



OBITUARY

Late Professor Bilquis Fatimah

**“Life is a Journey
Destination is Heaven”**

Late Professor Bilquis Fatimah was born on 16/03/1921. She being one of the very early MRCOGs of the era, (later elevated to FRCOG), was the esteemed founder of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Obs/Gyn) Department of Fatima Jinnah Medical College (FJMC) and Sir Ganga Ram (SGR) Hospital, Lahore. Mine was the fifth batch of the college and our Maternity Duty had started at another local hospital, before being transferred to SGR Hospital, for the first time after ten days, under her supervision. Her long and fruitful tenure at FJMC included her Principal ship for many years.

Other than being a founder teacher of the subject of Obs/Gyn, She was the Mentor of Streams of lady gynaecologists and obstetricians of second half of last century.

A great teacher as she was, I remember her lifting my Obstetric answer sheet of send-up examination of 1957, in the class room and saying “ Even the best paper has one mistake”, which was that with an Antepartum Haemorrhage patient lying on the operation table and arrangements for C. Section ready, one can perform a very gentle, one finger vaginal examination; to evaluate the degree of placenta praevia (those were pre-ultrasound days); to which she said “ no you will not”! During my one year house job and later residency for two years, She trained me like other trainees of hers’, firmly but meaningfully, despite the fact that I was daughter of her colleague, Late Col. Muhammad Zia Ullah, the highly respected Professor of Medicine at FJMC, Lahore, at that time. She maintained family ties right through, but on account of those, did not exercise any relaxation, what so ever for me during my training. A mentor in the real sense, as she was.

The words of advice about Obs/Gyn situations that she spoke at ward rounds, still resound in my ears and I am sure in the ears of her innumerable other trainees. Thus she chiseled and carved us for long careers ahead.

Her respectable husband; Lt. Col. Mahmud Ahmad Khan, a very pleasant and affectionate person, who had left this world long time before her; was a thorough gentleman in his own right.

On Monday the 21th January, this year Prof. Bilquis Fatimah left this world forever.

I along with the whole congregation of her students and trainees mourn at her sad demise- A great lady indeed. May her soul rest in peace in the heavens above. All of us offer our condolences to her berieved family members, i.e. her elder son Moeed Ahmad Khan, Prof of Gastroenterology at Services Hospital, Lahore; Mrs Hania M. Khan a very caring daughter-in-law and the younger son Usman Ahmad Khan, may they gain courage to bear this tremendous loss.

Prof. Khalida Adeeb Khanum Akhtar