

## Misrecognition of a Calamity: Azad Kashmir, Psychiatry and the Hold of the Secular

In this paper I reflect on my recent preliminary fieldwork in Azad Kashmir, where I spent time with a Quranic healer and former freedom fighter for the Kashmiri Jihad, as well as with several Kashmiri psychiatrists working for the Pakistani military in a post-earthquake disaster management nexus. In my work with the Quranic healer, Islamic notions of the *ruh* (soul), of *al-Ghaib* (the Unseen) and significantly of *shahadat* (transformative witnessing) became central. Reflecting on the healer's frequent caution of "witnessing" suffering correctly, I interrogate how misrecognition becomes a key modality of the secular. To understand what is different about the healer's insistence on addressing the misrecognition entailed in the psychiatric endeavor and its secular folly, I first interrogate how witnessing-as-usual has long operated as a tool of liberal militarized humanitarianism within Kashmir. Parsing the differences between *shahadat* and this form of witnessing (and its attendant liberal desire for testimonial), I deliberate on the possibilities of what it means to *register* differently, to pause within the stillness of not-knowing, to paradoxically give *shahadat* to the *Ghaib*, by attuning to the nonsecular excess of the inadmissible hold of the secular within Azad Kashmir. To engage the usual modes of witnessing Azad Kashmir's visible-invisibility, I proceed to interrogate misrecognition through the resonant tradition of ethics in psychoanalysis, bringing into question the differences that undergird Pakistan's relationship to Kashmir compared to India's occupation of it. Examining the ethical possibility of an engagement and mutual aspiration to *dar-ul-Islam* structured by the Pakistani state's uncanny relationship to Kashmir, I question what becomes of this possibility when it is captured by the secular sovereignty of the state – forcing us to resituate symptom, suffering, and the pharmakon of history and cure within this larger misrecognition.