



THE ALIG

AMU Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

March 3, 2008

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Sir Syed Speaks to you

"It is the categorical verdict of all the nations and great seers of the world that national progress depends on education and training (of the people)."

- Sir Syed

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Greetings!

Welcome again to the newly designed eNewsletter, "The Alig". We hope that you find the new format easier to read, more graphically interesting and easier to navigate.

As always, we welcome your opinion about the contents of the newsletter, so let us know what you think!

AMU alumni are talented and successful group of people doing things to make a difference in the lives of others. With all this talent in our midst, we have added a new item in this issue "ALUM News". We will uncover the tales of personal and professional achievements in this column.

Partner, it's time to put your modesty aside and share your story with us. Through this newsletter we have lots of opportunities to spread the news to other alumni, students, teachers and well wishers. News of accomplished alumni speaks about the quality of education at AMU, and in turn increases the value of your own degree. So don't be modest. Send us a note about a recent promotion, award, career change or accomplishment or any other news (earned another degree, moved to a new place/changed job, marriage, baby). We want to hear from as many of our alumni as possible, and so do your classmates, hostel fellows and friends.

We are very pleased with the feedback that we receive from our readers. We are thankful to you all for becoming an active participant in some of our efforts through this newsletter. Your participation has already started showing results, e.g.:

- Web search through **GoodSearch** started generating very modest but steady funds for AEEF.
- We have been informed by some alumni that for their next online shopping they will go through GoodSearch. So we hope to see some funds coming as a result of

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online shopping at over 200 stores through
GoodSearch.

- People have started enquiring about the Dollar a day donation program for AEEF.

Enjoy the current issue of THE ALIG.

Sincerely,

Editorial Team

Email: TheAlig@yahoo.com

Tel: (650) 212-ALIG

Fax: (303) 379-5606

AMU NEWS

RAIS AHMED MEMORIAL LECTURE ON "FROM NEWTON'S LAWS TO FEYNMAN'S DREAM"

ALIGARH, February 21: Eminent Scientist, Professor A N Mitra delivered the Professor Rais Ahmed Memorial Lecture on "From Newton's Laws to Feynman's Dream" at the Department of Physics, Aligarh Muslim University.

In his introductory remarks, Professor Wasi Haider said that Professor Mitra started his professional career as Reader in the Physics Department of the Aligarh Muslim University in 1955 and ending as INSA-Einstein Research Professor at the University of Delhi.

He said that Professor Mitra has subsequent training in Physics under Professor R C Majumdar and then at Cornell University (USA) under Professor Freeman Dyson and Hans Betha (Nobel Laureates).

The University Registrar Professor V K Abdul Jaleel read out the brief sketch of Professor Rais Ahmed and said that Rais Ahmed began his career as a Lecturer at Aligarh in 1948. He served as Head of the Department in Physics and Director (Academic Programmes). He hold the challenging position of Director, NCERT and Vice Chancellor of the Kashmir University between 1978-1981.

As Vice Chairman of the UGC, 1982-85, Rais Ahmad persuaded the goal of administrative improvement side by side with the number of visionary plans. His vision for India

had always at its center the common man, whose interests he could never forget whatever forum he sat in. He was conferred upon Padma Bhushan in 1984 by the Government of India.

In his presidential address, AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor P K Abdul Azis said that Professor Rais Ahmed had been one of the distinguished faculty member of the University. He was outstanding teacher, scholarly researcher with commendable vision and dynamism on higher education.

Source: [AMU Network](#)

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PROF. KC SINGHAL APPOINTED VICE CHANCELLOR, NIMS UNIVERSITY

**Syed Ziaur Rahman, MD
Aligarh**

It's heartening to know that one of the senior pharmacologists Prof K. C. Singhal has been appointed as vice-chancellor of a newly created NIMS University at Jaipur. National Institute of Medical Science (NIMS), which was established decade ago, is now a large educational campus with many medical and paramedical courses along with engineering and management. After getting the status of deemed university, NIMS under the able guidance of Prof. Singhal, will further progress in near future.

Prof. KC Singhal is an alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. He did High School and B.Sc. from AMU and then graduation and post graduation from KGMC (Lucknow). He started his career as assistant research officer in a project of ICMR in 1968 at JNMC, AMU, Aligarh. He was appointed lecturer on May 15, 1968 and then subsequently reader and professor at the Department of Pharmacology. He also held many administrative posts both in the university campus and outside the city life. He has made extensive and highly significant contributions in the field of pharmacology. He established new methods for screening Antifilarial agents using *Setaria cervi* as test organism. Being one of the foremost pioneers in the field of Indian pharmacovigilance, he founded Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SoPI). He has been founding fellow of Indian Pharmacological Society (IPS), Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) and IMA Academy of Medical Specialties. He remained member executive committee, treasurer, chief editor and president of IPS; treasurer, general secretary and president of IAN; editor (pharmacology) of APPI Journal; member editorial board of

various journals including IAN Neuroscience Annals. He is a recipient of many awards including BC Sharma Memorial Research Award of IMA, SS Parmar Foundation Award of IAN, B Mukherjee Prize of IPS, Major General SL Bhatia Oration Award of APPI, Col RN Chopra Oration Award of IPS, Platinum Jubilee Oration Award of ISCA, G Achari Oration Award of IPS, John Autian Oration of SoPI, Life Time Achievement Award of APPI, etc. Internationally, he was invited as visiting professor at University of Tennessee (Memphis, USA) and honorary consultant, WHO Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring (Uppsala, Sweden).

AMUAAs NEWS & EVENTS

MUSHTAQ AHMED YOUSUFI AS THE RECIPIENT OF 8th ANNUAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Masood Haider, Ph.D.

NEW YORK, March 3: The Aligarh Alumni Association of the New York Tri-State area announced today, the selection of Janab Mushtaq Ahmed Yousufi as the recipient of this year's 'Sir Syed Day Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Poetry, Literature, Arts or the Sciences' to be presented at the Sir Syed Day Mushaira and Dinner to be held at the Akbar Restaurant in Long Island, NY on November 1, 2008. The award includes presentation of a plaque and 1 Lakh Rupees.

Previous recipients of this award have been Dr. Moin Ahsan Jazbi (Deceased), Dr. Shanul Haq Haqqee (Deceased), Janab Intezar Husain, Dr. Obaid Siddiqi, Dr. Munibur Rahman, Mr. Shyam Benegal and Dr. Mukhtar Uddin Ahmed "Arzoo".

Yousufi Sahab is arguably one of the most outstanding satirist/humorist of Urdu of our time. It is a matter of great pride for all Aligarians that he is an Aligarh alum, having obtained his law degree from AMU just before partition. He rose to the highest positions in the field of banking in Pakistan and received numerous awards including the highest civilian awards from the President of Pakistan; Sitar-e-Imtiaz and Hilal-e-Imtiaz.

Ibne Insha, himself a respected humorist has said 'If ever we could give a name to the literary humor of our time, then the only name that comes to mind is that of Yousufi'. Another contemporary, Dr. Zaheer Fatehpuri has this to say about Yousufi 'We are living in the Yousufi era of Urdu literary humor'

Yousufi Sahab's first article '*Sinf-e-Laagar*' was published in the monthly *Savera*, Lahore. The Yousufi era, however, started with the publication of his first book '*Chirag Talay*' in 1961 (11 editions) followed by '*Khakam Badahan*' (14 editions), '*Zarguzasht*' and '*Aab-i-gum*'.

The following two English translation excerpts from his works, taken from Wikipedia give a flavor of his style.

'My ancestors were Yusufzai Pathans in Jaipur. When my father visited Peshawar and introduced himself as Pathan Yusufzai, everyone laughed. He returned to Jaipur and stopped calling himself a Yusufzai or a Pathan. However, he gave the family a new name - Yousufi'.

'For us parents, I pointed out the advantage of having a dog by submitting that after all it was an Englishman's dog, even an illiterate person in our country gives an English name to a dog and always calls him or reprimands him in English; therefore it was obvious that because of this dog our children would learn English'.

ALUM NEWS

Dr. Mohsin Raza to represent Oman at 4th International Trauma and Emergency Medicine Conference



MUSCAT, Feb. 19 - Oman's growing expertise in abdominal injury management will be showcased before an august gathering of leading surgeons from around the world, due to take place in Doha early next week. The 4th International Trauma & Emergency Medicine Conference, which opens on February 24, will feature a distinguished line-up of international speakers, many of them authorities in their own right. The event will be opened under the auspices of the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Health Authority in Qatar, which doubles as Qatar's health ministry.

Representing Oman at the four-day forum is Dr. Mohsin Raza, a senior surgeon at Khoula Hospital who will be presenting

four academic papers of excellence detailing some of the quality work being done in abdominal injury management at the hospital's General Surgery Department. Key among these papers is a presentation focusing on a new method of 'Wound Irrigation in Vacuum Assisted Dressings'. Known as the 'Khoula Hospital Method', this innovative technique was introduced by Dr. Raza a couple of years ago in successfully treating patients, such as diabetics, with chronic and long-standing wounds. Dr. Raza's paper will cover 135 cases that have been successfully treated at Khoula Hospital over the past two years through the use of this technique.

Equally significant is a paper that highlights the commendable strides made by Khoula Hospital in the area of Non-Operative Management of Abdominal Injuries. The paper will document 830 trauma cases with abdominal injuries that were successfully treated through non-operative management. Yet another paper to be presented by Dr. Raza at the Qatar conference will look at diagnostic dilemmas linked to the rupture of the diaphragm. The paper will discuss 62 cases centering on this issue, which were handled at Khoula Hospital.

Finally, a fourth paper will spotlight Khoula's experience in 'Damage Control' surgery in Obstetrics-Gynecology and General Surgery Practice. This approach has been used in successfully treating a large number of patients. A report on 50 of these cases handled over the past five years will be featured in this presentation. All four papers aim to highlight the benefits associated with these respective approaches, in the form of shorter treatment schedules that consequently result in time savings for the patient and, ultimately, cost savings to the hospital.

Significantly, Dr. Raza is the only speaker invited to present as many as four papers during the conference, reflecting his standing as a well-accomplished surgeon, as well as Khoula's growing distinction in the region as a premier trauma care institution. Dr. Raza joined MoH in 1980 as a specialist in General Surgery.

Source: Adopted from Oman Observer

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DR. ABDULLAH PARTICIPATED IN REPUBLIC DAY MUSHAIRA IN DUBAI



The Indian Republic Day Kavi Sammelan & Mushaira Dubai 2008 brought together leading Hindi and Urdu poets from India as well as poets from Pakistan and USA in addition to local poets to celebrate the rich literary heritage of India.

The event held on Thursday, January 31st at the Shaikh Rashid Auditorium, Dubai.

Mushaira started with Emirati 'shayar' Ahmad Al Amiri, who surprised and impressed the audience with his knowledge of Urdu and his love for the language and India.

The galaxy of well known names that followed presented a variety of compositions on diverse subjects ranging from romantic Ghazals and light hearted takes on modern Indian society to stirring patriotic verse, political satire and profound observations on human relationships and situations.

The event attracted a full house with many people standing in the aisles. The audience was knowledgeable and involved, heartily applauding good compositions and making their disapproval equally clear.

They particularly enjoyed Shyama Singh Saba and Pakistani poet Tariq Subzwari's compositions presented in Tarranum, Popular Meeruti's comic verse and the emotional Nazm's by Dr. Abdullah of Washington DC, USA. The Mushaira continued well past midnight.

Source: Adopted with modification from Gulf News

AEEF NEWS

The Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) has been established for the enhancement and modernization of education, and improvement of educational opportunities for the underprivileged sections of the Indian society. This should result, in the long run, in economically uplifting these groups and helping them to become productive members of the Indian society.

Over the last decade, India has undergone tremendous economic growth, fueled by the Information Technology revolution supported by its large pool of college graduates. Unfortunately, a large section of the Indian society has been

left behind primarily because of lack of educational opportunities, especially in Science and Technology. The digital divide is continuing to widen for this section of the society. A glaring example of a component of this underprivileged section of the society is the Muslim community. The fact that Muslims are educationally the most backward community in India was acknowledged for the first time by the government in 1986, vide Program of Action - New Education Policy and again in 2006 through Sachar Committee (appointed by the Prime Minister of India) report. Unless major efforts are undertaken to boost the educational standards, the economic backwardness of this underprivileged group would become a drag on the economic growth of the country. Moreover, for its own prosperity as well as to play its positive role fully in this globalizing economy India needs to tap every ounce of its manpower talent.

The AEEF is being organized as a non-profit, secular, non-partisan, and non-political organization, under Section 501(c) (3) of IRS, to serve the educational needs of the underprivileged communities in India. The AEEF will fund a broad variety of educational projects, ranging from high school to post-graduate levels, including areas such as Information Technology, Biotechnology, Medicine, Management and Business Administration, Mass Communication, Basic Sciences, Social Sciences, and Law with emphasis on areas, which will accelerate the flow of the young generation into the economic mainstream.

Individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations are requested to donate generously to this humanitarian, educational cause.

Visit us at : [AEEF](#) or call (650) 969-AEEF

Tax Exempt Status

Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) was granted a tax-exempt status, 501(c) (3) designation, by the United States IRS in 2005, Tax ID # 20-1000034. Donations to AEEF are tax deductible in USA as allowed under the law.

Donations

Your support of AEEF is crucial to its efforts to serve the educational needs of the underprivileged communities in India. Make a pledge to donate today. Together we can make a difference.

How to Give?

There Are Many Ways You Can Help.

There are many quick and easy ways to make a gift to AEEF.

AEEF accepts gifts by checks, credit cards, stocks, and electronic fund transfers.

Many of these gifts offer tax advantages to the donor.

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Please make your check payable to "AEEF" and mail to:

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849 Independence Avenue, Suite A
Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
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Giving online using your credit card is fast, easy and secure. You can donate online using your credit card (one time or on ongoing basis) by clicking on the link below.

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EFT's offer a fast, convenient way to contribute to AEEF on an ongoing basis. With your permission, AEEF will automatically withdraw an amount you specify from your checking account around the 1st of each month.

Your monthly bank statement will provide you with a record of each transaction and, for tax purposes; you will also receive a receipt from the AEEF each January showing your entire year's contribution.

You may cancel or change your EFT authorization at any time simply by contacting us.

To begin an EFT, please contact us:

Email: AEEFund@yahoo.com

Tel: (650) 969-AEEF

Gifts of Stocks

These gifts can be donated via registered mail or electronic

transfer to AEEF. A letter of intent stating the purpose of your gift, the number of shares and the name of the stock are required.

Please contact us to receive a copy of letter of intent that you can fill and fax or mail to AEEF office.

Matching Gifts

Many employers in USA sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, please check with the HR department.

If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. We will do the rest. The impact of your gift to our school may be doubled or possibly tripled! Some companies match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses.

Thanks for your support.

SEE ALSO:

Giving Back: Aligarh Endowment (Silconeer)

- **Aligs meet in US, launch Aligarh Education Endowment Fund**

- **A dollar-a-day turns Ena's fortune (Can we do the same?)**

What if Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

www.GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy,

ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting AEEF.

Just go to www.GoodSearch.com and be sure to enter [Aligarh Education Endowment Fund] as the charity you want to support. The more people who use this site, the more money will go to support educational projects. So please spread the word to your friends and family. Please download the Good Search Toolbar on your computer and encourage the family members use it is they would use any other search engine.

So start raising money for Aligarh Education Endowment Fund right now just by searching the Internet or shopping online with GoodSearch - powered by Yahoo! To search Click on the link below.

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Do not underestimate the power of numbers. Please click on the link above to see the revenues generated so far.

Here's an example of how much AEEF can earn:
5,000 People doing 4 searches/day for one year can raise \$73,000*. We already have over 5000 people who are receiving this Newsletter. The more people use GoodSearch, the more money will be directed towards AEEF. The sky is the limit!

***Revenues generated through online shopping are additional.**

FEATURE ARTICLE

A DAY IN AUGUST 1947

Dr. Zakir Husain

This is a letter by Dr. Zakir Husain to his venerable friend, Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi. Dr Zakir Husain (1897-1969) later became president of India. In April 1959 when the letter was written he was the governor of Bihar. The original, which was in Urdu, is preserved in the Maulana Azad Library at Aligarh Muslim University. It has also been reproduced in Shahid-i-Justuju by Ziaul Hasan Faruqi and Zakir Sahib Ke Khat edited by Mukhtaruddin Ahmad. This is a translation by Prof C.M. Naim, Professor Emeritus, South Asian Languages & Civilizations, University of Chicago.

You asked me to tell you what happened at the Jalandhar

railway station in 1947. What can I say? To put it briefly, it was an opportunity to escape from life's prison, but it too came to nothing.

I can't recall the exact dates but it was in August. Some days after independence had been proclaimed, I decided to go to Kashmir. I had not been feeling well for several weeks. My heart was not in my work anymore. I couldn't sleep well at night. The doctors told me that I needed complete rest for some days. But how could I rest? Where would I find it? Several friends offered to make some arrangement for me, but I didn't feel like troubling them. Finally, a friend wrote from Kashmir that he had rented a houseboat for me and that I'd have total privacy on it if I could bring a servant along. The emphasis on privacy was because, at the time, I had become something of a misanthrope due to my ill health. And so it was that I set out for Kashmir accompanied by only an old servant.

The Delhi railway station appeared rather deserted when we arrived there. A friend from Jamia had come along to see me off and he went about making enquiries. On coming back, he said, "They say your train will terminate at Jalandhar. There is some trouble beyond it." I replied that in that case I'd stay in Jalandhar for a few days since I knew some people there. The poor man, not wishing to argue with me, let me continue with my journey.

When the train left the station, I was alone in my compartment. I spread out my bedroll and lay down with a book. It was broad day light but I soon dozed off. A few stations before Ludhiana some armed men entered my compartment. They were somewhat surprised when they saw me. As they talked among themselves, I began to feel a little disconcerted. Then, at another station, a Muslim gentleman I knew came over from his compartment next door. That good man was so drunk that I couldn't bear to talk to him, but still he sat down beside me. When he found out that I was going to Kashmir, he said, "There is no way you can go beyond Jalandhar. You must get down there and stay with me. My mother makes excellent Urad daal. I'll have her make it for you. We'll also invite the local leader of the Muslim League - the two of you will argue and I'll listen and enjoy." His proposal didn't make me very happy, but a Hindu co-traveller who had overheard him, said, "If you wish to go to Kashmir you should change trains at Ludhiana. There is a train from there to Ferozepur. It leaves around this time."

At Ludhiana I got down from the train. The scene around me was very disturbing. A milling crowd. Harassed and bewildered

faces. Many persons armed with pistols, others with swords. I walked across the bridge and went into the station master's office. When asked about the train to Ferozepur, the good man nonchalantly replied. "It has been cancelled starting today. You should go to Jalandhar. They'll take care of you there." When he spoke, he knew what was happening in Jalandhar, and how Muslim passengers were being killed at the railway station. Only much later did I realize what he had meant when he said that they would take care of me at Jalandhar.

Feeling very disappointed, I returned to my train. My Muslim friend was standing outside his compartment, drinking something. He rushed over to me and said, "I'm not feeling well. Dysentery. I just took my medicine." Now I discovered that he had with him his son, a boy of about twelve. When the train started, he left the boy in his compartment and joined me in mine. He then went on babbling about God knows what.

[Read Full Article](#)

OPINION

The Big Question before the Community

Khalid Waheed Falahi
Aligarh

For the last many years, I have been feeling perplexed and pondering over as to why Indian Muslims have failed to establish an educational institution of international or national repute after the AMU (MAO College), whereas several other minorities like Christians and Jains have established a large network of acclaimed schools, colleges, Medical and Engineering institutes. Muslims in the whole of North India have not been able to establish even a school comparable to other reputed counterparts in the country.

AMU as well as other institutions of our country have produced quite a few qualified and able Muslims who have made a mark and proved as an asset in the country as well as abroad. But alas! In spite of their proven competence and high achievements in the field of science, technology, industry and politics, Muslims as individuals or as community have failed to emulate the example set up by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

more than a century and quarter ago, in spite of the realization of the dire requirement of educational institutions to uplift the community. Syed Ahmad Khan was not a known as Sir Syed as he is revered today before founding the MAO College. He was an ordinary man like us and not a super human being. The only difference that keeps Sir Syed apart and at high pedestal from the rest was his extraordinary vision, farsightedness, determination, diligence and single minded devotion to cause which he had undertaken. But alas! Even the Aligarh Movement, launched by Sir Syed is now defunct and practically dead.

The big question now is that isn't there anyone, among two hundred million Muslims of India, who has the same qualities of head and heart as the great Sir Syed had more than a century ago?



Aligarh Numaish 2008

Mohd. Kashif Razi

The decades old "Aligarh Numaish", which is also counted by some among the AMU traditions, came to an official end on 22 Feb, after running successfully for about 25 days. But one thing was quite clear, the enthusiasm and the charm were missing among the students to a greater extent, the reason might be "no hall dinner".

The aroma in the air was same but the fragrance was different. The "Fawwara" which once used to be a meeting place for students, gave a deserted look, except some proctorial monitors you could hardly find any Sherwani clad person. The students seem to be more interested in "dance nights" rather than the "Mushaira". The 'Jhanda" and "Nazeer' hotels, stands still trying to lure the customers, the Krisnanjali, Hullad Bazaar etc were as such.

The main attractions this year were, helicopter ride of 15 min just for Rs 1800/ and the auto expo.

The old Aligs might be knowing better the taste of "Halwa Pratha", but the present generation is little interested cheers to Pepsi -Coke culture. I am very much constrained about the dying Aligarh cultures, hoping the same from you.

In case you want to see some pix of the Aligarh Numaish

2008, click on the link below:

[Aligarh Numaish Photographs](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Surgery Update

8th - 10th March 2008

The scientific progame will include CME on 8th March, Workshop on 9th March and CME cum Anastomotic Workshop on 10th March 2008.

The address of the Organizing secretary:

Prof. Tariq Mansoor

Chairman

Department of General Surgery

Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College

Aligarh Muslim University

Aligarh 202002, India

E-mail: tariqmansoor1@rediffmail.com

Empowerment of Marginalized Groups, State, Law & Civil Society: Predicaments & Premonitions

26th - 27th April 2008

Under

The Aegis of Dr. Ambedkar Chair of Legal Studies & Research,

Department of Law,

A.M.U., Aligarh - 202 002

Shabbir Mohammad

Progame Director

Email: mshabbir100@hotmail.com

World Summit of AMU Alumni at Aligarh

October 2008

Please mark your calendars. More details will follow.

BOOK REVIEWS

TABIYYIN-AL-KALAAM FI TAFSEER-O-TAURAH WAL INJEEL ALA MALATUL-ISLAM

Author: Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

Reviewed by: Ali Usman Qasmi

Available at: Maktebai Akhuwat, Lahore, Pakistan

Pages: 419

Cost: Rs. 990

Garcin de Tassy, eminent French Orientalist of the 19th century, commenting on Syed Ahmad Khan's tafsir of the Bible observed that this work would earn the wrath of conservative ulema and will not be appreciated by the Christian scholars either.



Syed Ahmad Khan wrote his commentary of both the Old and New Testament at a time when the world around him had changed rapidly enough to induce a radical transformation in his religious ideas. From a self-proclaimed 'Wahabi' he had become a 'Neo-Mutazilite' bent upon opening up new avenues of thought in the stagnant field of Muslim scholasticism so as to make way for a rational interpretation of Islam that could be in conformity with the dictates of new developments in the fields of science and philosophy.

At the same time he was much concerned about the burgeoning gap of mistrust between Indian Muslims and their Christian rulers. He tried to bridge this gap by actively advocating loyalty to the British government and by writing tracts that highlighted the common ground between Islam and Christianity.

One such tract was on the issue of permissibility for Muslims to dine with Christians. It was convincingly annotated with references from Quran, Hadith and Fiqh to prove that such a practice was not only permitted in Islam but was also deemed to be desirable. If this much was not enough to mitigate Muslim apprehensions in their dealings with Christians - whether rulers, missionaries or converts - Syed Ahmad Khan took up the gigantic project of writing the first, if not the only, Muslim commentary of the Bible in modern times to dispel

misunderstandings prevalent among adherents of both religions regarding each other's religious doctrines.

Writing a commentary of the Bible was by no means an easy job. In the case of Sir Syed, the task was made even more difficult due to his lack of expertise in classical and modern European languages. He made up for his deficiencies in Latin, Hebrew and English by employing scholars well-versed in these languages. With the presence of various missionary groups operating in North India, there was no dearth of literature on Christianity and the history of the Church. While most of it was available in European languages, the rest had been translated into the various vernaculars and distributed across India.

Sir Syed did not, however, restrict himself to the translated works. With the help of his team of scholars, he made an effort to read and understand the Biblical texts in their original language. In order to do this he had to invest a lot of his time, money and creative energy on the project. The extraordinary effort that he made is clearly reflected in the book.

The first of the three volumes of his commentary of Bible focuses exclusively on various aspects regarding the authenticity of the sacred text and a comparison of Christian views on this issue. According to him, Muslims believe that the Bible is a divinely inspired book. The notion of a credible, if not authentic, version of Old and New Testament helped Syed Ahmad to account for the Quranic verses that repeatedly allude to previous divine texts in order to convince the Christians and Jews of Arabia of the genuineness of Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) claims.

One should give credit to Muhammad Ali Fariq of Makteba-i-Akhuwat for undertaking the nonprofit venture of bringing out a reprint of Syed's tafsir. The book has never been published in Pakistan before. It is most surprising to note that the collected works of Syed Ahmad Khan, so assiduously compiled by Muhammad Ismail Panipati and published under the aegis of Majlis-i-Tariqqi-i-Adab in 16 volumes, did not include this book. In his introduction to this new edition of the tafsir, Muhammad Ali Fariq tells us that the above mentioned collected works of Sir Syed did contain some parts of this tafsir in one of its volumes. But what prevented Ismail Panipati or Imtiaz Ali Taj, who was at the time the director of the Majlis, from publishing the complete tafsir is not known to us. Another important aspect of this reprint is the inclusion of an English translation of Syed's commentary which was part of an earlier edition. The English version makes this book accessible to a much wider range of readers.

Source: Taken from Dawn

OBITUARY

PROF. SOHAIL AHMAD

**Prof. Abbas Ali Mahdi
Lucknow**

ALIGARH, March 1: I wish to share very sad news. Prof. Sohail Ahmad, formerly Professor & Chairman, Department of Microbiology, J.N. Medical College, AMU, expired last night. He died peacefully in his sleep at about 3 am today. He leaves behind his family which includes his wife, Prof. Shad Bano Ahmad, his daughter Soophia and son Saif.

Prof. Sohail sahib had an extraordinary personality. Although, I have the fortune of knowing him since my early childhood, as he was a very close and dear friend of my father, however, I came to know him more closely, between 1985-1990, when I did my M.Phil. and Ph.D. under his guidance. At the moment when I am emotionally surcharged lots of memories are coming to my mind. I will be writing about him after sometime. At this hour I can just pray to Allah to grant him an exalted place and give courage to respected Mrs. Ahmad, Soofia and Saif to bear this great loss.



INAM-UL HAQ

**Zafar Jafri
Los Angeles, CA**

Inam-ul Haq, a close friend of mine died on Sunday, March 2nd in Karachi, Pakistan. Inam did his B.Sc. Engg. (Electrical) from Aligarh Muslim University in 1951. He migrated to Pakistan and joined Sind government polytechnic and retired as director of technical education, Sind. Inam did his MS from Oklahoma University on study leave. During his service, he was principal at Karachi site, Karachi Landhi, interior of Sind, Lahore and Rawalpindi/Islamabad polytechnics. His students are spread all over Pakistan, a rare achievement.

Inam is survived with four sons and one daughter, all happily married and settled in Karachi.

May Allah forgive his sins and grant him paradise and give patience to family and friends. Amin. We all will miss

him.

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TRIBUTE TO PROF. VIRENDRA SINGH REKHI

**Prof. Humayun Murad
Formerly, Professor of Zoology
Ex President, AMU Staff Association.
Great Falls, Virginia
U.S.A.**

The news of sad demise of Prof. V.S. Rekhi came as a great shock to us. We are further saddened that the news of his passing away came to us after about two weeks. May God rest his soul in peace.

Prof. V.S. Rekhi served the AMU for over 30 years. During this period he served the Law Faculty as Head and Dean on several occasions. He also held the coveted assignment as Legal Remembrance of the university. He was keenly and actively involved in the affairs of the university. He was a dedicated teacher and researcher and was held in high esteem by his colleagues. He was loved and respected by his students. Prof. Rekhi was elected unopposed as President of the AMU Staff Association, which establishes his popularity.

My association with Prof. Rekhi began soon after my appointment as Lecturer. We lived in close neighborhood in Janakpuri on the Marris Road. Soon we developed intimate relationship, which got strengthened with the passage of time. Prof Rekhi was fond of chewing Paan (beetle), and each night after supper he and his wife used to walk to the Marris Road Chauraha to enjoy Paan, and quite often on their way back they used to drop at our residence to chat and gossip. Prof. Rekhi had wide circle of friends and had liking for good food and we used to have frequent get together. He has a loving son, whom every body called 'Bhaiya', and like many of Prof. Rekhi's friend, we didn't know his real name until he grew up.

I can recall the communal riot of 1971 which engulfed Aligarh. My house was vulnerable as it was in the Hindu locality. Incidentally, during the first two days of rioting I was out of Aligarh, attending a Conference in Ujjain. My wife and two small kids were alone in the house. During my absence and also after I had returned, Prof. Rekhi stood solidly with us. He had good contact with District Administration, that also helped, and we never felt unsafe in his neighborhood. Much later I built my house on the Medical College Road and Prof. Rekhi built his own in Durgahari on the Marris Road. We were

no more neighbors but our relationship continued.

Prof. Rekhi was always very supporting and held me as his younger brother. While I was discharging my duties as Controller of Examinations and Admissions in a very difficult period, Prof. Rekhi extended his full support and cooperation, besides advising me on crucial matters.

Having retired in 1997, Prof. Rekhi joined National Law Institute, Bhopal as its Director. Later he moved to Delhi and settled there, but whenever he could find time to come to Aligarh we used the opportunity to revive old memories.

With the sad demise of Prof. Virendra Singh Rekhi, AMU has lost an honored son. For us we have lost a personal friend and loving and respected brother. We will miss him for ever. In this period of sorrow and grief we extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife and son, Akshoy 'Bhaiya'.

MAIL BOX

Dear Editor: ASAK

Your commitment to the Aligarh cause is worth applauding. Your venture into eNewsletter "The Alig" is remarkable. It was long overdue and you did it with complete professionalism. It is amazing to see three eye-catching issues in a short span of time. The articles in "The Alig" are informative and generate a sense of nostalgia. Keep up the good work.

Syed Rafat Husain, Ph.D.
Washington DC

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Dear Editor,

ASAK, I feel proud to be part of this great center of learning and I owe debt to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the best way to pay back is to salute Sir Syed and offer our duties with utmost dedication and sincerity. I appreciate in particular the efforts of our esteemed Vice Chancellor Professor P. K. Abdul Azis who has setup a new academic dawn, to rejuvenate professional work culture and to dream and transform this institution into academic excellence hub and to maintain its rich cultural tradition. His passion for science is going to bring laurels not only to our university but also to our nation.

I am also extremely thankful to "THE ALIG", eNewsletter of AMU Alumni Association to keep us well -informed about the day to day activities and achievements of our campus.

Khuda Hafiz

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Farukh Arjmand
Reader
Department of Chemistry
AMU, Aligarh

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Dear Editorial Team Members

I was delighted to read the Newsletter which is quite informative, updated and unbiased. Congratulations. Please keep it an ever improving journal. I admire your commitment to spare time to bring out such an attractive eNewsletter. You can start a column on IMPORTANT ACHIVEMENTS OF YOUTH IN THE WORLD which might inspire other young minds.

With Best Wishes

Prof. H.S.A. Yahya
Dept. of Wildlife Sciences, AMU
Presently at Montreal, Canada

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February 24, 2008

Dear Sir

It was an emotional moment to receive a forwarded copy of The Alig. It took me back to those sweet memorable days. I don't miss any opportunity to grab any news coming of AMU so I want to be a subscriber, guide me how I can.

Regards,

Mohammad Moinul Haque
UAE

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February 23, 2008

Dear Sir,

I have gone through the latest issue of THE ALIG, which is full of information about AMU. Being an alumnus of AMU, I find it extremely interesting. I congratulate the team that has brought out such an important newsletter.

I shall be grateful if you could kindly include me in the Newsletter's permanent mailing list.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Zahid H. Khan
Professor of Physics
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi

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February 20, 2008

It is pleasure to read such a nicely organized informative newsletter. I read and delete hundreds of emails every day, most of them are related to AMU. But they never give you sense of that touch or belonging even though you are part of network. But this one really touches the bottom of my heart.

Congrats for bringing this out.

Najmul Ansari
Dhahran, KSA

We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by expressing their opinion on newsworthy topics to "The Alig". We reserve the right to condense and/or edit them for clarity and space. We don't use anonymous letters. Because of the heavy volume of mail received at The Alig, we request writers to limit to one letter per issue. No attachments please.

We hope you enjoyed the newsletter and encourage you to share it with your friends.

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NOTE: If you have more than one e-mail address in our database, you will have to unsubscribe from all of them. Otherwise, the address that you did not unsubscribe will continue to receive messages.

Sincerely,

AMU Alumni Association
Tel: (650) 212-ALIG

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