

Faiz on 'Ourselves'

(Faiz Sahib's editorial of the Pakistan Times dated Feb 4, 1947. Original title was: Ourselves)



We are a Muslim League paper. We claim to speak for thirty million Muslims of Northern India who have sworn allegiance to the Muslim League. Pakistan is the declared political objective of the party and the people it represents. While we propose to present the news objectively and to confine comment to the editorial columns, we shall use our voice to interpret this national ideal and to bring it nearer. We believe that all people have a right to live their own lives and order their own affairs as they desire in freedom as in peace. Freedom for one people should not mean enslavement for another and the liberation for one national homeland should not involve the subjugation of the homeland of others. We believe, therefore, that when political sovereignty devolves once more on the people inhabiting the Indian subcontinent, both the Hindus and the Muslims should be free, the Hindus in their homelands, the Muslims theirs. The demand for Pakistan does not negate but complements the demand for a new nationalist State by the other Indian national group—the Hindus. We have no desire to stand in their way if they do not stand in ours. We do not grudge them what we ask for ourselves and if they would not reciprocate the problem of India would be solved. This way lays the path of unity, peace and freedom for both Hindus and Muslims. The Congress oligarchy, however insists on the negation of democracy and the denial of justice. Instead of honest political dealing it has set its course to a policy of injustice and obstinate unreason. That way lays the path of strife and disaster and continued national degradation for both Muslims and Hindus. We are convinced that the present unhappy situation in India is due, not to the Muslim demand for Pakistan, which is a just demand but to the aggressive repudiation of this demand by Hindu nationalists. To this end they have gathered round themselves a motley crowd of hangers-on, "unionists" who have no following to unite or divide and

“nationalist” Muslims who have been repudiated by their own nation. To this end they have constantly fostered fear and suspicion among the minorities living in Muslim regions. We believe that such fears and suspicions are unfounded and should be dispelled. We shall, therefore, commend to our Muslim readers the virtues of large heartedness and forbearance in communal relations. We shall enjoin on them to prove that the minorities in Muslim regions will in a free Pakistan have more freedom than they possess at the moment in their own majority areas under Congress rule.

<http://www.viewpointonline.net/faiz-on-ourselves.html>

Viewpoint

Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the ones who think differently