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THE LAST PRINCESS OF LAHORE - BAMBA DULEEP SINGH (1869 - 1957)

Thread

Post partition, every morning a weak old woman would board the Model Town bus service headed to the city. The conductor never asked her for money or he would invite anger of the last Queen of Punjab.

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Princess Bamba Sutherland, the eldest daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh and grand-daughter of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was born on Sep 29, 1869, in London.

Duleep Singh, the last Maharaja of Punjab was taken away to England by British after annexing Punjab.

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Since he was still a child he was forcibly converted to Christianity and made to adopt British values in order to prevent him from ever thinking about regaining Punjab.

He was also kept away from his mother Maharani Jindan.
When he finally met his mother years later...

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...he was told about his lost kingdom and religion after which he decided to reclaim it from British treachery.
During his struggle he married and had six children, 3 sons & 3 daughters from the 1st marriage.

Bamba was the most colorful character among 6 and was a rebel...
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...like her father and daring like her Grandfather Ranjit Singh. She married Col Sutherland who later became principal of King Edward Medical College.

When she got permission to bring her grandmother Maharani Jindan's ashes to Lahore in 1924, she saw a huge crowd gathered...
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... to meet the descendants of the Maharaja of Punjab.

Widowed in 1939 without any children and completely alone after her sister also passed away, she divided her time between England and Lahore.

In 1944, she permanently moved to Lahore and chose to live here even...

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...after partition for she wished to die in the kingdom which was rightfully hers.

It was during this time that she began styling herself as the Queen of Punjab and said herself to have lived like an alien in her own kingdom.

She lived in a house in Model Town which...

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...was named 'Gulzar' where she lived in company of her loyal secretary Pir Karim Bux, whom she had initially hired to translate inherited Persian documents from her father.

On March 10,1957, the last Queen of Punjab quietly slipped into the soil of her own kingdom,...

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...unknown to most of the society.

None of the six children of Maharaja Duleep Singh had any children. Some died very young under mysterious circumstances, before they could have children.

Located in Gora Kabristan on jail road, Lahore,...

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...the grave of the last of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's descendants still remains unknown, decked with flowers brought only by the descendants of Pir Karim Bakhsh from ‘Gulzar’.

10/concluded

#Punjab #history #Partition #Subcontinent #Archives #Lahore #British

