

# Late Ustad Gul Pacha Ulfat

## Short biography

Late Gul Pacha Ulfat, son of Meer Sayed Pacha, was the prominent poet and author of the Pashto language. He was born in 1909 in the village of Aziz-Khan-Kats, Kargai, district of Laghman province. After acquiring a good knowledge of Arabic and religion, he studied Sarf, Nahw, Mantiq, Hadith and Tafseer from the famous local islamic scholars. In 1935, after completing the common religious education and private studies, he was appointed as a clerk in national Anis-Newspaper.

In 1949 and 1952, he was elected as member of the National-Assembly by the people of Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar Province, and people of Kargai, district of Laghman respectively. Meanwhile he founded the Wolus National Weekly in 1951, which was edited by him till the end of 1953. In 1955, he attended the Grand Assembly sessions representing the people of Jalalabad.

In 1956, he was appointed as president of the Pashto-Academy and in 1963 he was promoted to a central cabinet post as President of the Tribal-Affairs. He served also simultaneously as professor of Pashto language and literature in Kabul-University, Faculty of Literature and Faculty of Law and Political-Sciences. In 1964, he resigned from his ministerial post and was elected to the National Assembly by the people of Jalalabad. At the end of his term, he went into retirement. He served his country, Afghanistan, as a civil servant and as a member of the National Assembly for a period of 34 years. But his contribution to the enrichment of Pashto - Literature, as a poet and writer, continued until the last moment of his life. He had written several books about religious, ethical, political and social matters, in verse and prose forms in addition to numerous articles. Some of his books are still unpublished.

For distinction in literature, Ustad Ulfat had also been awarded some medals namely Khushhal Khan, Abu Ali Siena, Education and the Store(star) medals.

Ustad Ulfat had been actively involved in the political life of his country. This was a natural consequence of the profundity of his belief in justice and freedom. His writings mainly reflect the miseries inflicted up on the

orphans, poor and oppressed people. Ustad Ulfat was a moslem in the true sense of the word. He was honest, humble, kind and very friendly towards everybody. During his entire life he stood firm against oppressors and his house was a safe shelter for the poor orphans and widdows. He never misused his social position or official authority. Ustad Ulfat is beyond doubt one of the most distinguished writers and poet in Pashto language, but his peity and devotion to God in addition to his high ethical and moral standard makes him very special and unique.

Ustad Ulfat spent the last days of his life in his village in Aziz-Khan-Kats. He passed away on 28/09/1356 (19<sup>th</sup> December 1977) at the age of 67 due to heart-failure and was buried in his family-graveyard in the same village.

Allah bless him