

Leaders of Islam

Three great, forgotten heroes

Part 2: Aurangzeb Alamgir

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His name is **Aurangzeb** and his title, **Abul Muzaffar Muhīy ad-Dīn Muhammad 'Ālamgīr Bādshāh Ghāzī**. Khwaja Masum [ؒ] would address him as *Shehzada din Panah* while his son Khwaja Sayfuddin [ؒ] would refer to him as **Padishah Din Panah**. Born from Arjamand Banu Mumtaz Mahal on a Sunday on 15 Dhu-al-Qa'dah 1028 A.H. in Dau Had, Gujarat, he was the third son of Shah Jahan.

He had learnt under the strict supervision of great and erudite luminaries such as Maulana 'Abd al-Latif Sultanpuri [ؒ] and others. Aurangzeb [ؒ] had a natural zeal to learn Islamic sciences and was also an expert in calligraphy. He used this talent to write copies of the Quran and used them as a means of earning some income. He had requested that his shrouding and burial arrangements be paid for from the income generated from his writing copies of the Holy Qur'an and making topis (hats).

Throughout his lifetime, he never ceased to write the Qur'an. One such copy which he wrote before becoming king was sent to Makkah Mukarramah. He then wrote another copy after becoming king, bound at a cost of 7,000 rupees, and sent to Madinah Munawwarah. He also composed religious poetry.

He was also an expert in jurisprudence and supervised the writing of Fatawa Alamgiriyya. It is worth mentioning that, Aurangzeb memorised the Quran in just one year at the age of 43.

He had pledged his bay'ah [ؒ] to Khwajah Muhammad Ma'sum [ؒ], the son of Hadrat Mujaddid Alf Thani [ؒ] at the age of 20. Hadrat [ؒ] sent his son, Hadrat Khwajah Sayf ad-Din [ؒ] for the spiritual training of the Sultan to be. Hazrat [ؒ] permanently devoted himself to the training of the prince and would regularly report to his father of the progress.

Aurangzeb [ؒ] ascended the throne on a Friday in Dhul-Qa'dah 1068 A.H. with utmost simplicity, which was contrary to the previous Moghul emperors. He then put an end to all the splendours and extravagances of the royal court by issuing an order that silver ink pots be replaced by china, and silken robes be banned. Aurangzeb also

commanded that people should make Salam according to the Sunnah in the Royal Court. It is unanimously agreed by historians that despite preoccupations, he would always work for his own food

He belonged to the Ahlu-Sunnah, followed the Hanafi Madhab, and strictly adhered to Islamic tenets. He would perform Salah as early as possible in the Masjid with Jama'ah and would perform Jumu'ah Salah with the masses. He was extremely eager to perform hajj but unfortunately, did not get an opportunity because of pressing issues related to the Sultanate. He strictly abstained from musical instruments and never did he ever don an un-Islamic attire. **He put an end to *darshan* – appearing before the king and instead, would make a public appearance about two or three times daily.** People with complaints would come to him without any hindrances. He would listen to their complaints and console them with absolute affection.

The greatest academic achievement of Aurangzeb's rule is the compilation of *Fatawa Alamgiriyya*. Indian majorities were Hanafi and thus, it was decided that the country will run on the administration of Hanafi jurisprudence. This movement required a broad book on hanafi jurisprudence. For this purpose he had selected many Ulama from all over the world and had appointed Hadhrat Moulana Nizam addeen ^{ra} to chair the Ulama's gathering. The manuscript would be read to him at night and he would advise accordingly. He spent 200 000 rupees for the salaries of the Ulama. This task was completed after approximately 7-8 years and about 130 books were taken from the royal library to be used as references.

It is mentioned in Aqwale Salaf that:

One of Aurangzeb's sons had completed memorizing the Qur'an so he took him to his father, Shāh Jahān, and said: "Respected father! My son completed memorizing the Qur'an." Shāh Jahān replied: "Of what benefit is it to me? You are the father of a son who is a hāfiz of the Qur'an. You will therefore receive a glittering crown on the day of Resurrection. I am his grandfather, what will I get?" This statement struck Aurangzeb's heart. **He therefore commenced memorizing the Qur'an at the age of 43,** presented himself before his father after some time, and

said: "Respected father! I have also become a hāfiz

Aurangzeb [ؒ] is also accused of killing the Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur. This matter is much of a political nature. Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi [ؒ] was quoted in Tarikh Dawat Wa Azimat:

During the rule of Aurangzeb, Hargowind's son, Tīgh Bahādur, was appointed as the Guru of the Sikhs in the year 1664. The latter gave refuge to escaped convicts and rebels. His power posed a threat to the progress of the nation. The royal police laid siege to him, apprehended him and brought him to Delhi where, under the order of Aurangzeb, the death penalty was pronounced on him in 1675.

Jaamia-Zainab

*For Girls
Lusaka*