

In Memoriam

(By Mrs. Luise Zubaida Mirza)

Exactly an year ago, on Friday, the 6th August, 1937, at 5 p. m. Dr. Azeez-ur-Rahman (may God rest his soul in peace) left us for a better world.

I should like to write a few lines about him not only to revere his sacred memory but also to remind ourselves of his noble ideals and our duty to follow on the path he wanted to show us.

God called away one of the noblest and the bravest Muslims when a fatal fever overwhelmed him after an appendicitis operation. He died within four days in Mayo Hospital, Lahore. With courage and fortitude, he submitted to the Will of God. He was destined to live only four weeks in his mother-land which he had left five years ago to study in Germany.

An irreparable loss, indeed, for his family and his country alike! Thus a star, as it were, appeared on the horizon of Islam, only to disappear soon; but it has left its glow in indubitable colours for us to aspire to.

Dr. Azeez-ur-Rahman was Imam of the Berlin Mosque in 1932 and under his tender care there blossomed many a faithful flower of Islamic Brotherhood who further strengthened the Muslims of the city of Berlin. Lectures were regularly held and sermons delivered by the luminaries of Islam. Young and old thus sat in unison at the feet of Revelation of the Holy Quran. Popularity of Dr. Mirza Sahib was naturally undisputed.

His studies finished, Mirza Sahib devoted upwards of three months in visiting, with the kind permission of Ministers, various schools and colleges—representatives of different thoughts and cultures. With the help of Directors of these institutions, Dr. Mirza studied their social and hygienic developments.

With this varied knowledge and prolific experience spread over five long years of strenuous study in Germany and England, Dr. Mirza intended to give to the youth of his mother-land, a living picture of the development of modern thought and culture. His ideal was to build up a model institution for the Islamic youth of India.

To further equip himself, he returned to India by land and toured over numerous Muslim countries, such as, Jugoslavia, Turkey, Egypt, Palestine and Iraq. There he delivered lectures where he could, and met leaders of Muslim thought and deeply studied their systems of education. His lectures were much appreciated at Prague, Sarajewa and Baghdad. In Jerusalem, he was honoured by the hospitality of the Grand Mufti and had ample opportunity to exchange with the latter ideas on various problems which are confronting Islam to-day. In Baghdad alone he stayed for about five weeks where he had interviews with the Minister of Education and of Hygienic Department. The General Consul of Germany showed a great sympathetic interest in Dr. Mirza's plans. Dr. Mirza also took 150 photographs of the holy places of the Muslims in Nedjef,

Karbala, Kufa and Jerusalem, apart from those of places of great importance and antiquity. Thus, he hoped to construct a vivid picture of a living Islam: its solidarity and power, out of the material gathered from five countries, enlivened with his personal knowledge, for the youth of his native land.

So we see that every step in the life of Dr. Mirza, of revered memory, leads but to one ideal: to spread and heighten the glory of Islam—to serve in all humility his co-religionists and countrymen. All his activities were focussed to the furtherance of his this one great desire. Almost all his money was spent in the collection of religious and cultural materials which he intended to present to his native city, along with some 500 books and a rare library of his father, besides.

In him, the Punjab has lost one of his noblest and purest sons; perhaps, his was a too early perfection! He has been stopped in his glorious career by a fatal destiny, but the subject of our grief is not dead; he lives by his virtues in a better world; among us he lives in the glory of his ideals and achievements. To us who are left behind, he has shown the way by the example of his life, to follow which needs must be one of our sacred duties. So help us, God.