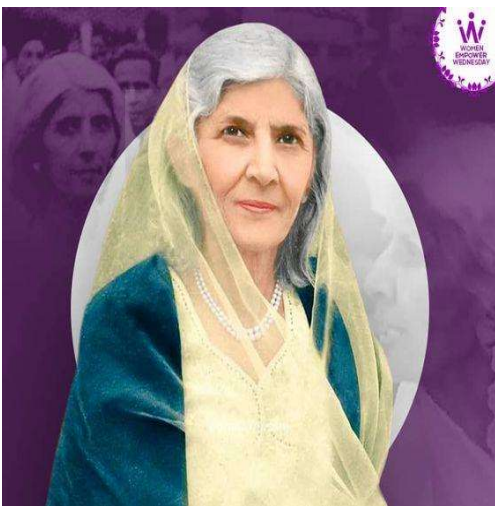


Fatima Jinnah – Mother of the Nation

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Born: July 30, 1893

Died: July 9, 1967

Known as: Madr-e-Millat (Mother of the Nation)

Profession: Dental Surgeon, Politician, Author

Relation: Sister of Muhammad Ali Jinnah

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Fatima Jinnah, often referred to as Madr-e-Millat or "Mother of the Nation," was a pioneering figure in Pakistan's independence movement. As the sister and close confidante of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, she played an essential role in shaping the identity of Pakistan. Beyond being just a sibling, she was a fighter, dental surgeon, social reformer, and political leader who championed the rights of women and democracy throughout her life.

Early Life and Education

Fatima Jinnah was born on July 30, 1893, in Karachi. She was the youngest of seven siblings in a respected Khoja Muslim family. Her early education was completed in Karachi, after which she joined the Bandra Convent in Bombay. In 1919, she graduated from the Dr. R. Ahmed Dental College

in Calcutta, making her one of the first Muslim women in British India to earn a professional degree in dentistry.

Career and Life with Quaid-e-Azam

She began her practice in Bombay but gave it up to support her brother full-time after the death of their sister in 1929. Moving to London briefly with Jinnah, she provided emotional and professional support, especially as he re-entered active politics in the early 1930s. She remained by his side through critical phases of the freedom movement and was often seen at public gatherings, making appearances in the Muslim League's women's wing meetings.

Political Struggle and Legacy

After the creation of Pakistan in 1947, Fatima Jinnah took a backseat from public life briefly. However, following the passing of her brother in 1948, she became more politically vocal. In 1965, at the age of 71, she contested the presidential election against military dictator Ayub Khan under the banner of a united opposition. Although she lost amid strong allegations of election rigging, her bravery inspired a generation.

Later Years and Death

Fatima Jinnah continued to advocate for democracy and women's rights until her death on July 9, 1967. Her sudden demise sparked widespread rumors and controversy, with many believing she was silenced by the establishment due to her outspoken criticism of authoritarianism. Despite official narratives, her funeral saw hundreds of thousands in attendance, proving her unwavering popularity and respect.

Legacy

Today, Fatima Jinnah remains a national symbol of integrity, courage, and patriotism. Her unwavering devotion to her brother's vision and her fight for democracy and justice have cemented her legacy in Pakistan's history. She is remembered not only as Quaid's sister but as a formidable political figure who dared to challenge the status quo in a male-dominated society.

Famous Quotes

"A nation can rise only if its women are standing shoulder to shoulder with its men."

"It is my firm belief that no nation can truly prosper unless its women are given equal opportunity to contribute to the nation-building process."