A Celebration of Courage

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Two obituaries in the London Times and New York Times were salvaged by my son Kaiser Tamiz Amin while doing library work in Boston. I lost the one in London Times which was short, unlike the long detailed obituary on my father in the New York Times. Hunting for the lost one in London I walked into the Marylebone public library -- where I found an affable young assistant who not only traced the obituary but declared with a smile, "I have found eleven other notices in the Times". He gave me copies of them at a cheap price. They covered his presence at the queen's coronation banquet and Princess Alexandria's wedding. I wondered how my father managed to skip the meat dishes served by gloved butlers -- as he only ate Kosher meat. At the Savoy, the hotel where he was staying he was given only fish and vegetables. This was the same man handcuffed by the British jailor Hogg for not saluting him, A Congressite and supporter of the Non-cooperation Movement, he had given up his lucrative legal practice at the behest of his mentor C R Das -- mayor of Calcutta a top Congress leader and a barrister with a princely practice (father's words in his memoirs The Test of Time).



Tamizuddin Khan, the then Acting President of Pakistan being greeted by Yusuf A. Ismail as he leaves for Rawalpindi at Cantonment Railway Station on September 15, 1962.

Our family homestead along with paddy, jute and coriander fields were washed away by the angry *Arial Khan*, a branch of the river Padma, seven times. With rich yields from the land and leaseholds of two huge markets the family had been comfortable. But when my father started school my grandfather's resources were nil. He borrowed money from his rich Hindu friends the Kundus, to send my father to the Middle English School then to Scottish Church and Presidency Colleges in Calcutta. From Calcutta University father obtained a law degree. Armed with these he soon rose to be a successful lawyer. But as an ardent member of the Indian National Congress he gave up western clothes and embraced arrest -- coming out of jail after two years, penniless. Just as my ancestors were too proud to reclaim their land