

Section — 2

Biographical Sketch of Prof. (Dr.) Farzand Ali Durrani

Tribute to Prof. Dr. Farzand Ali Durrani

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I am pleased to know that you have initiated felicitation volumes of *Ancient Pakistan* to honour former professors and volume XV is being devoted to Professor Farzand Ali Durrani, founder member of the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar.

It is my pleasant privilege to share some of my impressions with the readers of *Ancient Pakistan* about this 'living legend of Archaeology'. His devotion to his profession was exemplary. The solid proof of this is the establishment of the 'Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of Peshawar, a monument that will keep him alive and remember to future generations. Enriching the knowledge of its glorious past, this is just one of his many contributions to ancient history of Pakistan.

Imparting education from M.A. to Ph.D. levels, this oldest full-fledged Department of Archaeology at the University of Peshawar could have happened with the able guidance of teachers like Professor Durrani.

Besides his outstanding professional carrier culminated as Vice Chancellor of the Peshawar University, he will always be remembered as a humane, good-humoured person who brought happiness and heartfelt laughter by telling jokes.

May Allah bless him in the hereafter.

Prof. Dr. Farzand Ali Durrani

M. SALIM

I can never forget the warm welcome with smiling face of Prof. F.A. Durrani as my first encounter with him in 1969 when I joined the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar, as an MA student on my return from a visit to England. Apart from academic, he was a serious reader of a wide range of books and the only thing he asked me was about the Dillon Book Shop in London.

Although he taught us Western Asiatic Civilisations, he encouraged me to undertake Palaeolithic research of the Soan valley for my Ph.D. degree. This depicts his foresightedness to have felt a need for an intensive and extensive investigation at this important area. But, alas, sites here will soon disappear under the newly 'Army Welfare Housing Scheme' in 2003 where bulldozers are levelling boulder conglomerates and loess deposits for building roads and residential plots.

Being his students, Mr. Vera Pan from Thailand, Mr. K. Tanabe from Japan, Mr. M. Bashir from Akora Khattak and myself often used to have fruitful discussions with Prof. Durrani in the evening. He was so frank and kind to his students that he would pat on their back or call them with their funny names if they would not notice him pass-by at any hour of the day. One night strolling with my friends unaware of the surroundings I heard a sweet voice of Prof. Durrani, "what are you doing there *pahlawanjee*" (the wrestler, he used to call me with.)?

Besides being a good orator, Prof. Durrani had a very good sense of humour and used to refresh us with interesting jokes after dry academic discussions in the classroom. Once he narrated us the story of Ms. Agatha Christie, a great novelist, who was married to a German Professor Mallowan of the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. She used to say, 'the more I grow old the more Mallowan loves me because he is an archaeologist.' Professor Durrani, likewise, loved his students and friends more as they grew older with the passage of time. I pray to Allah for his eternal peace in the hereafter.

The Lineage of Prof. Dr. F.A. Durrani

MUKHTAR ALI DURRANI

The family of Prof. Dr. F.A. Durrani belongs to the tribe of the Popalzai Afghans, who came to Peshawar from Qandahar, where they lived till the administration of the Durrani tribe (Das 1874: 698).

Asghar Khan, the forefather of the family, and his descendants till the third generation remained in the royal services of the Durrani. Among his descendants Noor Muhammad Khan remained a *jagirdar* (land lord), but his original estate is not known so far. However, the complete genealogical record of the family starts from Zardad Khan Durrani (Draft Biography: 1)¹, who was the Governor of Peshawar in the reign of King Taimur Shah Durrani. Here he received Rs. 30,000.00 (Draft: 1) from the king and in place of the *jagir* he had in Qandahar, he received the following estates: (Das: 698).

- I. Surezai village in Peshawar
- II. Dheri Sarwan in Daudzai
- III. Gardens in the Village of Bagram

One of his family members Fateh Khan Wazir was appointed the Governor of Kashmir. Zardad Khan Durrani took his abode in the village Dheri Zardad Khan, Charsadda (Draft: 1). He dug out a canal, which is called *Joi Zardad* (the canal of Zardad Khan), to irrigate the lands, from Kunar in Daudzai. This canal reaches river Kabul near Zakhi village and irrigates the village on either side of its banks (Das: 698). *Joi Zardad* supply irrigation water also to the extreme northwest of Nowshera Tehsil (*NWF Province Gazetteer* 1984: 201-02). After the death of Zardad Khan his eldest son Wali Muhammad Khan Durrani was also in the royal service, but he died soon after. After him his brother Momin Khan Durrani was appointed in his place, but his descendants were deprived of it (Draft: 1).

During the Sikh reign the estate of Momin Khan Durrani was confiscated and instead of it he received two villages namely Shah Dervish and Shah Khana in Hazara District. During the British rule when Momin Khan Durrani went to Kabul, this estate was also confiscated once again. When he returned from Kabul, he was not given his former estate, but he held possession of the present village, which had been purchased by Zardad Khan from the *zamindar* of village Prang, Charsadda in 1208 AH. He was reckoned among members of a family, which had enjoyed high status for one hundred and four years, and the ruler considered him as an honourable man (Das: 697-98). His eldest son, Risaldar Major Muhammad Sharif Khan, was enlisted in the British army and died in Lahore. After his death his eldest son Khan Bahadur Muhammad Yousaf Khan Durrani served as a Police officer (Draft: 1).

Risaldar Major Sher Ali Khan (I.D.S.M. O.B.I.)

He was born in July 1886 at Dheri Zardad Khan and retired as the British councillor and landlord of the same village. He received his early education at the Government High School, Peshawar, and belonged to the well-known Popalzai Durrani family. Risaldar Sher Ali Khan Durrani was appointed as *Jamadar* in the Indian army, 25th Cavalry F/F Intelligence officer, G.O.G. 3rd Brigade, Shabqadar (Charsadda) in 1908, performed active service with Baluchistan Forces In Afghan war 1919, also performed active service in hot operation 1919, Loe Agra operation as Indian assistant up to the end of 1935. He was also appointed H.M. Consul Jallalabad (Afghanistan) in 1935. He worked as O/C Crime Camp in Peshawar in Peshawar in 1941, retired after four years and five months service in 1946 (Draft: 1-2).

Note

¹ Gopal Das (p. 698) mentions Zardad Khan as *jagirdar* in the reign of Timur Shah but he is silent about his governorship as pointed out in the *Biography Draft* (1958: 1). We hear of Abbas Mirza son of Timur Shah as governor of Peshawar; perhaps he remained in the same capacity so long as his father was on the throne (see Shah 1998: 82; N-W.F. Province Gazetteers 1931: 201).

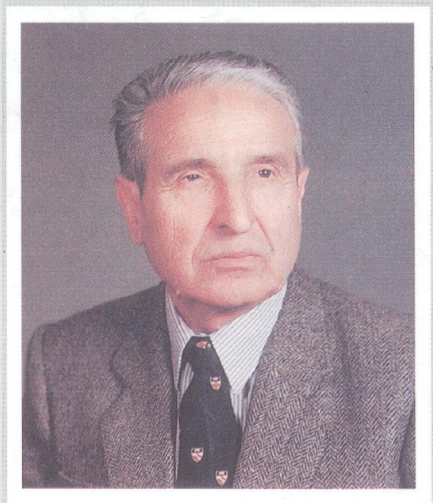
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Professor (Dr.) Farzand Ali Durrani A Living Monument

Prof. Dr. Farzand Ali Durrani (1st January 1933 to 10th December 2003) was born in the nobility of Charsadda (ancient Pushkalavati, the capital of an ancient state Gandhāra), in the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan. He received his early education at different institutions in Peshawar including the Islamia College and the University of Peshawar. He got his M.A. History from Peshawar, M.A. Archaeology from London and Ph.D. from the Philadelphia University. He was appointed as Lecturer in 1957, Assistant Professor in 1962, Associate Professor in 1971 and Professor in 1976 at the University of Peshawar.

He received field training from various renowned scholars like Dr. F.A Khan, then the Director of the Department of Archaeology, Government of Pakistan, and Sir Mortimer Wheeler and Prof. W.F. Crimes of the London University.

Till his retirement in 1993, he remained on different academic and administrative positions — Chairman of the Department of Archaeology and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peshawar, and member/convenor of various academic and policy-making committees at the University, Provincial and National levels.

Apart from teaching at postgraduate level, he made valuable contributions to the archaeology of the Province by discovering and excavating important sites of the Bronze Age and, as such, added new chapters to history of the country. One of his memorable gifts to the Peshawar University is the construction of a beautiful Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology housing priceless artifacts (dated from the pre-historic through to the Muslim period), scientifically excavated from various sites in the Province.

He was the mastermind of Gandhara Archaeological Project, designed for rescuing cultural material through salvage operations from various Buddhist sites, endangered by an international network of illegal diggers and illicit traders. Funded by the Government of Pakistan, this project was completed successfully resulting in retrieval of a lot of Gandharan art pieces now enriching various museums in the country, including that of the Peshawar University.

He had been very potential in developing his Faculty by guiding and sending them abroad for higher education. He used to say that he had abandoned his children in lieu of his students, who, he added, would keep him alive by carrying on his mission of seeking the truth.

He also played a key role in the establishment of Afghan University at Peshawar. After retirement, he was appointed as Vice Chancellor of the University of Peshawar for three years. On rendering meritorious services to the nation, Government of Pakistan bestowed on him a civil award, Sitara-e-Imtiaz.

He was a thorough gentleman, man of determination and foresightedness, polite and kind to everyone. Although not physically present today, he shall always live in the hearts of his students, friends and colleagues as a bright monument. We all promise his soul to carry his mission according to his wish.

May Allah Almighty lay his departed soul with peace. Amin.

(The Editor)