

Chapter

2

NATIVITY, CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

Year of birth

There is no authentic record of *Hazrat* Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's date of birth and, as a result, there is some difference of opinion about the exact year of his birth. Research on the subject seems to substantiate the year as 1835 although *Hazrat* Mirza himself mentioned in his book *Kitab-ul-Bariyya* that he was born either in 1839 or 1840. It is apparent from the wording of the statement, however, that this was an approximation rather than an exact determination based on some written record. Further evidence of this is provided in the same article of the book *Kitab-ul-Bariyya* when, a little further on, *Hazrat* Mirza writes, "Thus about forty years of my life were spent in the protective companionship of my father before his death." It is known with certainty that *Hazrat* Mirza's father died in 1876 and from this, *Hazrat* Mirza's year of birth can be deduced as approximately 1836.

In his book *Ainah Kamalat Islam*, *Hazrat* Mirza mentions that his mother would remark to him at times that, "The time of tribulation for our family passed into prosperity with your birth." For this reason, she considered his birth to be blessed. It is well established that the period of difficulties for the family came to an end during the reign of Ranjit Singh, who restored to Mirza Ghulam Qadir the town of Qadian with its surrounding lands and gave him a respectable military rank in his force. Mirza Ghulam Qadir performed some military duties for Ranjit Singh

who, as is historically established, died in 1839. This shows that *Hazrat Mirza* must have been born three or four years before the death of *Ranjit Singh* because the sequence of events, obtaining a military rank, performing military services leading to a favorable disposition by the *Raja*, and the restoration of the family property, must have taken some time. This puts the year of birth as 1835 or 1836.

The most reliable evidence is furnished by using the published almanac of *Mirajuddin*, which gives the calendar for the 125 years from 1783 to 1907 C.E. *Hazrat Mirza* has categorically stated in his book *Tuhfa Golarwiyya* that “My birth was on Friday, the fourteenth day of the lunar month.” He had also mentioned verbally to *Mufti Muhammad Sadiq* that his birth was in the month of *Phagun* (the twelfth solar month of the Hindu calendar called *Bikrami*). The above-referred almanac reveals two possible dates that fulfill the required conditions in the period that approximately covers the birth of *Hazrat Mirza*. One of these is February 13, 1835, which corresponds to *Shawal* 14, 1250 *hijri* and *Phagun* 1, 1891 *Bikrami*. The other is February 17, 1833, which corresponds to *Ramzan* 14, 1247 *hijri* and *Phagun* 1, 1888 *Bikrami*. Both of these dates were Fridays on the 14th day of the new moon in the month of *Phagun*. However the first date of February 13, 1835 is the one that is consistent with the writings of *Hazrat Mirza*.

In the supplement to the *Barahin Ahmadiyya* Part 5, *Hazrat Mirza* gives his age as seventy years. Working back from the date of that writing gives us 1835 C.E. as the year of his birth. Similarly, his age can also be deduced from some of his other works. In *Haqiqat-ul-Wahy*,¹ he states that he reached the stage of spiritual discourse with God in 1290 *hijri* (1875 C.E.), and in various other writings, he has mentioned his age at the time to have been forty years. These statements would indicate the year of his birth to be 1835 C.E. corresponding to 1250 *hijri*.

In summary, the arithmetic of the almanac and the evidence of *Hazrat Mirza*’s writings indicate his date of birth as February 13, 1835, and this should be accepted as correct.

Fulfillment of a prophecy about the birth of Messiah

Hazrat Mirza was born on a Friday morning. He was the second of a twin birth. His twin sister, *Jannat Bibi*, was born first but died soon after delivery. The circumstances of his birth were in accordance with a prophecy recorded by *Sheikh-e-Akbar*, *Hazrat Mohyuddin ibn Arabi*, in

1 *Haqiqat-ul-Wahy*, Page 199.