

## Snapshots of Punjabi Village Life

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The photographs here are a visual testimony to the rhythms of life in the Majha region of Punjab during the 1960s. As a predominantly rural area blessed with fertile land and bountiful waters, its history has been defined by the fortunes of its twin cities, Lahore and Amritsar. After the Partition in 1947, however, the Majha marked the border between East and West Punjab, and with the shifting of the political capital of the eastern side to Chandigarh, this region, once a dominant center in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the Punjab has been increasingly marginalized. Given the changes that have drastically altered village life, growing literacy, new economic opportunities, changes in family organization, outmigration, industrialization, globalization, etc., these pictures freeze a moment in time that is slowly fading from view.



ਨਾਓ ਬੀਜਣ ਲੱਗਾ ਆਸ ਕਰ  
ਹਰਿ ਬੋਹਲ ਬਖਸ ਜਮਾਇ ਜੀਓ

I begin to sow the Name, taking faith  
That the Lord will grace us with a  
bountiful harvest





ਸਭ ਧਰਤ ਭਈ ਹਰੀਆਵਲੀ  
ਅੰਨ ਜੰਮਿਆ ਬੋਹਲ ਲਾਇ



The entire earth is lush  
Grain sprouted into a  
bountiful harvest





ਪਾਣੀ ਪੱਖਾ ਪੀਸਉ ਸੇਵਕ ਕੈ



Fetch water, fan, grind grain for  
the good people





ਘਰ ਤੋਰੇ ਗਊਆਂ ਮਹੀਆਂ ਨੇ  
ਦੁਧ ਘਿਉ ਦੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਲਗਾਈ ਹੈ  
ਬਾਹਰ ਬਲਦਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਜੋਗਾਂ ਨੇ  
ਖਲਕਤ ਦੀ ਅੱਗ ਬੁਝਾਈ ਹੈ

In your house, the cows and buffalos  
Yield rivers of milk and butter  
Outside, the yoked oxen  
Extinguish humankind's hunger





ਸਾਡਾ ਚਿੜੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਚੰਬਾ ਵੇ  
ਬਾਬਲ ਅਸਾਂ ਉਡ ਜਾਣਾ  
ਸਾਡੀ ਲੰਬੀ ਉਡਾਰੀ ਵੇ  
ਬਾਬਲ ਕਿਹੜੇ ਦੇਸ ਜਾਣਾ



O! We are birds and this is our tree  
Father, we will fly off  
O! Ours is a long flight  
Father, where will we land?





ਤੱਤੀ ਰੇਤ ਕੜਾਹੀਆ ਦੀ  
ਨਬਜ਼ਾਂ ਤੇ ਹੱਥ ਰੱਖ ਦੇ  
ਨਹੀਂ ਲੋੜ ਦੁਆਈਆਂ ਦੀ

The sands are piping in the roaster  
Put your hand on my pulse  
What need have I for medicine?