurratulain Hyder (1926-2007) is widely regarded as the grande dame of Urdu literature. To her fans and admirers she is popularly known as "Ainee Apa." The Prime Minister of India said at her funeral, "With her unfortunate passing, the country has lost a towering literary figure."

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