

# Speak

Faiz Ahmed Faiz

Speak, for your lips are yet free;  
Speak, for your tongue is still your own;  
Your body yours alone;  
Speak, your life is still your own.

Look into the blacksmith's forge:  
The flame blazes, the iron's red;  
Locks unfasten open-mouthed,  
Every chain's link springing wide.

Speak, a little time suffices  
Before the tongue, the body die.  
Speak, the truth is still alive;  
Speak: say what you have to say.

Faiz Ahmed Faiz is a revolutionary Pakistani poet who wrote this poem to inspire people to speak for freedom and to oppose violence. Here is the poem in the original Urdu:

## Bol

bol ki lab aazaad hai.n tere  
bol zabaa.N ab tak terii hai  
teraa sutawaa.N jism hai teraa  
bol ki jaa.N ab tak terii hai  
dekh ke aaha.ngar kii dukaa.N me.n  
tu.nd hai.n shole surKh hai aahan  
khulane lage quffalo.n ke dahaane  
phailaa har ek zanjir kaa daaman  
bol ye tho.Daa waqt bahot hai  
jism-o-zabaa.N kii maut se pahale  
bol ki sach zi.ndaa hai ab tak  
bol jo kuchh kahane hai kah le