

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُصَلِّیْ عَلٰی رَسُوْلِہِ الْکَرِیْمِ

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IN MEMORIAM.

MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI.

It is with feelings of the deepest regret, the most poignant sorrow, that we have to record the death of the Hon'ble Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., K.B., D.Litt., LL.D., Barrister-at Law, Advocate of the High Courts of Judicature at Lahore and Allahabad, which occurred at Lahore at 8-15 A.M., on January 7th last.

Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi was 62 years old, having been born on March 10th, 1869, at Baghbanpura, a village near Lahore. He was the son of the late Mian Din Muhammad. He was educated at the Vernacular Middle School of his village, and subsequently passed the Matriculation examination from the Central Model School, Lahore. He then went to the Government College, Lahore, but shortly after joined the Forman Christian College, Lahore. In 1889 he left for England and there studied for the Bar. He passed his Law examinations with credit, and distinguished himself in International Law. During his sojourn in England he successfully competed for different prizes

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and scholarships and was called to the Bar in 1892 by the Hon'ble Society of the Middle Temple. On his return to India he started his professional career at Hoshiarpur, but two years later he moved to Lahore, and soon rose to a prominent position in his profession. He enjoyed a lucrative practice on the Civil as well as Criminal side—a rare combination for the legal profession. He wrote and published various treatises on different branches of law, and by 1907 had become one of the leading lawyers of the Punjab Chief Court. A Judgeship of the Madras High Court was offered to him in 1912, but his love for his profession and his public life led him to turn it down. For the same reasons he refused an appointment to the Bench of the Punjab Chief Court which was offered to him in 1918. He was selected President of the Lahore High Court Bar Association in 1918 and also for the following year. In 1919 he presided over the deliberations of the Punjab Provincial Bar Conference. In 1925 he became Legal Adviser to the Bahawalpur State, and subsequently was employed by Khairpur and Patiala States in the same capacity.

Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi early in 1909 was nominated for 3 years as a member of the Punjab Legislative Council. From 1912 he represented the Province in the Imperial Legislative Council, and up to 1919 he was continuously either a member of the Punjab or the Imperial Legislative Councils. In 1919 he became the Education Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. At this time the portfolio consisted of Education, Local Self-Government, Archæology, Epigraphy, Census, Records Office, Imperial Library, Copyright and certain other subjects. In 1920 the Department of Public Health was transferred to him, and soon after he was also placed in charge of the Department of Commerce and Industry. Thus, during his tenure of office as a Member of the

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Viceroy's Executive Council, Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi was in charge at one time or another of three portfolios, which is unprecedented in the history of the Government of India. In 1922 Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi became the Law Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and occupied this office of great responsibility till 1924, and during these two years he also acted as the Vice-President of the Viceroy's Executive Council. He was also appointed Leader of the Council of State in the same year. In 1930 and again during the last year he went to England as a delegate to the Round Table Conference. On his return from England he once again became Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and held the portfolio of Member of Education, Health and Lands. He had but taken charge for a few days when all of a sudden the cruel hands of death snatched him away from this world :

Inna Lillahi wa inna ilaihe raje'oon.

(From God we are, and unto God we return—The Holy Qur-án.)

As an eminent lawyer and an educationalist, as a distinguished public servant and a statesman Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi strove hard for well nigh 40 years for the uplift of his country and community.

As a lawyer Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi owed success to his industry, his perseverance and his self-confidence. His wealth of knowledge and information bore testimony to his ability. He rose to the high position because of his psychological insight into the workings of the human mind. One outstanding trait in him as a lawyer was his professional morality, which, indeed, was of an exceptionally superior character. He was undoubtedly one of the ablest lawyers that India has ever produced, and as an advocate he had no superior in the country.

Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi's services in the field of education have been memorable. As early as 1892 he

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founded the Islamia School, Hoshiarpur. He acted as the Secretary of the Committee of Islamic College, Lahore, for over ten years. As a Fellow of the Punjab University and a Member of its Arts, Oriental and Law Faculties he raised the standard of education in the University on almost a parallel with the other Indian Universities. As Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University he rendered most valuable services to that institution. But by far the most outstanding achievement, that coming generations will associate with his great name, was the creation of six new Universities in India. In this alone he may be said to have raised for himself a monument more enduring than bronze, a memorial that will never perish. It is past history now, but nevertheless it is worth mentioning, that it was solely due to the untiring efforts of Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi that the Aligarh Muslim University Bill ever saw the light of the day. Indeed it was due to his rare skill and energy that, in spite of serious discouragement, and in the teeth of opposition, the historic Muslim University Bill was carried, after a stormy debate, through the Assembly.

Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi in his public life was always characterised by his world-wide outlook, his shrewd intelligence, and his sound judgment. His deep sense of loyalty to the cause he espoused always brought him to the front. He was dauntless in the face of opposition, and unflinching in the presentation of his selfless aims. He always stuck to them with tenacity, courage and boldness.

Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi served his community to the very last. He was one of the founders of the All-India Muslim League and its organ the "Daily Observer." He was President of the Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam, Lahore. He was also President of the Punjab Provincial National League. He presided twice over the

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deliberations of the All-India Mohamedan Educational Conference. And let it not be forgotten that he was one of the Trustees of the Woking Muslim Mission and Literary Trust and a member of its Managing Committee.

Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi's life was devoted to the cause of Muslims. Indeed he was their best councillor and trusted leader. His material contribution to the deliberations of the recent two Round Table Conferences and his championship of the rights of his community in London is but very recent history. But in presenting the cause of the Muslims he was never biassed or bigoted against other communities. It is difficult to write adequately of him who has gone. Our praise seems trite and trivial, our most heartfelt tribute all unworthy in face of the colossal fact of his immense and unique personality. Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi's death has left a gap in the public life of India which time alone can fill. To say that he was very popular would be belittling his character. He was charming, gentle, kind, loveable—a loving son, a loving father, a loving husband and a loving, but above all sincere, friend. His was an extremely charitable nature, and God had gifted him with virtues of the highest order. He kept an open house, was hospitable and generous to a fault. His philanthropic purse was open to all. Many a poor and needy man has had reason to bless the name of Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi, and in many a humble heart his memory will never fade.

Mian Sir Muhammad Shafi was a God-fearing man, a true son of Islam. He has left behind a fine tradition of selfless service, spotless character and reputation, which the present generation and that to come are not easily to forget. Lahore mourned for a day the passing away of one of its distinguished sons. Flags were hoisted at half

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mast at the Government House and offices. All Law courts, Educational institutions, Public and Municipal offices remained closed. All Muslims and many Hindus closed their shops as a mark of respect. Hindus and Christians vied with the Muslims to pay their last respect and tribute to the memory of this great man. Representatives of the Viceroy and Governor, Judges of the High Court and Ministers of State joined over 50,000 citizens of Lahore and followed the bier. His Majesty the King and the Princes of India sent messages of condolence, glowing tributes were paid to the memory of the dead—a wonderful recognition of his services indeed, but would it make up the loss the Muslim community has suffered ?

We mourn the death of a worthy son of Islam, a trusted and influential champion of the Muslim cause. We mourn the premature removal of one whose efforts and sagacity have always been directed towards the welfare of the Muslims. We of the Woking Muslim Mission mourn the death of a fellow-worker of Islam, a worker born with an unbreakable conviction in the Islamic tenets, and who took pride at its harmonising and spiritual mission. We grieve over the loss of a valued and dear friend of a very long standing, whose counsel and advice we had always welcomed.

May the Almighty rest his soul in peace !

WHY ISLAM IS MISUNDERSTOOD.

BY KHWAJA NIZAM-UD-DIN HASAN.

III

What is Islam ?

THE first misunderstanding with which I may deal now is the one as to the word "Islam." Islam, in its primary sense, means "to be at perfect peace," in its secondary and sublime sense "to surrender one's self to Him with Whom peace is made." It cannot be taken to