

Father of The Nation: Qaid-e-Azam (some glimpses)

December 25, 1876: Muhammad Ali Jinnah is born in Karachi

Father's Name: Jinnah Bhai Poonja

Mother's Name: Mithi Bai

Jinnah Bhai and Mithi Bai got married in 1874

Sisters of Qaid-e-Azam: Rehmat, Mariam, Fatima and Sheerin

Brothers: Ahmed Ali, Bandey Ali

1882: Home tuition begins

1886: Admitted to Sind Madrasa tul Islam, Karachi. This high school to this day displays a bold inscription, "ENTER TO LEARN, GO FORTH TO SERVE."

1886 to 1892: Jinnah became an excellent young cricketer and captained the team. He also became an expert rider of horses. He loved horses because of their majestic stance, running with their heads high and chests prominent.

1890: The 14-year-old M.A. Jinnah saw a lawyer wearing a black gown in a court of law. He told his father: "Baba I will become a barrister."

1892: Frederick Croft, a British businessman and friend of Jinnah Bhai Poonja strongly advises that the junior Jinnah be sent to England for education.

1893: Jinnah played the role of Romeo for the Shakespeare drama company in London.

1894: M.A. Jinnah becomes a Barrister at Law at the age of 18. This stands as a record to this day.

1894: Jinnah starts using his world famous monocle for reading.

1896: M.A. Jinnah returns to Karachi

1897 to 1900: Strives to establish his law practice in Bombay.

1900: He is appointed Presidency Magistrate in Bombay. He calls his younger sister, Fatima, from Karachi to Bombay to complete her education in a convent.

1903: Appointed legal advisor to the Bombay Municipal Corporation.

1906: At the age of 30, M.A. Jinnah becomes secretary to the "Grand Old Man of India", Dada Bhai Norojee of the All India Congress.

Journey to political heights:

1909: Jinnah is elected to represent in the Legislative Council of the Viceroy.

1913: Elected again for the Council 1913 towards London with the great Indian Leader Gopal Krishna Gokhle.

1913: Joins the Muslim League upon returning to India.

1915: Since 1913, Jinnah held the unique position of being a member of the All India Muslim League and The Legislative Council of the British government. He is considered the most respectable citizen of India at the age of 39.

1918: Jinnah married the "Flower of Bombay," Rattan Bai Dinshaw. The common interest between the 41-year-old groom and 18-year-old bride-was their fondness of horse riding. The Parsi Rattan Bai embraced Islam before marriage.

1919: The only child of M.A. Jinnah is born on Aug. 15-Dina Jinnah.

1920: Mohandas K. Gandhi renames the working committee of the Congress, from Home Rule league to the Hindi "Suraj Sabha." At this juncture, Jinnah resigns from the Home Rule League.

1920's: Gandhi promotes Hindu fundamentalism and gains cheap popularity because of his antics. He declares, "If Muslims or Christians slaughter one cow, we will shed rivers of blood in India!"

1929: Mrs. Ratti Jinnah's untimely demise possibly due to Typhoid fever in Bombay. She was only 29.

1931: M. A. Jinnah is saddened by his wife's death. Disheartened by the politics of hatred propagated by Gandhi and Congress, Jinnah moves to London.

1931: Round Table Conference in London. Chaudhry Rehmat Ali tells Jinnah he will not accept crucifixion at the hands of Hindu extremists. Allama Iqbal present at the conference convinces M. A. Jinnah that Indian Muslims must have their independent homeland.

1933: Allama Iqbal writes to M.A. Jinnah "Muslims of India are looking up to you to lead them," Liaquat Ali Khan tells M.A. Jinnah "Indian Muslims need you."

1934: M.A. Jinnah quits his blooming practice in London and returns to his beautiful mansion in Mount Pleasant Road, Bombay.

1936: Jinnah establishes the All India Muslim Students Federation

1937: M.A. Jinnah has breathed a new life in to the Muslim League.

May 29, 1937: Allama Iqbal writes to Jinnah " The only safe guard for Muslims is to achieve a free home land for them. Don't you think the time has come for this demand? A great storm is nearing and Muslims deserve to look up to you to captain their ship."

1937: Jinnah declares "Even if we have to go through fire and blood we must march on to freedom, otherwise, we will forever remain poor, weak, illiterate, and slaves of Hindus.

Oct. 8, 1938: Karachi the British have unleashed wolves on the Arabs in Palestine.

1938: Bombay, 3 a.m., August 14. A Hindu journalist asks Jinnah why he was staying awake so late? Jinnah responded, "I am awake because my nation is sleeping."

1938: Jinnah visits Allahabad. He ruled the hearts and minds of students. They crowded the Allahabad railway station in multitudes. The railway traffic had to be stopped for 2 hours.

Mar.23, 1940: Meeting of All India Muslim League at Lahore. The Lahore Resolution (later on called the Pakistan Resolution) was passed.

1940: Everyone starts calling M.A. Jinnah as "Qaid-e-Azam" The great Leader.

1940: Qaid-e-Azam introduces his English newspaper "DAWN" to fight anti-Muslim propaganda.

July 26, 1943: A 30-year-old tall and stout man, Rafiq Sabir tried to assassinate Qaid-e-Azam with a dagger. The 67-year-old slender Jinnah calmly grabbed his wrist. His staff arrested the attacker. M. A. Jinnah proceeds with his work as if nothing happened.

1943: British author Beverly Nichols interviews a Jinnah in Bombay. She writes "Dialogue with a Giant-M.A. Jinnah is the most prominent personality in Asia."

1945: The Working Committee of the Muslim League requests Quaid-e-Azam to accept becoming the Life President of the League. Qaid-e-Azam declines insisting on yearly elections.

Jan. 1946: Muslim League registers a resounding victory in general elections.

June 3, 1947: Qaid-e-Azam gives the great news of freedom to Indian Muslims. From All India Radio, Delhi he exclaims "Pakistan Zindabad!"

Aug. 7, 1947: Jinnah flies from Delhi to Karachi.

Aug. 14, 1947: Hindu fundamentalist partly RSS tries to assassinate Qaid-e-Azam as he is driven to the Government House. For some reason the bomb thrown on his car fails to explode. Qaid-e-Azam declines a personal bodyguard.

Apr. 15 1948: His health continues to decline. On medical advice, Jinnah temporarily moves to a scenic place, Ziyarat near Quetta but he refuses to stop working.

Jul 1, 1948: Comes to Karachi for the opening ceremony of the State Bank of Pakistan. Asserts, "The western economic system will not grant us prosperity. We will have to devise our destiny on the principle on human equality and social justice." This was the last official engagement of M.A. Jinnah.

Aug 29, 1948: "I have completed my mission" (at Ziyarat).

Sep. 11, 1948: Moves back to Karachi.

Sep. 11, 1948: 10:20 pm, the great leader breathed his last at the Government House in Karachi.

Some Glimpses of a Life Extraordinary (1876-1948)

"Unity, Faith, Discipline," the motto for our nation.

§ "Pakistan was established when the first Indian accepted Islam and Hindus called him untouchable!"

§ "Rise from the dust, so that our clothes remain unsoiled and our hands clean for the greater tasks that fall to them."

1902: A rich businessman offered Jinnah 5000 rupees to handle his case. Jinnah answered directly, "Five hundred rupees per day is my fee or find another lawyer." Jinnah won the case in 3 days. The businessman Haji Abdul Kareem tried to pay Rs. 5000, but he failed to convince Jinnah to accept more than Rs. 1500.

§ When a rich Hindu landlord protested at the amount of Jinnah's fee, he replied, "You can't travel in a Pullman (luxury class) with a third-class ticket."

1913: Muhammad Ali Jinnah is called the Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim Unity by prominent Hindu leaders.

1918: "A neat, charismatic, well-mannered, young man, a master of logic. The most intelligent man I have seen," Lord Montego Chelmsford.

At age 40: "The word failure is unknown to me."

1922: "I have no desire for any position or title. You may simply call me Jinnah or Mr. Jinnah."

1938: "In India, Jinnah was the unpurchaseable leader," Liaquat Ali Khan.

1940: "One's whole life can be built around moral strength, courage, hard work and persistence."

1940: "I am willing to see Gandhi but you can't say that I wish to see him."

§ Jinnah abhorred the "vague, philosophical absurdities" of Gandhi.

1941: When advised to take rest by his loving sister he replied, "Fatima! Have you ever heard of a general going on vacation while his army is at war?"

Dec. 18, 1943:

"The most important man in Asia is 67, tall, thin and elegant, with a monocle on a gray silk cord and a stiff white collar," Beverly Hill Nichols, in her interview with the great leader titled Dialogue With A Giant.

1945: "I am an old man and I have all the luxuries of life. Why am I toiling hard? It is for you, for the poor of the nation."

§ "If India ever attains freedom, it will be because of Jinnah," Gopal Krishna Gokhle, 1931.

§ "Jinnah was faultless in both ethics and virtue," Sarojini Naidu.

1946: "In Islam, the ultimate obedience belongs to God alone. The only way to follow His Guidance is the Holy Qur'an. Islam does not preach obedience to a king, parliament, person or any institution. The Islamic government means Rule of the Qur'an. And how can you establish Rule of the Qur'an without an independent state? In this state, legislations will take place in the boundaries drawn by the Qur'an"

1946: "No power on earth can prevent (the creation of) Pakistan!"

§ "There is no tribunal to which we can go. The only tribunal is the Muslim nation."

§ "What are our utmost demands? The answer is Pakistan."

§ "Democracy is in the blood of Muslims. I'll give you an example. Very often when I go to a mosque, my chauffeur stands side by side with me."

1947: "His youth was spotless," Sarojini Naidu.

§ "Jinnah is the Muslim League. For him, people invariably fall into line. No one has any doubt what he means when he speaks," Mr. R.G. Casey, Governor of Bengal.

§ "Work for the good of the common man," (addressing the leaders of the Muslim League).

§ "Exceptional inner worth, vitality and endurance with eager humanity, a simple, winning humor as a child," Sarojini Naidu.

§ "Oh yes, he had charm. And he was so good looking. Mind you, I am sure he was aware of his charm. He knew his own strength," a Parsi lady who was a contemporary and a neighbor of Jinnah in Bombay.

§ "Sarojini Naidu, called the "Nightingale of Bombay" wrote romantic poems to Jinnah. As far as Jinnah was concerned, she sang in vain," Begum Raana Liaquat Ali Khan.

§ "Jinnah was completely free from extremes of emotions," Liaquat Ali Khan.

To students:

§ "Do not criticize others when you yourselves have not yet learned to respect the sanctity of law."

§ "Scholarship should come first and politics after."

May 13, 1939:

Muhammad Ali Jinnah orders his fortunes to be distributed between Aligarh University, Islamia College, Peshawar, and the Sind Madrasa, Karachi.

§ "To the end of his life, he made no effort to court popularity or to please the press," Lord Mountbatten.

§ "I believe in criticizing the government freely and frankly. But at the same time, it is the duty of every educated man to support and help the government when the government is right."

§ "The word "holiday" was foreign to Jinnah's active mind, sister Fatima Jinnah.

§ "To doubt Muhammad Ali Jinnah's sincerity was to question the law of his life," Hector Bolitho.

§ "I first decide what is right and I do it. The people come around me and the opposition vanishes."

§ "Gandhi was not happy if he achieved his objective through logical progression. He appealed to emotions. Muhammad Ali Jinnah was logical, practical, and appealed to reason," Sir D.B. Cunningham.

§ "Gandhi was an instrument of power, Jinnah was power," states the physician who incidentally had treated both leaders. The doctor adds, "Gandhi was unclothed before his disciples, Jinnah was clothed before his disciples, that was the difference between them."

§ "M.A. Jinnah is such a smart man, how could he not make history. I admired the tremendous personality and his inexorable determination," Field Marshall Sir Claude Auchinleck.

§ "Jinnah was a man without malice," General Sir Douglas Gracey.

§ "All the conferences in the world cannot reconcile Hindu and Muslim ideologies."

§ "It is as important to unlearn as it is to learn."

§ "The force of Jinnah's convictions and his inimitable style struck large audiences into wonder and agreement," Hector Bolitho.

§ "Jinnah's eyes were the 'twin lamps of truth', only the honest could look him straight in the eye," Begum Raana Liaquat Ali Khan.

§ "The single-mindedness and persistent integrity of Muhammad Ali Jinnah gave him the victory over all his adversaries," M.K. Gandhi.

§ "Jinnah apart from his integrity, which was frightening, was a powerful man, when he decided to dominate anyone an individual and a multitude, He spoke to Urdu understanding masses in English but they listened bewitched!" Professor Khalid Bin Saeed.

§ "A spade should be called a spade."