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Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah

(1875 - 1948 AD)

Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah was born in Karachi on December 25, 1876AD. His father's real name was Jina Bhai but after marriage he changed his name to Jinnah Poonjah. His mother's name is Sherin Bai. Jinnah Poonjah was the co-worker in his father's "Dalji Poonjah Bhai & Company". This company was doing a large-scale business of knitting fish, glue, leather and cloth knitting. Muhammad 'Ali had three brothers and four sisters. Fatima Jinnah was his youngest sister.

Muhammad 'Ali's initial education was in Karachi in a primary school named "Madrasa al-Atfal". Then he was admitted in Sindh Madrasa-tul-Islam. The education was still underway that he got married at the age of 16 only. He passed his sixth grade from Mission High School. He was then sent to the UK for the training in trade. Trade or doing business was against his natural inclination. So he convinced his father that he would learn law while living in UK. When he saw the name of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) at the entrance of Lincoln's Inn, the famous educational institution here, he was so impressed that he chose this institute for his studies. Muhammad 'Ali received his Barrister's degree in 1896AD. At that time he was the youngest student of Asia.

After returning to India, Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah began his professional life with Bombay High Court. Here, at first the conditions were not so favorable for him. However, he

controlled it quickly with his persistence and hard work. In 1900AD, he was offered the permanent post of the Presidency Magistrate. But when he found out that here the salary was only Rs. 1500 per month, he refused to accept it, saying that he wanted to earn this much of money daily. The essence of his ability in law began to appear not only throughout the city but throughout the country. So after that, Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah became a successful lawyer in a very short time.

As soon as Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah got stability in his professional engagement, he started to take part in politics. In 1905AD, he joined the Indian National Congress. In the same year, he went to England accompanied with Gopal Krishna Gokhale and presented to the British Government the position of Congress to establish a local sovereign government in India. For some time, he also served as the secretary of the Congress President, Dada Bhai Noroji.

In late 1909AD, Muhammad 'Ali was elected as a member of the Imperial Legislative Council. At the first Parliamentary Meeting in January 1910AD, he presented his open criticism, in South Africa, in front of the Viceroy Lord Minto, about the British Government's policy for the Indians. In this way, Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah emerged as an accomplished lawyer as well as a competent and fearless politician.

Although the Muslim League was formed in 1906AD to represent Muslims in India, but Muhammad 'Ali preferred to remain in the Congress. The main reason for this was that from the very beginning he had been placing too much emphasis on Hindu-Muslim unity in India. However, he joined the Muslim League in 1913AD on the insistence of Maulana Muhammad 'Ali Johar and Syed Wazir Hassan. Yet, his best effort was to both the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League work together to protect the rights of the people here. His efforts for this alliance continued for some 30 years.

Under the reforms of the Minto Marley, the Indian Parliament was expanded, and as a result of Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah's leadership ability, the right to separate elections for Muslims was also recognized under the Pact of Lucknow, in 1916AD. He also struggled to get the primary education all over the country. With his efforts, a regular law passed about the Muslim Auquaf in the parliament. Similarly, he achieved in getting success for the cancellation of the Criminal Laws and Evidence Act and the British Muslim Law of Contract about the Muslim's marriage laws, because all these laws were in conflict with the Islamic laws. In preparation for these laws, he made a deep study of the books of Muslim Fiqh. After that, Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah became especially popular among the Muslims of India.

Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah remained a member of both the Congress and the Muslim League until 1920AD, but he resigned from the Congress that year, disagreeing on principle with the Gandhi Ji's non-cooperation movement.

In 1927AD the Simon Commission was established by the British Government to assess and improve the situation in the country. In this Commission, there was no local representative from India. Muhammad 'Ali strongly opposed for this. But on this issue, the Muslim League, Jinnah League and Shafi' League divided into factions. Simon Commission could not find any success as well.

In 1930AD, Muhammad 'Ali moved to England. At that time, Dr Muhammad Iqbal took a detailed look at the political situation in India and came to the conclusion that Muslims should have a sovereign state in a Muslim majority area. In order to put this concept into practice, he emphasized the need for Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah to return to the country and unite and organize the Muslim League. Thus, Muhammad 'Ali returned to India in 1934AD and remain engaged in his political activities.

Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah soon turned the Muslim League into a strong and active political party in the country. And until 1936AD he became the only leader of the Muslims of India and was called "Quaid-e-Azam".

Congress leaders, especially Gandhi Ji, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose, let down all the attempts for Hindu-Muslim co-operation, to achieve Independence. By 1938AD, Quaid-e-Azam realized that now a separate state has become indispensable for Muslims here. Therefore, a large meeting of the All India Muslim League was held in Lahore on March 23, 1940AD, in which the two-nation ideology was presented with full clarity. Simultaneously, a formal resolution was approved for a separate homeland of Muslims. It was known in the history as "The Resolution of Lahore". While demanding for Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam called Muslims living in India as a "Nation", and said:

*“We are a nation with our own distinctive culture & civilization, language & literature, art & architecture, names & nomenclatures, sense of values & proportion, legal laws & moral codes, customs & calendar, history & traditions, aptitudes & ambitions; in short, we have our own distinctive outlook on life & of life. By all canons of international law, **we are a nation.**”*

The Hindu opposition to a separate homeland "Pakistan" for Muslims was natural, but interestingly, many Muslim political and religious leaders of the country were also against this proposal. The English themselves did not want that. So, for the next seven years it was the British attempt to reconcile the Congress and the Muslim League. The Cripps Mission, the Shimlah Conference and the Cabinet Mission Plan were important links in this connection.

The Quaid-e-Azam, with his intelligence and political tactics, failed every resistance, and the British and Hindus had to accept the demand of Pakistan. Finally, the last Viceroy Lord Mountbatten announced from All India Radio on June 3,

1947AD the Independence of not only Pakistan and India but also the establishment of Pakistan as a sovereign state.

After the regular official announcement, the British, Hindus and Sikhs all started their efforts to ensure that the Muslim homeland was weakened from the day one. For this, Kashmir was divided into two pieces by rigging. Sectarian riots were organized and Muslims were massacred. But despite all the conspiracies and obstacles, an "Independent" sovereign state of Pakistan came into existence on August 14, 1947AD for the Muslims of India.

Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah has been appointed the first Governor General of Pakistan by the Muslim League. As the Head of State, he started organizing all walks of life across the country. Immediate attention to the resettlement of migrants was given. He made special efforts to stabilize the country economically. He initiated and encouraged various projects for industry, agriculture and trade. Also worked for educational development. Inaugurated the Constituent Assembly. Quaid-e-Azam worked hard to make Pakistan an ideal state. His work was just getting on the way that within a few months his health started to grow weaker. In June 1948AD, he first went to Quetta and then to Ziarat for rest and treatment, but no improvement was seen. He was brought to Karachi on September 11, 1948AD and on the same day he joined to his Creator. His tomb is built with Islamic architecture in the middle of Karachi, and is prominently visible in the city.

Muhammad 'Ali Jinnah is undoubtedly one of the greatest figures. He was a great leader. Allamah Iqbal said:

"نگاہ بلند، سخن دل نواز اور جان پُر سوز"

{His vision is farsighted, sermons great and persona attractive}

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