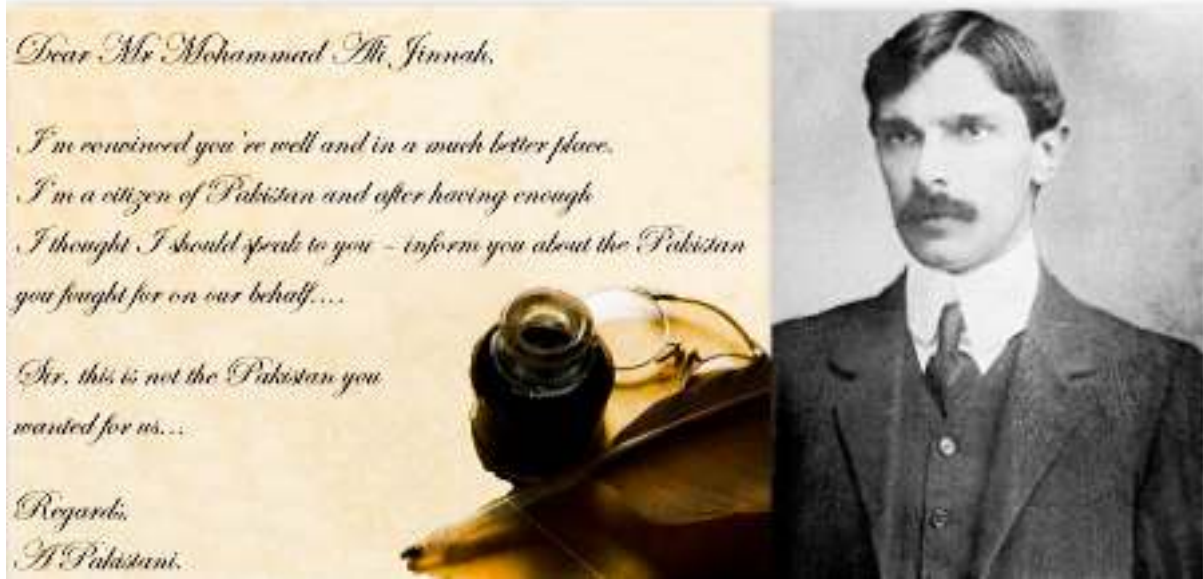


A letter to my ideal leader Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, on his 143rd birthday.

I am sorry to disappointed.....



یہ داغ داغ اُجالا یہ شب گزیدہ سحر
وہ انتظار تھا جسکا یہ وہ سحر تو نہیں
یہ وہ سحر تو نہیں جسکی آرزو لیکر
چلے تھے یار کہ مل جاگی کہیں نہ کہیں
بھی گرائی شب میں کمی نہیں آئی
نجات دیدہ و دل کی گھڑی نہیں آئی
چلے چلو کے وہ منزل ابھی نہیں آئی
(فیض احمد فیض)

The Greatest Leader, Honourable Mr Mohammad Ali Jinnah,
I'm convinced you're well and in a much better place. I'm an ordinary citizen of Pakistan and after having enough, I thought I should speak to you-inform you about the Pakistan you fought for on our behalf.

Your honour, we have your picture on Pakistani currency which we use for bribing. We also have your picture in our government offices, under which our managers (I'm sorry Sir, but I don't find any leader either a dictator or the so-called democrat, in this country as of now) sit and rape (literally) the constitution and tell lies.

Sir, the Pakistan you thought of, we are nowhere near it.

I'm sorry but I have to tell you. I don't intend to give you pain, but in my opinion, you need to know.

Sir, in your address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 11, 1947, you said and I quote,

“You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed — that has nothing to do with the business of the State... We are starting with this fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State... I think we should keep that in front of us as our ideal and you will find that in due course Hindus would cease to be Hindus and Muslims would cease to be Muslims, not in the religious sense, because that is the personal faith of each individual, but in the political sense as citizens of the State.”

These were your words on August 11, 1947.

I'm afraid but people are not free to go their religious places. Even the different sects of Muslims or polls apart and intolerable towards each other.

We as a nation have lost patience and tolerance. The fundamental principle that we are equal citizens of one state still seems like a dream.

Sir, in your speech at Islamia College for Women on March 25, 1940, you said and I quote, "I have always maintained that no nation can ever be worthy of its existence that cannot take its women along with the men. No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men. There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a great competition and rivalry between the two. There is a third power stronger than both, that of the women."

Sir, I'm afraid that's not how things are being carried out. Young girls have been buried alive. One was shot at point-blank range, just because she raised her voice for women's education in Pakistan. Women are being raped in this country every other day. Women are being killed in Pakistan, just because the 'Panchayat' thinks she's having an affair. Sir, women are also being killed because they commit the greatest of the sins, by choosing a life partner for themselves. Most of the women are not given their share in property as per Muslim Law of Inheritance.

My Dear Quaid (and when I say Dear Quaid, I mean Mr Mohammad Ali Jinnah and not any other 'leader' referred to in the same way-another confusion which we are going through!) women in some parts of the country are now being kidnapped as well.

Sir, the worst of the story is we let America take one of our daughters from Pakistan. She's behind the bars and she's lost her senses. I'm extremely sorry Sir, I can't look into your eyes but this is what Pakistan is, as of now after 72 years.

Sir, in your address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, Karachi, August 11, 1947 you said and I quote,

"You will no doubt agree with me that the first duty of a government is to maintain law and order, so that the life, property, and religious beliefs of its subjects are fully protected by the State.....if we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor."

Sir, some governments have valued your statement. Yes, they have looked after the masses especially the poor. A support program gives Rs5,000 to the poor every month, generous indeed.

The government is giving fish to people but what I understand from your statement above is to teach people how to fetch a fish. Unfortunately, Sir, the poor in this country is getting poorer every passing day.

A few months back Sir, a man lit himself on fire in front of the Parliament because he couldn't afford the price-hike. Sir, there have been reports that parents have "sold" their children because they couldn't afford them.

Every year, about 3,000 people decide that suicide was the only escape from poverty. They kill themselves and poverty was a significant factor.

In some incidents, mothers have jumped in front of a speeding train with their minor children. 58% of Pakistan's population suffers from 'food insecurity'. Sir, I know these are depressing facts, but I thought I should share with you.

Sir, in your interview to the Daily Worker in London in 1944, you said and I quote,

“Muslims in Pakistan want to be able to establish their own real democratic popular government. This government will have the sanction...of the people of Pakistan and will function with the will and sanction of the entire body of people in Pakistan, irrespective of caste or colour.”

Sir, we want to have a real democratic government in this country. Over these years, this country has been in the hands of a few families. After you left for a better world, democracy was nowhere to be seen and few years later the army took over the country. There have been many military interventions and there has been long Army rule also.

Mr Bhutto; he had a great following but was hanged by the army again. Then came the Sharif's—they were thrown out. Then came Benazir Bhutto; she was sent home as well. To our surprise, again came the Sharif's and were thrown out once again, this time by the army which stayed for some good time and then came Bhutto's again, and still are in power.

Sir, I'm just telling you, this country was being tossed between two families Bhutto's and Sharif's. About 200 hundred political families (winning horses) who change their loyalties from one party to the other is the ruling elite of this country. The three biggest betrayals and disappointments have been Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry and Imran Khan who betrayed their innocent supporters by taking 100% U-turns from their promises/slogans.

As for the government to function with the will and sanction of people of Pakistan, let me also inform you Sir, the governments have put sanctions on many things in this country. The telephone system is shut down every now and then. Many times, two people together are not allowed to ride a bike because that's what target killers are doing. We were also banned a technology platform, known as YouTube, just because it has blasphemous material on it not realising it's a source of religious education for the people here. We have social networking platforms known as Twitter and Whatsapp and for the last few years, I've seen people talking about what security measures to be taken to curb discussion on the social media.

Sir, this country is going down-hill. Sir, our Pakistan is going down-hill!

Sir, while addressing a public meeting in Dhaka on March 21, 1948 you said and I quote, “The government can only have for its aim one objective – how to serve the people, how to devise ways and means for their welfare, for their betterment. What other object can the government have?”

Sir, I say this with utmost grief that this is not how things have been in Pakistan. We are not being served.

There's a larger picture to things Sir.

The hospitals in Pakistan, I must inform you are in worst situations. We as citizens are not getting the basic necessities of life.

Sir, every Pakistani is suffering. People are dying. This is not the Pakistan you wanted for us.

There is no such thing as justice in Pakistan. The justice system inefficient, delayed and appointments are not on merit. The police and other investigative agencies are politicised, incompetent and biased. Same is true for bureaucracy and executive. Appointments to all important positions are on unmerited, marred by nepotism, bribery and corruption.

Accountability in this country has never been neutral, across the board of all institutions.

Their performance has also been pathetic. There is no check on Media. Their reporting is mostly biased and some of the Media people have made big money by illegal means.

Deterioration is across the board in all institutions and segments of the society. Provision of health, education, employment and housing has never been taken seriously. Controlling of population has not never been planned. The building of infrastructure has not been according to the needs. The measures to tackle shortage of water, electricity, gas, environmental degradation were never taken seriously. Businessmen avoid paying taxes. Tax recovery is

poor due to bad policies of FBR and corruption of their employees. Money laundering and corruption is a huge problem.

The principals of trichotomy of powers is not being adhered to and Legislature, Executive and Judiciary transgress into the domain of each other from time to time. Institutions are pitted against each other showing their own mussels to the detriment and disadvantage of the people of Pakistan and country.

Sir, educated people are leaving Pakistan and settling abroad. The youth is leaving too. People take pride when they apply for American or European nationalities. Sir, this is not how it is supposed to be. I know you can't do anything about the current situation for what you've done for us already ... we've not been able to value that. You were the source of freedom. You gave us a country. You gave us Pakistan but Sir, today, with extreme sadness and embarrassment; I inform you that we have failed.

We have failed as a nation.

We have failed at the government level.

We have failed miserably at justice.

We have failed in all fields and sectors.

I know it's far more honourable to fail than to cheat, but one must strive towards success and that's what we are not doing.

Sir, things are extremely bad in Pakistan but there are some little good things as well. We had Edhi Sahib, who had given his life to the country. We have Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy, who recently took Pakistan on to the global level and won an Oscar. We have great scientist like Dr. Ata ur Rahman.

We have Malala, who has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. We had Arfa Kareem, who was a tech wizard. We had Abdus Salam, who is the only Nobel Physics Prize winner, Sir, we had some of the best sportsmen in the world.

We have amazing talent and these people will keep on doing things in their personal capacities, but it takes the leadership to make a country prosper by their justice and transparent processes. The government needs to govern and not earn!

Sir you were a great exponent of social justice. In your speech at Delhi, about capitalism and vicious designs of landlords who flourished at the expense of the common man, you said:

“Here I should like to give a warning to land lords and capitalists who flourished at our expense by a system which is so wicked, which is so vicious and which makes them selfish, that it is ‘difficult to reason with them. The exploitation of masses has gone into their blood. They have forgotten the lesson of Islam. Greed and selfishness have overpowered ‘them. A lot of mischief is created. Is going to bit an Islamic State? Is it not a cause of begging a question? Is it not a case of passing vote of censure on yourself? The constitution of the government will be what the people will decide.”

Sir, you were all for welfare of the masses. In your address to the Constituent Assembly at Karachi on August 11, 1947 you said:

“Now I want to make this State of Pakistan happy and prosperous and we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people and specially of the masses and the poor.”

Dear Sir, I hope this country will be what you thought of it. I and many other people are putting in their best in our own capacity, but I have a feeling this will not have a massive effect on the betterment of Pakistan. The system of governance, judiciary and parliament have out run their life already and have failed to deliver. Those need to be replaced by a fair and just system. Sir, I sincerely pray that, a group of the new generation brings in a revolution and makes the future government, this time does things for Pakistan only and not for their own benefits.

Sir, there were only the common Indian Muslims who, under your inspiring leadership, worked hardly and sacrificed to make Pakistan, therefore we should focus on the welfare and uplift of the ordinary people, which is also the raison d'etre of Pakistan. Indeed, Sir, you wanted to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state where every Pakistani could flourish irrespective of his/her cast, creed or colour.

If alive, inshallah, I'll speak to you next year, same time and give you another brief and the progress of this nation.

May you get the best of the world you are in Sir.

Regards,

Mian Zafar Iqbal Kalanauri

Pakistani.