

THE TRUE SUBJECT

The Lockert Library
of Poetry in Translation

*For a list of other books in the Series,
see p. 135.*

The True Subject

SELECTED POEMS
OF FAIZ AHMED FAIZ

*Translated
by Naomi Lazard*

Princeton University Press
Princeton, New Jersey

Copyright © 1988 by Princeton University Press
Published by Princeton University Press, 41 William Street,
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
In the United Kingdom: Princeton University Press,
Guildford, Surrey

All Rights Reserved

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data will be
found on the last printed page of this book

ISBN 0-691-06704-x (cloth) 0-691-01438-8 (pbk.)

The Lockert Library of Poetry in Translation is supported
by a bequest from Charles Lacy Lockert (1888-1974)

This book has been composed in Linotron Bembo type
The Urdu calligraphy is by Ashfaq Ahmed

Clothbound editions of Princeton University Press books
are printed on acid-free paper, and binding materials are chosen
for strength and durability. Paperbacks, although satisfactory
for personal collections, are not usually suitable
for library rebinding

Printed in the United States of America by Princeton
University Press, Princeton, New Jersey

A ring of quotations regarding
the true subject of poetry—

Faiz Ahmed Faiz to Alun Lewis; Burma, circa 1943:

“The true subject of poetry is the loss of the beloved.”

Alun Lewis, in a letter to Robert Graves
before he was killed, Burma, 1944:

“The single poetic theme of Life and Death—the question
of what survives of the beloved.”

Robert Graves, in *The White Goddess*,
quoting Alun Lewis, 1947:

“The single poetic theme of Life and Death—the question
of what survives of the beloved.”

Naomi Lazard to Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Honolulu, 1979
(having read *The White Goddess* many years before and misquoting
the line attributed to Alun Lewis):

“The true subject of poetry is the loss of the beloved.”

IN MEMORIAM

Faiz Ahmed Faiz, 1911–1984

