A Publication of Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta (AAAA)

ALIG Atlanta Nov, 2015

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ALIG Atlanta
Nov, 2015



From Editor's Desk

Publishing this magazine was a team effort and many deserve recognition. I would like to sincerely thank the magazine committee members: Syed Waseem, Nadeem Fatmi, Zubair Asmi, Dr. Farzana Bharmal, Dr. Shahid Rafique for their help. I owe a special gratitude to Shahid Ali for his ever ready assistance. Our President, Dr. Asif Taufiq and Vice President, Sultan Khan made this publication a priority, and provided all help. I am grateful to all the authors for submitting their manuscripts on time. We are grateful to all the sponsors and community businesses for their support. I would like to thank, Dr. Valeed Ahmad of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) for getting Urdu typing done. My daughter, Rabeea, helped me in putting together the photo collage. My wife, Shaista, supported my spending several evening and weekend hours for this project.

AAAA is publishing this edition after a gap of five years. This publication contains information on AAAA activities, future projects and priorities, articles on education & personalities, and Urdu poetry of local and guest poets, etc. Hope you would like this edition and will provide feedback for future improvements.

AAAA *Zindabad!*

With kindest regards,
Rasheed Ahmad, Ph.D.
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AAAA provides educational assistance to the needy students, helps our Alma Mater/other institutions to modernize, facilitates faculty student exchange and collaboration with institutions of higher learning, promotes Urdu language and its art forms.

AAAA is a non-profit organization with a tax-exempt status, 501(c) (3)



IT'S A JOURNEY

Almost two years ago, when I took over the Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta (AAAA) as a president I had a vision. The vision was to break the traditional mold of social club and convert it into a dynamic non- profit organization which can compete and co-exist with local charitable, educational and social organizations.

The mind set (including mine) and outlook of "How to Measure Success" had to be retrained.

The guidelines of constitution and our self-assessment test on following it had to be redesigned. Open book approach to our finances was initiated.

These deliberate and conscious changes resulted in open discussions among AAAA members and office holders. There is a new found respect for the BOT members and office holders. New channels of communications are being opened up. Roles are redefined and the realistic yearly goals will be set. We are stronger, leaner and more effective.

New emphasis on the role of students/youth has been established. A faculty and student exchange between Mercer University and Aligarh Muslim University is taking place. There is a collaboration going on between Pharmacy Departments.

Besides our Annual International Mushaira, which is synonymous with AAAA, we held youth seminars with Mercer University President and our students. Question/answer session was a unique part of it.
Mercer faculty and our youth enjoyed a picnic on Lake Lanier this year.

AAAA was also represented at various inter-faith meetings. AAAA was instrumental in establishing a Peace Garden at Mercer University Atlanta's campus.

Pro Vice Chancellor Brig. S. Ahmad Ali (Ret.) was hosted by AAAA. Discussions about financial clarity and promptness, in communication between chapters and Aligarh Muslim University was discussed and agreed upon.

Inroads between AAAA and GA-APPNA (Pakistani Physicians Association) were made. We participated in each other functions. GA-APPNA contributed towards Sir Syed Emerging Scholar Award (SSESA) scholarships. AAAA made a significant monetary contribution toward Smart Class Rooms in Aligarh Muslim University. We were represented in Gandhi Foundation and India American Culture Association (IACA) functions.

In short, we have been busy. We are looking for a few good men who will not hinder but help us. I promise 2016 will be a new dawn for Aligarh Alumni Members of Atlanta Chapter.

Asif Taufiq
Khadim-e-Ala (President)
Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta (AAAA)

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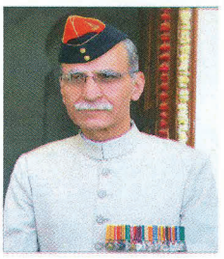
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16 October 2015

CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR PROGRESS OF MUSLIM SOCIETY IN INDIA

1. I have been studying the appalling conditions of Indian Muslims and have realized that the situation can be corrected if, instead of complaining of victimization, we take measure to address the following issues.

2. Women Education and Empowerment. We must harness the power and energy of 50% of our population. Parents must ensure complete education of their daughters. The aspect of early marriages of daughters needs to be examined.

3. Strengthening the Foundation. Our educational foundation is weak and very few of our children manage to qualify for the large number of institutions of higher learning like IITs, IIM, NDA etc. We need to establish a chain of modern secular schools with Islamic ethos and values. Towards this end the newly created 'Sir Syed Education Foundation' under the umbrella of the Centre for Promotion of Education and Cultural Advancement of Muslims, created by AMU Amendment Act of 1981, aims to establish a chain of Sir Syed Public Schools in every district of U.P. Subsequently other states will also be covered.

4. Harness the Power of IT. In the next five years all transactions whether educational, financial or social will be "on line". We must harness the powers of IT and educate our children from the very beginning. This will work to the advantage of Muslims because a computer only recognizes competence and talent. It does not recognize religion, caste, creed or colour.

5. Fellow Aligs in USA our future lies in our own hands. Let us not take shelter behind excuse of "discrimination" or rely on the crutches of "reservations". I request your help in the three key issues that have been highlighted above.

Zameer Shah
16/10/15

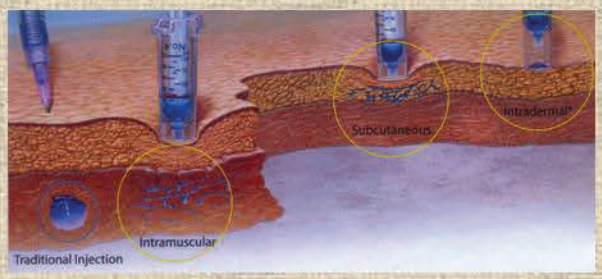
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Carrying Forward The Aligarh Movement in Atlanta…

Jalal Zuberi, M.D., Atlanta

As the Chairman, Board of Trustees of Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta (AAAA), I am delighted to share some thoughts for latest edition of AAAA magazine, on the heels of Sir Syed Day in October.

The AMU Alumni feel pride in the distinguished list of some of its more famous members, including Dr. Zakir Husain, late President of India; Mohammad Ansari, Vice President, India; Mohammad Amin Didi, President Maldives, Mansoor Ali, past Prime Minister, Bangladesh; Sheikh Abdullah, late Chief Minister Kashmir; Sahib Singh Verma, Chief Minister, Delhi; Mohsina Kidwai, Union Minister, India, as well as noted personalities in literature , arts and science such as Mr Jawaid Akhter, Indian film poet; Naseeruddin Shah, film actor; Sheheryar, poet; Professor Irfan Habib; Zafar Iqbal, famous hockey player and many others.

The Aligarh Alumni chapters started in early 50's in the newly created neighboring country, Pakistan, soon spreading into UK and other Western European nations with Alumni migration to those countries. It wasn't until 1975 that the first chapter of AAA opened in the USA in its capitol city, Washington, DC, followed by a dozen other chapters, including Atlanta. While the origins of AAAA were elaborately captured by my predecessor, Dr. Wasi Siddiqui in his message to the magazine's previous edition in 2009, I would focus on salient events since then and the challenges we face for AAAA's future in the rapidly changing world of social media today.

A memorial event, the Maulana Azad play, was organized by AAAA in May 2013 enacted by the famed Indian film actor Tom Alter, which drew large kudos and highlighted our long continued collaboration with the Indian American Cultural Association (IACA) of Atlanta .Later in June 2013, we hosted the VC of AMU, Genera (Retd.) Zameeruddin Shah, on his way to attend the AAA Federation's annual convention in Houston, seeking financial support for his Smart classroom initiative at AMU. It was certainly another proud moment for AAAA when made its contribution of $18,000 in Dec. 2013, for which I sincerely thank all contributors, many of whom are non-Aligs from our Atlanta community.

Acknowledging that keeping the annual Urdu Mushaira, as the main event and longest AAAA tradition, with its limited capacity to draw the community's older, Urdu poetry- loving crowd, the current AAAA leadership has rightly sought to diversify its image with a new programming focus to attract diverse crowd, especially the younger generation. The effort was highlighted with a youth program in Nov. 2014, with Dr. Madiha Raees and Mr. Shan Siddiqui as hosts. The event was quite successful in engaging a select group of middle, high schoolers and college students as an encouragement to pursue their dreams of higher learning and creative passions. In June 2014, we celebrated our 30th founding anniversary with a special event at Ashiana Restaurant in Global Mall. The same year Mr Hasan Kamal led the initiative for an MOU with the Mercer University for student and teacher exchange in the schools of theology and pharmacology. He organized and led the delegation comprised of Mercer U's senior VP Dr. Swindle along with other higher officials, to visit the AMU and other venues in India.

In June 2015, Mr. Kamal helped organize a dinner reception to honor Mercer U's president, along with their senior Dean, VP, chairs of academic programs, at Crystal Banquet Hall, Norcross. They facilitated a meeting of 20 select HS students from the community with university's admission counselors. This was followed by a picnic in June 2015 when Mercer U's senior VP, Dr. Swindle, along with other university officials met with the visiting AMU's pro-vice chancellor Brigadier (Retd) Syed Ahmad Ali. More recently, in October 2015, AAAA donated $1000.00 to the Glitter of Hope (GoH) foundation at their annual banquet, hosting legendary stage and TV personality Zia Mohyuddin from Pakistan.

The AAAA continued to be well represented at the Alumni Meet at Aligarh in October 2015, with attendance of two of its esteemed members, Mr. Hasan Kamal and Mr. Umer Farooq. AAAA has continued its active participation in AICA's annual Festival of India (FOI) annual celebration at the Gwinnett Civic Center, with many of its members volunteering their valued times in assigned shifts, coordinated by Dr. Rasheed Ahmad.

AAAA has valued its commitment to support higher education in providing needed scholarships to deserving students through Sir Syed Emerging Scholarship Award (SSESA) to cover GRE, TOFEL and other application fees to US universities in graduate programs in science and engineering.

AAAA's current leadership is making a much needed effort in aligning our operations with the association's revised bylaws, thanks largely to the wise counsel of Mr. Umer Farooq, past president of AAA Federation. The process is helping us redefine roles and responsibilities of office bearers, executive council as well as the BOT to ensure we are fulfilling the state's fiduciary obligations in dealing with monetary contributions.

In the end, I urge all members of AAAA to remain engaged with the younger generation with a recognition of the increasing role and demands of social media in our lives for sharing information. Please share your AMU's experience with the youth to keep the flame alive. As an Alig. I believe I speak of most of our compatriots by reciting this urdu couplet:

Jahan jayein, wahan tera fasana chherh detay haiyn

Koi Mehfil ho, tera Rang-e-mehfil yaad ata hey!

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BEAT GOES ON

S. Hasan Kamal, Atlanta

Since the inception of Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta (AAAA) in 1984, it continues to serves its community in metro-Atlanta while promoting the interest of Aligarh Muslim University.

The leaders and elders from South Asia subscribing to "Sir Syed Tahreek" have taken their turn to lead AAAA and now it has been transformed into a 501(c) organization for expanding her transparency.

While it organizes the cultural events regularly and now it has taken the challenge of improving the educational pursuit of young men and women resident in metro-Atlanta. It has assisted in development of triangular relationship between Mercer University, Aligarh Muslim University, and AAAA. Please visit the following link on YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmIepUmBgpI

AAAA hopes to strengthen this relationship in future for the benefit of all concerned. It is worth noting that Mercer University has invited the Dean of Theology from AMU for three weeks in Spring Semester of 2016 for educating students about history, belief, commonality, and differences of Islam with respect to Christianity. Mercer is offering $1,500 honorarium, roundtrip air-fare, and residence for the visitors from AMU. Likewise Dr. Loyd Allen plans to visit AMU in March, 2016 for offering similar education to AMU students.

Such relationship is new for AMU and they have no budget for meeting the expenses of visitors. They are looking toward AAAA for assistance in meeting $5,000 expected expenses.

The relationship has begun produce results. A student from AMU has been accepted with assistantship in PhD program in Psychology. Mercer also plans to hire a full time faculty to teach Islam to her students.

In days to come, we hope our metro-Atlanta students are recognized favorably by Mercer in programs like Medicine, engineering, nursing, pharmacology, etc.

AAAA with her sister organization SSESA – Sir Syed Emerging Scholars Award is planning to fund for training six students from Pakistan; two from Karachi, two from Punjab, One from frontier (Peshawar), and One from Baluchistan. These students will be trained to earn higher scores in GRE and TOFEL. If they did score high then Aligarh Associations in various cities will assist them to be admitted in PhD programs with assistantships.

So far SSESA has helped seventy (70) plus students from India, mainly from AMU to various PhD programs in USA. With your assistance to AAAA, Insha'Allah, the beat will go on in reaching and touching our young and old for the betterment of world we live in.



Proud Aligarian

Sultan Khan, Atlanta

People ask me sometimes that why I am associated with an organisation named after Aligarh. I am not an Aligarian. Never studied in the Aligarh Muslim University or even visited the place where it was founded as Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College. I have a simple answer for them. All educated Muslims, who belong to the South Asian Subcontinent today, are Aligarians. For Aligarh Muslim University is not only the name of an institution, a school, a college or a university. It is a symbol of the introduction of modern education for all Muslims of the Subcontinent. It is a metaphor for the beginning of rational thought, quest for new knowledge, an ambition to excel and a desire to serve.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan with his companions and followers established the Scientific Society, the Mohammedan Educational Conference and the college which later became a university. He wrote and published papers, edited magazines and penned books. He struggled to make the intellectually downtrodden Muslims of the 19th century to understand the need for contemporary knowledge and education. If he were not there, we wouldn't have seen Muslim scientists, modern artists and writers, successful professionals in the fields of social sciences, medicine, engineering, accountancy and journalism. He heralded the Muslim renaissance after a century of decadence, defeat at the hands of colonialists and bigotry that had crept into the Muslim mind.

In short, Aligarh is a movement and I am proud to be a part of that movement. The spirit of Aligarh is needed as much today as it was 150 years ago. It is time for the Muslim world to turn again to the modern knowledge of our times and excel in every field. I am an Aligarian and proud to be one.

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Syed M. Naseem, Ph D., Washington DC

Sir Syed Vision: My Vision never dimmed, my determination never failed, I built this institution for you and I am sure, you will carry the light of this institution far and wide, and then darkness will disappear from all around**.**

Sir Frank Noyce in his AMU convocation address on December 22, 1932 had predicted, "The Muslim heart in India is here in Aligarh and this university will never fail so long as that heart beats" (History of AMU by Nizami, page 227).

President Barack Obama once said that the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge; a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity, it is a prerequisite. Coincidently Sir Syed Ahmad Khan uttered similar words back in the 19th century. He said, "It is the categorical verdict of all the nations and great seers of the world that national progress depends on education and training". Against all these backdrops, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) continues on the right path to fulfill Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's dream of the 19th century and India's mission for educational revolution of current century. AMU has the additional historical responsibility to address the educational and cultural development of Muslims, and as provided in the AMU Act XL of 1920, as amended by AMU (Amendment) Act, 1981 (62 of 1981).

It may not be out of place to draw attention to that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, not only encouraged Muslims to go in for modern scientific education, but also advised to spread education among Muslims masses in India. The essence of Sir Syed missions or what later known as Aligarh Movement definitely supports advocates and encompasses both social and religious reforms. It discarded narrowness of ideas, orthodoxy in Islamic practices, openness and progressive awareness of Islam with changing times. Further, it also harmonizes the basic Islamic principles with modern Sciences, enabling educated Muslims to take a rational, long-term future and broadminded approach to meet the demands of fast changing modern world. Therefore, modernization of Islam is one of the most important components of Muslim reform of Sir Syed Aligarh movement.

AMU, fulfilled its obligation towards this goal during its nascent phase of expansion and afterwards. After independence, for political reasons, AMU status has been severely affected by political agendas of post-Partition Indian government, thus Muslim psyche underwent dramatic upheaval causing a measured change in their attitudes and objectives, and did virtually did not know what to do with their lives and goals. The total indifference of the Government of India towards the academic and cultural development of Muslims in general, and AMU in particular, accelerated the steep decline in the Muslim educational upliftment. Numerous national assessments and the statistics clearly brought out the extent of socio-economic backwardness of Indian Muslims. It is generally accepted, that though economic condition of Indian Muslims has also improved over the last 68 years, but not at the pace of other Indian communities. The backwardness of Indian Muslims could be attributed, to many factors: general economic milieu, educational backwardness and the psyche of Indian Muslims. Obviously, Indian Muslims suffer from a sense of despondency mostly for genuine reasons. Further, several disgraceful events in secular India, such as abrogation of AMU constitution, Shah Bano case, Babri Mosque demolition, Gujarat genocide and uprising of militant Hiduvta forces, compelled Muslims to realize the importance of Aligarh Movement, which was never for a certain era and time, but a continual process for Muslim empowerment.

In the last few decades, Aligarians are conscious of the core essence of Aligarh Movement thus are making sincere efforts for the revival of the Movement, by spreading education among Muslims. Fortunately, today India's Muslims have successfully removed regional barriers among themselves. Muslims in the south have established few important professional institutions, they all drawn the inspiration from Aligarh Movement. Each non-AMU Educational reformers, in India, have acknowledged that they are to great extent influenced and motivated by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's vision and Aligarh movement.

In almost all-major cities in India, AMU alumni Association, has been formed. Since independence, Aligarians have opened more than 350 academic institutions in various parts of India. All these organizations on its own and within means are trying towards improve education and social level of Muslim community in India. These self-motivated AMU alumni are trying their utmost to initiate and develop a self-reliant Muslim Educational System on all India bases. Various AMU Alumni Associations in the West well consonant with the vision of Aligarh Movement established multiple programs of scholarship, coaching centers, and modernization of existing schools. Aligarh Educational Endowment Fund (AEEF), MUSA Foundation (Dr. Abidullah Ghazi) is noticeable examples. The Association of Indian Muslims of America (AIM) Education Fund helped scores of Muslim schools and students in almost all states of India. In last 38 years, AIM has invested nearly one million dollars for Muslim education, philanthropic enterprises and charity in India. These projects are thriving because of the active help of several AMU alumni living in the West, who are well cognizant of Aligarh Movement spirit and provided generous financial help in establishment of AIM Gold Medal at AMU in journalism.

We the AMU alumni must thank and appreciate numerous other AMU fraternities and individuals for their pioneers and noble grassroots contribution, coordination, and facilitation in spreading education among poor Muslims who have become very backward and impoverished in the last sixty five years mainly due to lack of education. We, alumni cherish their generosity, help, encouragement, and their commitment to Sir Syed Vision of Muslim education and Movement by supporting academic plans for grass root education. However, current efforts are just a drop in the ocean. An aggressive and eloquent strategy is requisite to achieve the goal for this attitude of Indian Muslims will have to undergo a total transformation that will need real hard work. Let us, hope the university community, especially its alumni recognizes the importance of excellence in the modern era of competition rather than be besieged of issues of no consequences. We the NRI alumni are excited to hear news about AMU continued rise in stature and academic reputation, in spite of its meager financial support. We, the NRI-alumni are proud of AMU to be recognized for providing an exceptional modern education to our youths and to community.

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Down Memory Lane: My Aligarh Days of 1980-85

Rasheed Ahmad, Ph.D., Atlanta

The City of Aligarh was under curfew due to communal riots. It was early autumn of 1980. I received the hall ticket of AMU engineering entrance test. I started discussing with my parents & friends in Allahabad if I should travel to Aligarh to take the entrance test in this tense communal situation. After learning through newspaper & from radio that curfew has been relaxed, I set off by then Upper India Express train which arrived early morning at the Aligarh Junction. This was my first visit to Aligarh. There were not many passengers who got off at Aligarh. It was a scary feeling seeing heavy police presence at the platform. I hurriedly rushed out the train station and took a rickshaw to Ross Masood (R.M.) Hall of residence. During the travel to R.M. Hall, the rickshaw puller gave me a quick rundown on prevailing situation in the city and on campus. Next day, I took my entrance exam at Minto Circle High School. The chemistry paper was extremely difficult. That made me unsure if I could qualify the test.

After a month, I received my acceptance letter for B.Sc. (Engg) program. That ensued a discussion among my family members if I should leave 'Oxford of the East' i.e. Allahabad University where I was a B.Sc. student. Majority favored that I should study at AMU. I arrived on campus as an attached boarder to Mohsinul Mulk (M. M.) Hall. The campus housing was extremely overcrowded and students were living in all over the places, including dining hall, annex units and storage areas. I stayed briefly at Sir Syed South Hall with one of my high school classmate who studied in Allahabad. Every night the dreaded 'introduction squad' would round up the 'juniors' and made them answer never-ending questions and prompting them to sing/shout. I would get off from this ordeal by taking the excuse of being an attached boarder of M.M. Hall. After a week or so, someone told me the Senior Hall Monitor of M. M. Hall lives in Ziauddin Hostel and he is from Allahabad. I went to meet him and he immediately asked me to move to warden room of the Ziauddin Hostel. I lived in that room for a few months before moving to room#76. Sharma ji was the most senior occupant of that room. He was a law student and was a Tundla native. He was a very jolly senior and enjoyed talking. The dining hall food was not suiting me. So, I joined the Hindu mess and the food was great for my health.

In 1981-82, the university closed two times *sine die*. A student was killed in police firing near VC lodge. AMU was in news for all bad reasons. Syed Hamid was the Vice Chancellor. After University was closed second time, a major cleanup started in the hostels. All the rooms were sealed off and re-allotted. All overstaying students were made to vacate the room. That suddenly resulted in a lot of vacancies, especially in double and single-seated rooms. I was lucky to get a double-seated room with only two years of seniority - this room# 59 where I would stay for next three years. For first time since my joining M.M. Hall two years ago, the food serving started in the dining hall itself and quality of food improved significantly. I now moved to 'dunlop' food menu, i.e. *do roti and chaar boti*.

My engineering studies were going well. M.M. Hall had many engineering students. That was really convenient for group studies and project work. In 4th year of my engineering, I had to decide if I want to go for higher studies or look for a job. The Graduate Aptitude Test of Engineering (GATE) requirement was introduced a year ago for getting a scholarship in M. Tech courses. I decided to prepare for this exam during winter holidays. It was early December of 1984. AMU declared an early and longer winter vacation due to 1984 national general elections declared by the Indian government. Students left the campus. The hostels were totally empty. On the upper floor in Ziauddin Hostel I think there were three or four rooms where I saw students staying back. One of my classmates from Sulaiman Hall decided to stay with me in my room for a joint preparation for the GATE exam during the winter vacation.

In Allahabad, the parliamentary election fight was very glamorous due to Amitabh Bachchan taking on old guard and wily politician, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna. It was a good opportunity to see Amitabh Bachchan in person during campaigning. I got several messages from my brother asking me to come home and avail the rare opportunity of experiencing Allahabad's historic election. I kept myself away from these temptations and worked extremely hard for GATE examinations during winter vacation. In February 1985, I took the exam and scored a high percentile that resulted in call for M. Tech. admission interviews from Indian Institute of Technology (I.I.T.) Kanpur and Roorkee University. I got admission in I.I.T. Kanpur's Environmental Engineering program. That proved to be a path-breaking turn in my career.

During my stay at Aligarh, I saw a lot of changes brought up by then provost, Dr. Nafees Ahmad. A reading room and a coaching & guidance cell were established. M.M. Hall mosque foundation ceremony took place. Hall canteen was started. There were a couple students who qualified for Civil Services exams. There was a debate club where I started my first public speaking. The Hall magazine was revived and I got opportunity to serve in the editorial board.

Aligarh hostel experience prepared us for life. We learned how to talk to people, handle situations and rise to the occasion. Aligarh taught us that life is beyond books. I benefited immensely from this institution and owe a lot to that land. May AMU keep rising to new and greater heights.

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har baras ke hon din pachaas hazaar

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" I and the person who looks after an orphan and provides for him, will be in Paradise like this," putting his index and middle fingers together. (Saheeh Al Bukhari 8,73,34)



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AAAA EVENT Photographs



Picnic with Pro Vice-Chancellor S. Ahmad Ali (2015)



Pro Vice-Chancellor Brig. Syed Ahmad Ali Dinner Reception (2015)



AAAA Members with Outgoing Consul-General (2015)



AAAA , IACA Leaders with Tom Alter (2013)



Cookout at Mercer AAAA Picnic (2015)



In New Consul-General Reception (2015)





AAAA Family in Aligarh Event



AAAA Booth at Festival of India (2015)



AMU Vice-Chancellor Gen. Zameeruddin Shah Reception (2013)



AAAA and India American Culture Association (IACA) Members with Tom Alter after Maulana Azad Play (2013)



AAAA Members with Dr. Nikhat Iftikhar in International Mushaira (2013)



AAAA Members with Dr. Peerzada Qasim in International Mushaira Reception (2013)



AMU Vice-Chancellor Gen. Zameeruddin Shah with AAAA Members (2013)



AAAA Members with Dr. Iftikhar Arif in International Mushaira Reception (2011)



Mercer University President, Dr. Underwood Interaction with Community Students (2015)



Dr. Sayeed Alam and Tom Alter in Program for Maulana Azad Play (2013)



International Mushaira (2013)

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H. H. Sir Sultan Mohammed Shah, Aga Khan III and Aligarh Muslim University



H.H. Sir Aga Khan ascended to the throne of 48th Imam of Ismaili Muslims in August 1885 at an early age of 7 years. The charming Prince made his first visit to M.A.O. College at Aligarh in June 1896 at a very young age of 19 years. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan welcomed him in the historical Strachey Hall. Sir Aga Khan was impressed by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and his vision and mission. He extended his cooperation to Sir Syed and Aligarh Movement and never withdrew till his last breath. Sir Aga Khan believed that the root cause of Muslim backwardness in India was illiteracy, and therefore, education was the panacea for their ills. He thought that education should be a medium of service to others and a tool for modernization. He also considered the aim of education to be character building.

After the death of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in 1898, Sir Aga Khan III advised Mohsin al-Mulk, the Secretary of Aligarh College, to tour India to procure public opinion for the cause of Muslim University. His interest in the Aligarh College dates from the time when he was called upon to preside at an Educational Conference held at Delhi at the time of Lord Curzon's proclamation Durbar in 1902. He used the platform of Muslim Educational Conference to bring home to the Muslims, the importance of education, and Muslim University at Aligarh.

The plan for the Muslim University had by 1910 taken on the complexion and force of a national movement. The session of the All India Muslim Educational Conference at Nagpur in December, 1910 was presided by Abdullah Ibn Yusuf Ali Khan. To make a concerted drive for the collection of funds, a Central Foundation Committee with the Sir Aga Khan III as Chairman with Maulana Shaukat Ali (1873- 1938) as his Secretary; and prominent Muslims from all walks of life as members was formed at Aligarh on January 10, 1911. The Aga Khan III accompanied by Maulana Shaukat Ali, who was still in government service and had taken a year's furlough, toured throughout the country to raise funds, visiting Calcutta, Allahabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Lahore, Bombay and other places.

The response to the touching appeal of the Sir Aga Khan III was spontaneous. On his arrival at Lahore, the daily "Peace" of Punjab editorially commented and called upon the Muslims "to wake up, as the greatest personality and benefactor of Islam was in their city." The paper recalled a remark of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan prophesying the rise of a hand from the unseen world to accomplish his mission. "That personality" the paper said, "was of the Sir Aga Khan III." On that day, the "London Times" commenting upon the visit, regarded him as a great recognised leader of Muslims. Allama Shibli Nomani was with Sir Aga Khan in the delegation for fund raiser to Lahore. Shibli recited a very passionate Persian poetry to motivate the audience for fund raiser. In sum, Sir Aga Khan collected twenty-six lacs of rupees by July, 1912 in the drive and his personal contribution amounted to one lac rupees.

On October 20, 1920, the Aligarh University was granted its official Charter. On December 17th, the Aligarh Muslim University came into being. According to the act (Section III) Sir Aga Khan was appointed as Founding Pro-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University. The inaugural ceremony of University took place on the 17th December, 1920. It will remain as a historical reminder of the fact that the Sir Aga Khan gave continuity to the traditions of his ancestors as pioneers of education in Egypt and elsewhere - traditions associated with the foundation of Al-Azhar, the oldest existing university in the world, which to this day is crowded with students from all parts of the globe.

Sir Aga Khan was associated with Aligarh Movement till his last breath. He made numerous visits to Aligarh. In 1936, he suggested to establish engineering and Agriculture College in Aligarh Muslim University. His was a regular generous donor to support the Aligarh Muslim University. He delivered 20th Convocation address of Aligarh Muslim University in 1940. He served as pro-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University till April 1930. Aligarh Muslim University honored one of its great patrons by naming one of the hostel after him, “Aga Khan House” in Sir Shah Sulaiman Hall.

He wrote a number of books and papers two of which are of immense importance namely, India in Transition, about the pre-partition politics of India and The Memoirs of Aga Khan, his autobiography.

Sir Agha Khan died on July 11, 1957 and buried in Aswan, Egypt at the Mausoleum of Aga Khan. The Aga Khan was succeeded by his grandson Karim Aga Khan, as 'Aga Khan' and is the present Imam of the Ismaili Muslims

(Abridged from http://aligarhmovement.com/karwaan_e_aligarh/agha_khan)

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تم نے روٹھی ہوئی آنکھوں کو منایا بھی نہیں

جتنی شدت سے بھلاتا ہوں میں ہر روز تجھے
اتنی شدت سے تو میں نے تجھے چاہا بھی نہیں

وقتِ رخصت میری بے وقت جدائی کا سبب
تم نے پوچھا بھی نہیں میں نے بتایا بھی نہیں

مجھ سے کچھ دیر تو امید کا رشتہ رکھتے
میں نے جی بھر کے ابھی آپ کو سوچا بھی نہیں

ہم توحید کے قائل ہیں محبت میں طُرآز
دل تیرے بعد کسی اور پہ آیا بھی نہیں

غزل

لتاحیا

وہ لوگ جن کے لب پہ تبسم ہزار ہیں
ان کے دلوں میں جھانکیئے غم بے شمار ہیں

کانٹوں کے بیچ ہنس کے کہا یہ گلاب نے
ہنس لو کہ زندگانی کے دن صرف چار ہیں

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تعمیر ملک و قوم کے جو ذمہ دار ہیں

اوڑھے ہوئے لحاف پڑھی صبح کو خبر
کل رات ٹھنڈ سے جو مرے وہ بے شمار ہیں

غم دوسروں کے ان میں جھلکتے ہیں اے حیا
اشعار میرے غیروں کے آئینہ دار ہیں

غزل

سیما غزل

ہمارے سانحے ہم کو سنا رہے کیوں ہو
تم اتنا بوجھ بھی دل پر اٹھا رہے کیوں ہو

تمہاری چھاؤں میں بیٹھے اٹھا دیا تم نے
پھر اب پکار کے واپس بلا رہے کیوں ہو

جو بات سب سے چھپائی تھی عمر بھر ہم نے
وہ بات سارے جہاں کو بتا رہے کیوں ہو

جب ایک پل بھی گزرنا محال ہوتا ہے
پھر اتنی دیر بھی ہم سے جدا رہے کیوں ہو

تمہاری آنکھ میں آنسو دکھائی دیتے ہیں
تم اتنی زور سے ہنس کے چھپا رہے کیوں ہو

جو کرلیا ہے جدائی کا فیصلہ تم نے
تو یہ فضول بہانے بنا رہے کیوں ہو

نہ جانے کس لیے آنکھوں میں آ گئے آنسو
ذرا سی بات کو اتنا بڑھا رہے کیوں ہو

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یہ ان کو سچ سمجھ کر، وہ بھلا کر اپنے وعدوں کو
ستم پبلک بھی ڈھاتی ہے ستم لیڈر بھی ڈھاتے ہیں
یہ ان کو گالیاں دیکر، وہ ان کی سگرٹیں پی کر
ستم وڈّیارتھی ڈھاتے ہیں ٹیچر بھی ڈھاتے ہیں
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''وہ معزز تھے زمانے میں صاحب قراں ہوکر''

دوسرا مصرع آپ خود امتِ مسلمہ کی موجودہ صورتِ زار دیکھ کر سمجھ جایئے۔ ہم مسلمانوں کی تمام تر تباہی و پستی کی بنیادی وجہ یہی ہے کہ ہم مسلمانوں نے قرآن کی ہدایات و تعلیمات سے غفلت اختیار کر کے قرآن کو پسِ پشت ڈال دیا ہے۔ کاش علامہ اقبال کی شاعری سے ہم مسلمان بیدار ہوں، سبق سیکھیں اور قرآن کی اہمیت کو سمجھ سکیں ہے۔ وہ قرآن جو جزءِ ایمان ہے!

علامہ اقبالؔ بھی مسلمانوں کو پستی اور تباہی سے نکالنا چاہتے تھے۔ اس مقصد کے لئے انھوں نے شاعری کا میدان پسند کیا جس کو انھوں نے درجہ کمال تک پہونچایا۔ ان کے اشعار و شاعری کی تشریح مختلف زبانوں میں ہوچکی ہے۔ علامہ اقبال کے کلام، پیغام اور شاعری کی اہمیت اپنی جگہ کبھی کم نہ ہوگی۔

علامہ اقبالؔ کے چند اشعار پیش خدمت ہیں، یہ ان کا پیغام ہے ہم کمزور، گمراہ اور بکھرے ہوئے امتیوں کے

یہاں تک پہونچی کہ دونوں مصلح قوم کا مقابلہ ہونے لگا اور اختتام اس پر ہوا کہ ڈاکٹر اقبال کے برعکس سرسید انگریزوں سے بہت زیادہ مرعوب ہوگئے تھے۔ لہٰذا ان کے طور طریقوں پر بھی وہی انگریزوں کا رنگ غالب تھا۔

بہر حال میرے خیال میں اس گفتگو سے ایک بہت غلط تاثر عوام تک پہونچا۔ عین ممکن ہے کہ کہنے والے کا یہ مقصد بھی نہ ہو۔ سب سے پہلے نہایت تعظیم کے ساتھ میں یہ واضح کردوں کہ یہ دونوں حضرات ہمارے عظیم قابلِ قدر محسنِ قوم ہیں۔ ان کا احترام کرنا ہمارا فرض ہے۔ بحیثیت انسان ان میں بھی کمزوریاں ہونا لازم ہیں۔ ایسے عظیم سچے مسلم رہنماؤں کی پردہ پوشی احسن عمل ہے۔

غور کیجئے دونوں عظیم مصلح قوم ہیں۔ صرف میدان مختلف ہیں۔ سرسید احمد خاں نے حالات اور وقت کے لحاظ سے علم کی قدر و قیمت اور اسکی اہمیت اور ضرورت کو پہچانا۔ علم کو عام کرنے کے لئے سرگرداں ہوئے اور اسکے حصول کے لئے جان، مال اور وقت سب کچھ لگا دیا۔ علم کی ایک شمع روشن کردی جو وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ علم و روشنی کا مینار بن کر علی گڑھ مسلم یونیورسٹی کی شکل میں سب کے سامنے موجود ہے اور اسکی بیش بہا خدمات کسی سے پوشیدہ نہیں۔

اکثر حضرات کو اعتراض ہے کہ سید صاحب نے سر کا خطاب واپس کیوں نہ کیا؟ اس کا دوسرا پہلو یہ بھی ہوسکتا ہے کہ جن مشکل حالات میں سرسید احمد خاں نے یہ اصلاحی کام شروع کیا۔ اس وقت اپنے ہی قوم اور ملک کے اکثر حضرات ان کے سخت مخالف ہوگئے۔ بدترین فتوے اور الزامات لگانے میں کوئی کسر نہ چھوڑی۔ یہ کہنا نامناسب نہ ہوگا کہ ذاتی دشمنی پر اتر آئے تھے۔ ان حالات میں اگر وہ انگریزوں سے بھی دشمنی اور لڑائی مول لے لیتے تو وقت صرف جھگڑوں کی نذر ہوجاتا اور یونیورسٹی کا قیام ممکن نہ ہوتا۔ سرسید احمد خاں نے وقت کی قدر جانی۔ اس کو ضائع نہیں کیا۔ وہ سب کی کڑوی کسیلی سنتے رہے اور اپنا کام جاری رکھا۔ جس میں وہ بہر حال کامیاب رہے۔ انگریزی زبان جس کے اس وقت بہت حضرات مخالف تھے آج اس کی ضرورت اور اہمیت کو اچھی طرح سمجھتے ہیں۔

سرسید کی شخصیت میں ان کی ترکی ٹوپی، باریش بڑی داڑھی، یونیورسٹی کے احاطہ میں مسجد کی تعمیر۔ اسلامی اقدار اور تعلیم کی ہمت افزائی۔ لباس کے لحاظ سے یونیورسٹی یونیفارم میں کالی شیروانی اور بھوپالی کٹ کا سفید پائجامہ، یہاں تک کہ یونیورسٹی کا نام تک، اس بات کا کھلے ثبوت ہیں کہ سرسید احمد خاں کو اپنے مذہب اپنی ثقافت اور تہذیب سے دلی لگاؤ تھا۔ اسلام کانٹے چھری سے کھانا کھانے یا کوٹ پتلون اور سوٹ پہننے سے ختم نہیں ہوجاتا۔ اسی طرح دنیا کی مختلف زبانوں کا حصول کفر نہیں ہے بلکہ علم اور اعلیٰ ذوق کی نشانی ہے۔

اسی سلسلے میں یہ بہت خوش کن بات ہے آج کئی ممالک میں، مختلف شہروں میں علی گڑھ مسلم یونیورسٹی کے

''قوم کے محسن زندہ جاوید''

نعیم فاطمہ توفیق

(علیگ)

اس دنیا میں زندگی کی ابتدا سے انسان نے اپنی آزادی رائے اور فیصلہ کا فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے اپنے لئے حق یا باطل کا راستہ اپنی مرضی اور پسند سے طے کر لیتا ہے۔ حق پر چلنے والوں میں بھی بعض ایسے اشخاص پیدا ہوئے جنھوں نے اپنی زندگی انسانیت اور خدمت خلق کے لئے وقف کر دی۔ ان حضرات کے میدان عمل مختلف اور علیحدہ رہے مگر مقصد حیات ایک ہی رہا یعنی انسان کی بہبود اور بہتری۔

یہ جامع مضمون ہے۔ تاریخ میں ایسے گوہرِ نایاب لوگوں کی کمی نہیں۔ ہر قوم، ملک اور ہر دور میں ایسے قابلِ قدر لوگ پیدا ہوئے جنھوں نے زندگی مفادِ قوم کے لئے وقف کر دی اور اپنے نام تاریخ میں سنہرے الفاظ میں چھوڑ کر تاریخ کو جگمگا گئے اور آنے والی نسلوں کے لئے مشعل راہ بنے۔

اس دور کو مختصر ترین کر دیجئے۔ برصغیر ہندوستان میں مسلمانوں کے عروج کے بعد ان کے زوال پر نظر ڈالیئے۔

پستی ہی پستی کا رفرما نظر آئے گی۔ ترقی کا ہر راستہ مسدود ہندوستان میں امت مسلمہ کی بقا خطرے میں نظر آنے لگتی ہے۔ ایسے وقت میں چند ذی حس، ہوشمند اور خیر خواہ حضرات مسلمانِ ہند کو بیدار کرنے، ان میں نیا عزم اور ہمت پیدا کر کے، عملی طور پر میدان عمل میں جدوجہد کرانے اور کرنے کا بیڑا اٹھا کر قوم کے سامنے ابھر کر آئے۔ ان کا نقطۂ نظر ایک تھا مگر زاویہ اور راستے الگ الگ تھے۔ ان محسنوں میں شاعر ادیب، فلسفہ داں، سیاستداں، عالم، عالمِ دین، حکیم والی ریاست سب ہی شامل تھے۔ سب کا مقصد ایک دائرہ عمل الگ تھا۔ اس مختصر مضمون میں سب کا ذکر کرنا ممکن نہیں۔ یہ ہماری اور ہماری نسلوں کی بدقسمتی ہوگی کہ ہم اپنے محسنوں سے لاتعلق اور بے خبر رہیں۔ زندہ قومیں کبھی اپنے محسنوں کو بھلایا نہیں کرتیں۔

اب آپ اپنے دو عظیم مصلح قوم کی طرف آجایئے۔ سرسید احمد خاں اور ڈاکٹر سر محمد اقبال۔

میری حیثیت نہیں کہ میں ان عظیم محسنوں پر قلم اٹھاؤں۔ مگر ایک عجیب واقعہ نے کچھ ایسی روحانی تکلیف پہونچائی کہ آج تک اس کی کسک باقی ہے۔ واقعہ یہ ہے کہ ایک دن پاکستان کے ایک معقول چینل پر ان دونوں محسنوں کے بارے میں گفتگو ہو رہی تھی۔ اظہار خیال کرنے والے معزز معقول اور تعلیم یافتہ حضرات تھے۔ بات ہوتے ہوتے

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