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CULTURE OF PUNJAB

CHAPTER 2

Literature of Punjab

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October 2026

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CHAPTER 2

Literature of Punjab

Classical Poets, Modern Writers and Punjabi Qisse

IN THIS CHAPTER

- Baba Farid – father of Punjabi literature
- Bhai Gurdas, Shah Hussain and Bulleh Shah
- Waris Shah and classical compositions
- Modern writers and their works
- Women writers and award winners
- Punjabi Qisse (folk tales)

PART A Classical Period

Baba Farid (Farid-ud-Din Ganj-i-Shakar)

- Sufi poet, born in **1173** at **Kothewal** (Multan)
- Disciple of **Khwaja Qutb-ud-Din Bakhtiyar Kaki** of the Chishti order (founded in India by Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti)
- Often called **"the Father of Punjabi literature"**; honoured with the title "Baba"
- A Sunni Muslim; his shrine is at **Pakpattan** (Pakistan)
- **Guru Granth Sahib** contains **4 hymns and 112 shlokas** of Baba Farid

Bhai Gurdas Ji

- Sikh writer, historian and preacher
- **Jathedar of the Akal Takht** from 1606 until his death in 1636
- Original **scribe** of the Adi Granth, which he completed in **1604** as dictated by Guru Arjan Dev Ji
- His Punjabi works are known as **Vaaran Bhai Gurdas Ji**
- Also wrote **Kabitt** (a poetic form) in **Braj** language

Shah Hussain (Madho Lal Hussain)

- Born **1538** at Lahore
- Pioneer of the **Kafi** form in Punjabi poetry – short poems called Kafis
- Close friend of Guru Arjan Dev Ji

Bulleh Shah

- Full name: **Sayyid Abdullah Shah Qadri**
- Born **1680** in Multan province (Sayyid family)
- Titles: "Father of Punjabi Enlightenment", "Poet of the People"
- Fakir of the **Qadri** order; disciple of **Shah Inayat**
- A revolutionary philosopher and reformer

Waris Shah

- Born **1722** at **Jandiala Sher Khan** (present-day Pakistan)
- Sayyid family, descendant of Sayyid Muhammad Al-Makki
- Punjabi Muslim Sufi poet of the **Chishti** order
- Author of the love poem **Heer Ranjha**

Classical Compositions

Author	Compositions
Bhai Gurdas	Vaaran, Kabitt Savaiye

Author	Compositions
Shah Hussain	Aakh Ni Maye Aakh, Mai Ni Main Kinu Aakhan, Amlan De Uppar Kon
Bulleh Shah	Makke Gaya Gal Mukdi Na, Bullya Ki Jaana Main Kaun, Mera Piya Ghar Aaya, Ik Nukte Vich Gal Mukdi Ae
Waris Shah	Heer Ranjha

PART B Modern Literature

Author	Compositions	Known as / remarks
Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha	Mahan Kosh (Sikh Encyclopaedia), Hum Hindu Nahin, Chandi di Var, Gurushabad, Gurmat Prabhakar, Gurmat Sudhakar	Celebrated scholar and encyclopaedist; important role in the Singh Sabha movement
Bhai Vir Singh	Mere Saiyan Jio, Sundari, Sahiran di Haar, Dil Tarang, Trel Tupke, Satwant Kaur, Baba Naudh Singh, Matak Hulare, Bijlian de Haar	**Father of modern Punjabi literature**; started the Khalsa Tract Society (1894) and the weekly **Khalsa Samachar**; took part in the Singh Sabha movement. The first Punjabi play, **Raja Lakhdata Singh** (1910), was published by his press
Professor Puran Singh	Khulle Maidan, The Sisters of the Spinning Wheel, Unstrung Beads	Called the "Tagore of Punjab"; wrote in English and Punjabi
Gurbakhsh Singh Preetlari	Parsann Lammi Umar	Started the monthly **Preetlari** (1933); founded **Preet Nagar** near Amritsar
Ishwar Chander Nanda	Suhag (Dulhan)	**Father of Punjabi drama**; wrote and directed Suhag, the first staged modern Punjabi play
Nanak Singh	Chitta Lahu, Pavitra Papi, Khoon de Sohile, Ik Mian Do Talwaran (on the Ghadar movement and Kartar Singh Sarabha's times), Khooni Vaisakhi, Adam Khor, Katti Hoi Patang	**Father of the Punjabi novel**
Professor Mohan Singh	Wadda Vela	–
Gurdial Singh	Saggi Phull, Addh Chanani Raat, Marhi da Deeva, Begana Pind	–
Balwant Gargi	Rang Manch, The Naked Triangle, Sohni Mahiwal, Mirza Sahiban	–
Amrita Pritam	Pinjar, Dilli Diyan Galiyan, Rasidi Ticket (autobiography), Sunehe, Kagaz te Canvas, Ajj Aakhan Waris Shah Nu (on the 1947 partition), Nagmani (monthly poetry magazine), Lok Peed	Foremost Punjabi woman poet; **first woman to receive the Sahitya Akademi Award** (1956, for Sunehe)
Jaswant Singh Kanwal	Lahu di Lo, Mittar Pyare Nu, Punjab Tera Ki Banu	–
Dalip Kaur Tiwana	Eho Hamara Jeevna, Katha Kaho Urvashi, Nange Pairan da Safar (autobiography)	First woman to earn a PhD in Punjabi literature

Author	Compositions	Known as / remarks
Shiv Kumar Batalvi	Loona, Aate Diyan Chiriyan	**Youngest** recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award (1967)
Surjit Patar	Hanere Vich Sulagdi Varnmala, Lafzan Di Dargah	–
Harbhajan Singh	Rukh te Rishi	–
Bhagat Singh	Why I am an Atheist	–

PART C Punjabi Qisse (Folk Tales)

Qissa	Author
Heer Ranjha	Waris Shah
Sohni Mahiwal	Fazal Shah
Mirza Sahiban	Hafiz Barkhurdar
Sassi Punnu	Hashim Shah
Puran Bhagat	Qadaryar

SHORTCUT

Waris – **H**eer · **F**azal – **S**ohni · **H**afiz – **M**irza · **H**ashim – **S**assi · **Q**adaryar – **P**uran

QUICK REVISION

- Father of Punjabi literature: **Baba Farid** · father of modern Punjabi literature: **Bhai Vir Singh**
- Father of Punjabi novel: **Nanak Singh** · father of Punjabi drama: **I. C. Nanda**
- Kafi: **Shah Hussain** · Heer: **Waris Shah** · Mahan Kosh: **Kahn Singh Nabha** · Preet Nagar: **Gurbakhsh Singh**
- Youngest Sahitya Akademi winner: **Shiv Kumar Batalvi** (1967)

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