



### **The Vanishing Indian Upper Class**

Life History of Raza Mohammed Khan

*By Terry Williams and Raza Mohammed Khan*

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*The Vanishing Indian Upper Class: The Life History of Raza Mohammed Khan:* This masterful work brings together a leading American sociologist and an Indian elite. The result is a powerful narrative and thoughtful reflections on modern India with gripping insights on gender, family, the ruling class, religion, the caste system, poverty, greed and power. Its life history approach makes *The Vanishing Indian Upper Class* an exemplary read, weaving together the everyday tapestry of a Muslim aristocrat, his household, which then merge into the very structural fabric of India herself, a modern democracy built upon the sheaf of a vibrant civilization. Terry Williams is one of the leading ethnographers of our time and his ability to narrate the depth of the human condition gives us a work that is searing, elucidating, and sobering. Raza Mohammed Khan, a prominent member of the upper-class in India, affords us the right of passage to make this possible. In the end, readers come away with a journey well worth the trip. — Zain Abdullah, author of *Black Mecca: The African Muslims of Harlem* and associate professor of Religion and Society and Islamic Studies, Temple University.

“As India shudders and splits apart, this enthralling ethnography traces one royal family’s story as it loses its place in the old social order, disperses to Baghdad, Karachi and London, and struggles to maintain family ties and traditions even as it adapts to the new world.” — Anwar Shaikh, Professor of Economics, New School for Social Research

*The Vanishing Indian Upper Class* is based on a life-narrative [true-life story] and contains various elements of history, politics, religion, literature and poetry. In anonymized form it dramatizes a personal family history focused around a continuing and unresolved family inheritance and property dispute, which provides the story with its dramatic tension. The main subjects in the narrative which speaks beyond the life story itself are: the human spirit; honor; betrayal; violence; love; politics; and those bonds beyond kith and kin known as comradeship and engagement. The work covers two continents involving the Indian upper class and describes how Raza Mohammed Khan and his family legacy is revealed.

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