

CHILDHOOD OF MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH: AN ACADEMIC EXPLORATION

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Abstract

This article elaborates the childhood memories of Muhammad Ali Jinnah. How Jinnah spent life in Karachi before to start education. His family moved from Kathiawar to Karachi before his birth. Jinnah was the eldest son of seven siblings. He was so close to his mother, his mother also loved so much him. He started studied at Bombay but soon he had to leave that place and returned to Karachi. He got admission in Sindh Madressa two times. After some time he leave the school and joined his father's office, where his father needs an assistant. Jinnah worked there, his father told him if you join office you cannot manage to play, and Jinnah said I don't mind.

Keywords: childhood, Jinnahbhai, Madressa, Rajputs, Ismaili.

Introduction:

(Bolitho, Hector. (1954). Jinnah Poonja (Father of Jinnah) lived in Kathiawar which was the inherent land of the parents of Muhammad Ali. Before the birth of Jinnah they moved to port of

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Karachi on the brink of Sindh desert. That was a small town of some people. He said the dust of the desert came down on them in hot clouds. It invaded their food, clothes and lungs. Ancient bunder boats still came to the coast but also big ships of Intercontinental commerce from Liverpool, Tokyo and Baltic. In old Karachi lanes are so thin and houses are so low that the camel can look in the first floor window.

In one of these streets of Newnham Road is the house of just two rooms where Muhammad Ali Jinnah was born. The date is uncertain, in the admission register of the school the day was documented as 20th October 1875. But Jinnah always said he was born on Christmas day-a Sunday-in 1876. He was the first in seven siblings. There was a little sister Rehmat born in 1878 after him. Then their siblings are in a sequence as Banday Ali, Mariyam bi, Ahmad Ali, Shireen, and Fatima was born in 1892, and she was famous and known as Fatima Jinnah. The young brother Bachu died early after the birth. At the time of birth, 'Mamad' (his pet name at home) was 'minor and weak', his sister Fatima recalled, his weight was also less than a normal baby.

(Beg, Aziz. (1986) The Rajputs, Hindus and Muslims were then, as now, scattered all over the Sub- Continent and they take pride in the heroic deeds of their warlike forefathers. Apart from the family of enlighten Prince of Gondal, there were other Rajputs among his subjects. In a village live Poona Meghji. He was known to belong to the Khoja community. But his grandson once

claimed that he belonged to a Muslim Rajput family of Sahiwal District in the Punjab. The original inhabitants of Kathiawar peninsula were known as Kathi's who by profession, were agriculturists. However, Jinnah's grandfather Poona Meghji did not have the way of the other Kathi's. Instead, this industrious scion of the Ismaili Khoja community set up a cottage industry. Originally, the Shojis were all Ismailis- a Shia sect which accepts only seven of the twelve Imams of the orthodox Shiaism. In 1901, a small number of Bombay's Shojis, led by men educated on western lines, abjured Ismaili doctrine and adopted the orthodox Shiite creed, and became known as Khoja Isna-asharis. Among these dissidents from the Ismaili sects was Jinnah Poonja, father of Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

(Burke, S.M. and Salim Al-Din Quraishi. (1999). Although his father was thrifty and prudent with his finances, he was inspired by his mother to occasionally indulge in extravagant behavior, especially when she asked for it. A businessman had to be frugal with his money as he struggled to launch and grow his enterprise in a new city. The family leads a modest life, with the warmth of a contented family life making up for their lack of ostentation. As a result, even though my father's business was doing pretty well, he continued to avoid making unnecessary purchases. Fortune is a fickle goddess; while it might be kind to you now, you never know how she'll feel tomorrow. His father was economical in his

spending, though he occasionally indulged in extravagant gestures, especially when his mother asked for them. His father was economical in his living and prudent with his finances, especially when his mother asked for it. A businessman had to be frugal with his money as he struggled to launch and grow his enterprise in a new city. The family leads a modest life, with the warmth of a contented family life making up for their lack of ostentation. As a result, even though my father's business was doing pretty well, he continued to avoid making unnecessary purchases. Fortune is a fickle goddess; while it might be kind to you now, you never know how she'll feel tomorrow. Jinnah Poonja managed the finances of his family based on this tenet. This left a deep imprint on children's minds as they grew up, and Quaid-e-Azam's persona carried this quality with him throughout his life. By the early 1880s, Jinnahbhai's firm was operating profitably. Almost ten years after his arrival, the yearly value of trade in Karachi has increased to approximately Rs. 80 million. He managed a wide range of harvest, including cotton, wool, furs, and grain, all of which were exported, as well as manufactured goods, metals, and polished sugar imported into the bustling seaport from Manchester.

(Wolpert, Stanley. (1984). Visiting from Bombay's metropolitan area, Manbai, the only sister of Jinnahbhai and the wife of the even more successful Khoja called Peerbhai, paid a visit in 1880. Fatima recalled that Mania had told them "wonderful tales of

kids; of sins and dragons" night after night. Mohammad admired aunty's brilliant, gorgeous young nephew, and she additionally cherished her witty, vivacious, cosmopolitan, good-humored nephew. She brought Mamad back to Bombay with her, only acquainting him with the magnificent metropolis that would be his preferred residence for the most of his later life. Jinnah followed his aunt Manbai. Mohammad was six when his father appointed a private tutor to start his son on alphabets and mathematics, but the proved "indifferent" to studies "positively loathed" arithmetic, and good, could not wait to go outdoors as soon as his tutor arrived. Little is known Mohammad's life in Bombay. He lived with auntie and was enrolled at school and visited Anjuman -i- Islam and Gokul Das Tej Primary School there.

(Jinnah, Fatima. (1987). Young Jinnah's acceptance of proper education was never high. Sitting at home, learning things by routine, was not his choice .It is not tough to imagine that his innovative brain was not satisfied in our typical Indian primary school classroom, Especially in Bombay. India's most beautiful seaport was decorated with crescent beaches of white sand and Royal palms. His mother was unhappy without her lovely son. Mohammed joined the Madressa - tul- Islam on December 23, 1887 but a few years later his name was withdrawn from the register because of present deficiency. When he was in fifth grade of English then he left Sind Madressa last time before his

marriage. After marriage he enrolled in Karachi's first school church mission in 8 May 1892. On 31st of October 1892, then he left church mission school. He was in sixth grade of English and it was considered as pre Matric .He left school and didn't completed Matric. He passed entrance exam of Law College in London that was equal to Matric.

(Hamdani, Yasser Latif. Jinnah: A Life. 2020). He was placed in an elementary school when he was approximately nine years old, where he had to compete with his classmates at exam times. He was upset to learn that other lads had outperformed him and received higher grades. Having always considered himself to be smarter than other boys when playing, he found that he was not going to be the top student in his class. Jinnah give up his play for some hours each day in order to go to school, but although this, he was not able to earn the title of best student during these hours. To the depression of his father, who stood keen to provide his son with a solid schooling so that he might join his business after passing his matriculation exam, he developed a childlike dislike for books and school. His mother, whose favorite lines were my Mohammad Ali is going to be great man; he will be very smart; best of other boys, began to have nightmares. Mother urged him to attend school regularly and to focus intently on his studies, telling him that only in this way would he succeed in life and become a big man who stood out from the crowd. Father was gentle with him despite his severe provocation, inquiring as to

why he did not spend more time reading. Little Muhammad Ali said, Father, I don't want to go to school. So, what would you want to do? his father asked in response. Ali answered, Father, I want to learn how to do business by working with you in the office. But your age is too young for that, Muhammad Ali, the father replied. I would do well in your workplace than at school, responded Muhammad Ali.

(Rizvi, Hussain Ashraf. Hayat-e-Quaid-e-Azam). Being a kind man, his father attempted to entice him by telling him that there was harsh discipline in his office. It is necessary for you to accompany me to the office at eight in the morning, return for lunch from two to four, and then return to the workplace from four until nine at night. In response, Muhammad Ali said, I will ensure that, father. But that will give you no time at all for play, his father remarked. I don't have any problem, Ali shot back. After vacillating between his father's office and the classroom, young Muhammad Ali began accompanying his father to work. His knowledge of reading, writing, and accounting was lacking, yet everything defended required him to write down all payments and receipts and record them in account books. He was limited to doing small, laborious duties in the workplace, which he did not enjoy. Then, with the help of his business executives, his father made decisions on what to acquire, what to sell, and other significant issues. No one bothered to ask him for permission or contact him. The most annoying drawback for him was that he

had been entirely cut off from his games, which fascinated him so much. He became tired of office work after approximately two months, and one day he astonished his father by saying, Father, I don't like office work, he murmured. What would you be doing then, Muhammad Ali? His father retorted. I would like to go back again to school, was his response. Even though his father was overjoyed, he made an effort to hide it by being calm. He stated, you see, my boy, there are only two methods to learn in life. What are they, father? inquired Ali.

The first is to trust your elder's wisdom and awareness to accept their advice, and to do exactly as they suggest. And what's the alternative method dad? Inquired Ali. The alternative is to go your own technique, learn by hard knocks and kicks in life, he retorted. Mohammad Ali the youngster listened carefully. This story highlights the trait of a successful man, which was his willingness to go his own way till the very end of his life. When he returned to school, he had undergone a complete transformation; he was no longer uninterested, inattentive, or falling behind his peers.

(Bolitho, Hector. "Jinnah, creator of Pakistan."(1954). Muhammad Ali loved to play like all children. He loved to play with kites. During plays he was the leader of all kids and he played cricket mostly. He never broke any rule in the game. He always completed his school work, even if he had to skip sleep. He studied under the light of a candle in order to not disturb the

sleeping family members. Once he was working till midnight when an aunt asked told him,

“Son! Do not study this late, your health will be destroyed.”

He replied respectfully,

“Dear Aunt! If I did not study then how will I become a successful man?”

He was following the footsteps of his father who always kept record of his money and his time. He never wasted his time or money and he continued this childhood habit in adult life. The third habit he had was the habit of cleanliness and good dressing sense. No matter what kind of dress, he wore it with confidence and charisma.

Objectives

1. To discover the early life of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, concentrating on his family background, education, and early influences.
2. To understand how Jinnah's childhood shaped his character and future leadership qualities.
3. To provide a broad overview of the factors that influenced Jinnah's journey towards becoming the founder of Pakistan.

This study develops a qualitative approach, drawing on secondary sources, including historical texts, biographies, and academic articles. Key sources include:

Articles from newspapers.

- Biographical entries from historical and educational websites.
- Academic articles and historical accounts detailing Jinnah's early life and its impact on his later achievements.

Discussion

Wazir Mansion, a national monument and museum today, is where M. A. Jinnah was born in a rented room in the 1870s in Karachi, British India. There is disagreement over his actual birthdate. While documents from Sindh Madressa-tul-Islam mention October 20, 1875, as Jinnah's birthdate, the Pakistani nationalist leader asserted December 25, 1876, as his actual birthday. He was the first of Mithibai and Jinnahbhai Poonja's seven children. His sister Fatima Jinnah described him as little and weak at birth. The oldest of Jinnah's seven siblings was Jinnah. Following the birth of his sister Rehmat in 1878 were Banday Ali, Shireen, Ahmad Ali, Mariyam Bi, and Fatima Jinnah, who was born in 1892. Bachu, his younger sibling, passed away soon after birth.

Jinnah's lineage began with the Khoja Muslims, a group with origins in the Rajput lineage of the Kathiawar peninsula. Poona Meghji, his grandpa, founded a prosperous cottage business. Ismaili Khoja by birth, Jinnahbhai Poonja eventually converted to the Khoja Isna-ashari Shia faith. In the thriving commercial climate of Karachi, the family's firm, which dealt in commodities including cotton, wool, hides, oil-seeds, and grains, flourished. Jinnah's father was a prudent financial manager who valued thrift in business. The family led a good life, but they didn't fancy themselves. Jinnah was deeply impacted by this thrift and economic sense, and he carried these qualities into adulthood. Jinnahbhai's firm was doing well by the early 1880s, which helped Karachi's economy thrive.

Manbai, Jinnah's Bombay-based aunt, traveled to Karachi in 1880. Her story and cosmopolitan lifestyle captivated Jinnah. He went to Bombay with her, and spent much of his adult life there. The dynamic culture of Bombay had a significant effect on young Jinnah, shaping his views and aspirations for the future. Father of Jinnah hired a reserved tutor to start his proper education, although at first he didn't seem very interested in learning. Although his attendance was patchy, he attended schools in Bombay such as Anjuman-i-Islam and Gokul Das Tej Primary School. After coming back to Karachi, he joined Sindh Madressa-tul-Islam but eventually dropped out because of his extended absences. His inconsistent attendance at school was

highlighted by a brief stay at Church Mission School in Karachi. Jinnah did not complete his matriculation, but he did pass the matriculation-equivalent admission exam for Law College in London. From a young age, Jinnah shown leadership abilities and a strong work ethic. He was well-known for following the rules and had a passion for playing cricket. He showed a dedication to doing his coursework even if at first he disliked formal schooling. His upbringing imparted values of cleanliness, time management, and thriftiness remained with him throughout his life.

Conclusion

Significant familial, academic, and traditional influences impacted Muhammad Ali Jinnah's early life and helped to mold his leadership style. His ability to speak several languages, exposure to a wide range of cultures, and strong educational foundation gave him the skills he needed to lead the Muslim League and eventually found a country similar to Pakistan. Knowing Jinnah's early years allows us to better appreciate the formative events that shaped him into the visionary leader and nation-builder that he became.

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