

An article on Mrs. Maryam Faruqi by Reem Faruqi, her grand daughter , written a year before April 2012

“And You Are?”

I’m now standing in front of this petite Pakistani lady, only a little taller than I, yet she has triple my spunk, and is more than triple my age. We have the same long arms and bony build.

My voice is mute. I need a minute. Instead I try my best to emulate her smile and poise, and answer simply, Reem. What I do not say: Reem as in Reem Faruqi. I share your last name. I’m the daughter of your son Zaheer.

She differs from the typical elderly Pakistani lady in so many ways, ways fine and numerous as grains of cumin powder. For one, she married for love. Her marriage was what we Pakistanis term a love marriage. As in unarranged. In the 1940’s, this was unheard of. Second, she was educated, highly at that. After winning a scholarship, she received dozens of letters from potential suitors. She decided to write back to the quiet, polite gentleman with immaculate handwriting. Letters turned into love letters, and then they married. *She* arranged her marriage.

She defied tradition by carving out a career for herself. But her husband didn’t want her to leave the home, so she complied. An educator, she put her creativity to work. At first, by having students come to her home and innocently calling her school, “Happy Home.” As her house quickly overflowed with students, she leapt for bigger and better opportunities and started her school in another building. And this was just the beginning of principaldom for this educator.

Today, she has founded numerous schools, still with the same title, Happy Home Schools, in Karachi, Pakistan. She still goes daily. Even in summers. I know dozens of teachers who look forward to dismissing their students at 2:45 pm, and are happily out the door by 3:15 pm. I should know. I’m one of them. She inspired me to become a teacher. Her dedication to the profession, on the other hand, puts me to shame. She has a bedroom...at school. If you walked into the original Happy Home School, you would notice that behind the classrooms, away from the hustle and bustle, is her small, pristine bedroom. At the

end of the school day, she will often take a small catnap there, and then return ready for her second half of the day, with even higher expectations than before.

She has won dozens of awards, yet treats them matter-of-factly. It is her students that she lives for, possibly would even die for. I have travelled the world with her, and have seen the passion with which her students greet her. At times, she is treated like a celebrity. Going down an escalator in the London underground, a young man coming up the escalator shouts, “Bari Apa! You were my teacher!” to which she smiles, nods, and waves a regal wave that puts Kate Middleton to shame. The man on the other hand, continues to wave energetically with a huge smile plastered on his face. She will giggle about it later.

I write letters to her. In Urdu. The language that only she took the time to teach me. She would sit with me in her garden, amidst her flowers, and have conversations in Urdu, gently correcting as time went by. As I painstakingly write, and rewrite, I make errors that remind me of those my second graders would make. But I write my letters anyways. She sends them back like a true teacher, with corrections and suggestions. When I sign my letter, Reem, I make sure to write, Reem Faruqi (your granddaughter - daughter of your son Zaheer).

MRS. MARYAM FARUQI REMEMBERED:

Following are some of the excerpts of letters, emails and comments in the visitors' book received from her family, friends, and beloved students from different parts of the world:

We have lost a great leader, a prominent educationist and a wonderful human being hailing from Indo-Pakistan (subcontinent). She was a very eminent 'Principal' and never compromised on 'Principles' throughout her career. She always worked for the progress and prosperity of the student community in Pakistan.

In our opinion she was a great legend in the field of education. It is a great loss to the young generation. She was a caring parent, a very loving grandparent and most affectionate great grandparent. She also had the honor of being the granddaughter of Sir Abullah Haroon Jaffer, one of the renowned educationists from the Indo-Pak subcontinent. Mrs. Maryam Faruqi will be remembered by her students, followers and loved ones for ages.

We all pray to Almighty Allah to grant her the 'Happy Home' in Heaven – Aameen.

Dr. Abdul Sattar Jaffer
Murshid Hospital & Health Care Centre

.... She was an educationalist to the core. Though I attended the school for only a few years before moving abroad, the rest of my clan still attends it to date.. I recall how her policies helped make school into a learning centre for us; remember how she'd instruct us to wear our V's, dupattas properly, ensuring we were properly covered and how vigilant she was when it came to school discipline. All those extra-curricular activities back in school did good to a lot of us.

...She will always be fondly remembered!

Gulnaz A. Ghausi, Ex-student

.....The measure of a life well-lived is not in how much money one has or what possessions they have accumulated, but rather through the lives they touched and the sorrow they leave behind. If the outpouring of sympathy on her loss is any indication, and it most certainly is, you can proudly and confidently say that hers indeed was a life well-lived.

Syed Ibrahim
Ex-Student 1991

...After reading the news about her passing away, for a moment, my memory lane took me back to 1980 when I shifted from Cozy Corner to Happy Home School. My father had passed away then and we were in great need of good education. My mother couldn't afford the tuition of two students (myself and my sister). Mrs. Maryam Faruqi, principal at that time – may Allah SWT rest her soul in peace – made my education fee to half. This is how she touched my life and changed my life for the years to come...

Zeeshan H. Khan
Class of 1986 and a proud Happy Homer

...We have lost the institution's most precious asset – its Founder, from whom the successful journey of Happy Home School had started and is still going strong after more than 63 years and InshaAllah will keep going on. From now on, the journey must keep on without its leader, but I'm sure the knowledge and wisdom which Mrs. Maryam Faruqi shared among her students would give birth to hundreds and thousands of more leaders from this institution.

Muhammad Haris Zahid
Alumnus, Happy Home School, Batch 2005

...In my humble opinion, the best way to pay her homage would be to emulate her feats. Her struggle against heavy odds to educate herself and then to transfer her knowledge and skills to others is an eternal source of inspiration for all of us and especially for her family. Her rich legacy of which you are one of the trustees has to be excelled and passed on to future generations.

Ata Ansari
Attaché
Press & Political Affairs
Karachi, April 10, 2012

....Happy Home School inculcated some very positive attributes in my personality like belief in Almighty Allah SWT, honesty, self-esteem, morality, self confidence and above all patriotism to my homeland. All of these attributes have only come into my and other students' personalities due to the vision and leadership of Mrs Maryam Faruqi!

I salute her for giving Pakistan such a good institution and educating and developing Pakistani students with positive and healthy mindsets.

Syed Saad Ali
A proud student of Happy Home School

...Mrs. Faruqi was a pillar of strength, a guiding force and a dedicated teacher who inspired many young minds with her thoughtfulness, rigor, discipline, toughness and love, to achieve success in all walks of life.

May Allah bless her with the highest status in Jannah as there is no better deed than to teach and mould young growing minds.

Mustafa M. Husain, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology and Internal Medicine
Lydia Bryant Test Distinguished Professorship in Psychiatric Research
Chief, Geriatric Psychiatry Division
Director, Neurostimulation Research Lab

The news of Mrs Faruqui passing away has made me lose my mother again. I joined Happy Home in 1960 and left to join Adamjee College after staying there for 10 years. I then graduated from Dow Medical and joined the army. I got trained as a specialist in medicine, chest diseases and critical care and got Fellowship from Pakistan and from the Royal Colleges of London and Edinburgh. Today I am a Major General in the Medical Corps. BUT every thing that I am today, I owe it to this school of mine and to the lady who had the vision and the unstoppable energy to run it. It was not just a school and she was not just a woman; she was an institution by herself. She was directly responsible for moulding our lives and our personality. No doubt she had a great team of people to help her, and, there are too many of them to name here, but it was always she who was the driving force. My greatest regret is not to have met her as I always wanted to meet her in my uniform as a General. God! I am going to miss her. May Allah bless her soul her with the highest of His bounties. She did so much for so many over so many decades.

I am proud that I was from Happy Home. I am proud that I was her student.

Regards

Maj Gen
Syed Badshah Hussain Zaidi
Advisor in Pulmonology
Head of the Department of Pulmonology & Critical Care
Military Hospital
Rawalpindi
Pakistan

...She was a true gem of this country and I hope God gives her peace. She was a remarkable person and it was astonishing how much energy she still had in her 80s. I happened to know of her as I am friends with one of her grandsons.

I hope that God helps the institution continue successfully like she started and continued it.

Regards
Rumman Islam

مسز مریم فاروقی کو منظوم خراج تحسین

علم کا آفتاب تھیں مریم
وصف میں باکمال تھیں مریم
باعتبار افتخار تھیں مریم
سر فرازا تھا جن کو قدرت نے
فرد وہ بے مثال تھیں مریم
علم و دانش کا ایک سمندر تھیں
عہد کی اپنے شان تھیں مریم
ایک جوہر شناس تھیں مریم
رتقی دنیا کرے گی اُن کو یاد
ایسا روشن چراغ تھیں مریم
جائے والوں کو کون روک سکا
لیکن ایک امتیاز تھیں مریم
آئیے فاتحہ پڑھیں ہم سب
ہم کو بے حد عزیز تھیں مریم

آشنا سب ہیں اس حقیقت سے
ذراں گاہ کا وقار تھیں مریم

علم و دانش کا ایک سمندر تھیں
عہد کی اپنے شان تھیں مریم

اس گُلستاں کو بھر دیا گل سے
اس چین کی بہار تھیں مریم

ہے کراچی کو شرف یہ حاصل
روشن افروز اس میں تھیں مریم

ہے دُعا اپنی درں گاہ کے لئے
جگ گائے یہاں کوئی مریم

ہے دُعاے قرآن یہ اُن کے لئے
پائیں ”فردوس“ میں سُنکوں مریم

منجانب: بندۂ ناچیز قمر الزماں صدیقی

She was primarily an asset of this country and a legend of this school, this great institution of name and fame where her blooming flowers (all her students) are swiftly heading towards their destination of acquiring quality education to serve their homeland with full strength and capabilities. All credit goes to Mrs. Maryam Faruqi, who with her untiring efforts achieved her goals and objectives by establishing this great institution in this city (Karachi) of our Quaid ((Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah) for the required and imperative spread of quality education.

It was her inspiration that inspired me to write a kind of poetic attribution for her. On my part, I tried my level best to pay a meaningful tribute to this great lady who also knew my grand mother (Mussarrat Jahan Siddiqui) very well at the time when my grandmother was teaching at New Town Girls School and which is now called Safia Khan Girls School situated in the vicinity of New Town (Jamshed Road)

With profound regards,

Qamar-uz-Zaman Siddiqui

Father of Muhammad Aurangzaib Qamar who is studying in class IV-B.

رونقِ گلستان، ہم میں نہیں

پیکرِ عَزَّ و شان ہم میں نہیں
مریم ”پیری جان“ ہم میں نہیں
اوج کو جس کے دیکھتی تھی زمیں
آج وہ آسمان ہم میں نہیں
جس کی ہر بات پتھروں پہ لکیر
اب وہ اہل زبان ہم میں نہیں
ہم زمینوں کی راہ چلتے ہیں
رہِ رُو آسمان ہم میں نہیں
ہر ارادہ اٹل رہا اُن کا
ایسا عزم چٹان ہم میں نہیں
جس کی محنت سے یہ چمن مہرکا
آج وہ باغبان ہم میں نہیں
جیسے ہر شے پہ تھی نظر اُن کی
ایسا کچھ بھی دھیان ہم میں نہیں
جس کے ہونٹوں سے پھول جھڑتے تھے
آہ! وہ خوش بیان ہم میں نہیں
اُن کا نعم البدل کہیں کس کو
علم کا پاسبان ہم میں نہیں
پُھول، پتے، شجر، ہوا، سب ہیں
رونقِ گلستان ہم میں نہیں

ڈھونڈتی ہیں نفیس کی نظریں
مریم مہربان ہم میں نہیں

نفیس عباس نفیس

اکاؤنٹس ڈیپارٹمنٹ پی ہوم اسکول

۱۳ اپریل ۲۰۱۲ء

مسز مریم فاروقی (بڑی آپا) کی شان میں

انسان پرستی تو کوئی آپ سے سیکھے
اسکول میں نماز اور تراویح کا انعقاد
انجینئر بنا تو کوئی ڈاکٹر بنا
کوئی کبھی بھوکا نہ رہا ڈیوٹی کے دوران
مشکل ہوئی آسان پریشان حال کی
اپنے اور ملازم میں کبھی فرق نہ برتا
فٹ پاتھ کے فقیر کو اسکول لے آئیں
اک میں نہیں ارشد یہ سبھی لوگ ہیں کہتے

کردار کی تعمیر کوئی آپ سے سیکھے
اسلام پرستی تو کوئی آپ سے سیکھے
تعلیم کا معیار کوئی آپ سے سیکھے
اندازِ فکر سب کی کوئی آپ سے سیکھے
یہ غرباء پروری تو کوئی آپ سے سیکھے
اندازِ مساوات کوئی آپ سے سیکھے
تعلیم کا یہ جذبہ کوئی آپ سے سیکھے
اخلاق کی تعمیر کوئی آپ سے سیکھے

سید ارشد جمال

پپی ہوم اسکول

سوسائٹی کیمپس

... her humanity has transformed the lives of many.

I am not a student of Happy Home School, but I have been connected to it since the very beginning. When Mrs. Maryam Faruqi started the school back in 1949, my khalas were among the first 20 students when the journey began from a garage. Their names are Aaliya and Fazila. Later, my uncles, Liaquat and Shujaat and my mother, Atifa Hameed also joined the school

... There is one significant thing, which I would like to tell you about your mother, which you may not know. My khala, Aaliya died at the age of 15 from meningitis. She was one of the first students of Happy Home School under your mother when it began from a garage. At the time of her death, there was a shortage of cement in Karachi, due to which her grave was not being prepared properly. There was cement at Happy Home School for some expansion project. My grandmother's brother wrote a letter to Mrs. Maryam Faruqi and requested her to lend us some cement so that the grave could be prepared and she lent the full amount required.

As I am narrating this story to you, it is difficult to hold back those feelings which I felt when my mother told me this on the day of Mrs. Maryam Faruqi's soym. This gesture, is immeasurable and so close to our family's hearts, that it cannot be expressed through words. And therefore I repeat, that not only in through education, but through emotions full of revere and humility we will always remember Mrs. Maryam Faruqi.

... She was not just an ordinary human being, she was an educationer par excellence whose determination and vision stands today as the school and for all the years to come ahead. Insha-Allah.

Best regards,

Khan Muhammad Osama Shaukat on behalf of
Late Aaliya Hameed (Batch of 1962)
Fazila Hameed (Batch of 1963)
Late Liaquat Hameed
Shujaat Hameed (Batch of 1968)
Atifa Hameed (Batch of 1970)

We have lost a grand old lady whose contributions to Pakistan and the cause of education are immense. It is a personal loss.

Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Moeenuddin Haider,
Ex- Governor of Sindh

My family and I felt a great loss on Mrs. Maryam Faruqi's death. She was a true legend. When she visited our/ home, we prepared for her arrival as if Quaid-e-Azam or the president of the United States weres coming. We will always remember her in our prayers.

Amir Ali Akhtar Khan
Ex Student - Batch 2003

You are alive! In our thoughts, in our memories, in our heart. We are the result of your brilliantly conceived ideas and the vision you dreamed.

Dr. Abdul Qadir
Aga Khan Hospital

I knew Mrs. Maryam Faruqi since 1964 when Happy Home School was in PECHS. She was a great institution for all educationists such as myself; dedicated and hardworking as well as kind and helpful.

Stella Jafri,
Clifton, Karachi

...Mrs. Maryam Faruqi was a role model, a compassionate guide, an extremely affectionate individual, all rolled into one. She was dynamic and awe-inspiring individual who had a large influence on my personal and professional growth.

I have not seen a person with as much passion and commitment towards education as her. She dedicated her entire life to teach and train the young and emerging generations of this country in their chosen professions and businesses. The vacuum that has been created by her passing away will never be completely filled, and it will be a massive task ... to carry forward the noble mission which she so diligently carried on her shoulders for more than half a century...

Mr. Pervaiz Iqbal
Alumnus, CEO & Managing Director, BBCL (PVT) LTD

The environment in schools that Maryam Faruqi had created promoted eastern customs and traditions, and following it is important so that students can benefit from the rightful upbringing of the mind — nourishment beyond course books.” –

Prof Anwar Ahmad Zai, Chairman Board of Intermediate Education Karachi (BIEK)

I still remember how we used to assemble for Zuhar Prayer, the method of teaching and dealing with students was amazing. I wish I could again restart from the same school with the same bari aapa, and my loving teachers. Prof. Moin Azhar today is a Professor because of her, my elder brother Mr. Justice Rtd. Nadeem Azhar, my younger sisters, Zeba Sabuhi, and Farida Saba, we all are indebted to the parted soul...
Moin Azhar Siddiqui

She will always be respected! What a woman she was! I wonder if Happy Home would have come so far without her! I am upset because we lost a lady who was a rock. She actually deserved living! For the many years she lived, she actually LIVED. The attitude, the friendliness, the charming smile, the quality of a leader, the great mind, the intelligence and what not. She had all! ...You will be respected and missed.
Ms.Shoaib

“Some people dream of great accomplishments, while others stay awake and do them”. Mrs. Maryam Faruqi was definitely a doer and with her hard work, and determination and zeal showed how one woman can make a huge impact on not just the life of one person but the thousands of them who graduated from her schools. One of my earliest memories of studying at Happy Home School is when my class fellows would shush me when Mrs. Faruqi would enter the corridor. I did not know anything about her then but I understood she must really be something to have even the second graders respect her like that. Over the years I stayed in the school, she was beyond doubt the most active person around. Being the one to arrive before most parents at the prize distribution ceremonies, being the one running around to make sure students even exited the school for van in discipline, ensuring students who stayed after One o’clock offered Zuhr prayers at school and encouraging athletes at all Sports Days to show sportsmanship are just few from a list of many of her attributes. The best memory I have with her is when I had just finished grade eleven. I was supposed to board a flight to Pune, India, with one another Happy Home participant to attend a conference there for which we both were selected from Happy Home School. I had my last O Level exam that day and hence the flight we took was at 1 a.m. that night. I was driven to the airport with my parents and expected no one else there. After saying goodbyes to them I rushed to the main gate and there at this late hour with Mrs. Nizami, was standing the founder of my school with pride and handed me and the other participant an envelope each containing Indian currency. I was in extreme awe of the thought how anyone could ever match her. Her demise though is very sad but I am among the fortunate ones to have had the honour of knowing her....

Zainub Faiza, Batch of O Level 2008

I couldn’t believe my eyes when I read the obituary on the school’s site, which I visit regularly. After all those years of keeping us together as a family, of maintaining discipline and order, and of teaching us the difference between right and wrong, Mrs. Maryam Faruqi is...just not here anymore. It feels surreal, to say the least...I can’t even start to imagine Happy Home School without Mrs. Faruqi!

I can’t help remembering the day I visited the school for the purpose of researching for an article I was writing for Dawn. At the end of the day, Mrs. Faruqi took me to the cafeteria, ordered snacks for us both, and told me about her early life and how she got married. Then, just before I was leaving, she bought me a costume jewelry set from a woman who had set up a stall selling various items, in the school grounds for the day, and kissed me goodbye. My perception of Mrs. Faruqi changed completely that day...where I had thought of her only as the strict school founder before, I now saw her as an open- minded, generous, extremely sensible, and yes, humorous woman, who had led an exceptionally full life, Alhamdulillah.

Syeda Tahreem Wasti, U.S.A.
Class of 2005
Happy Home School, Cambridge Section

This assembly of Rotary Club of Karachi East offers heartfelt condolences on the demise of eminent educationist, social activist, and benefactor of civil society, Madam Maryam Faruqi. We recognize her noble qualities as a human being. Her passion to educate and brighten the life of millions is commendable. She is a role model and her legacy brightens our path.

Iqbal A. Alavi, President, Rotary Club of Karachi East

Our First Eid Without Mrs. Faruqi

Although no words can really help
to ease the loss we bear,

Although it's difficult today
to see beyond the sorrow,

May looking back in prayer
help comfort our tomorrow

Mrs. Humera Hassan
Head Mistress, International Montessori Centre

A Tribute to Mrs Maryam Faruqi
(the founder of HAPPY HOME SCHOOL)

on

The 64th Anniversary of the school

A Truly Remarkable Woman

I see a remarkable woman with a kind & caring heart
who accomplished so much as a giving woman
in a selfish world.

I see a woman of strength & wisdom
who accomplished so much as a strong woman
in a man's world.

I see a woman who used to walk
with gentleness & grace
through this world.

I admire you for all that you were
and for all that you did.

I thank you for the values you instilled in us
and the wisdom you imparted to us.

Even though you are no more with us but still
you are loved, you are cherished, you are appreciated
by so many whose lives you have touched
including me.

May ALLAH bless you with JannatulFirdaus (Aameen)

Naheed Aqil
Ex-student, Ex-Headmistress
Happy Home School - Society Campus
23rd February 2013