

## #TRIED&TASTED

### Incredible Chocolate Desserts

Need a dessert to wow a crowd? These chocolate extravaganzas are sure to impress, and they're surprisingly easy to make too.

World Chocolate Day is nothing short of a special tribute to mankind's greatest culinary invention. (Sorry Bread or even Pizza!) Chocolate can enhance and help to create the most luxurious desserts and can even be enjoyed and indulged on its own. So celebrate with some of the best cocoa, rich, dark chocolate recipes that makes you go tingly inside.

#### Cookies 'n' Cream Cheesecake Bar

- Ingredients**
- 2x150g pkts Oreo Classic biscuits
  - 70g unsalted butter, melted
  - 2 tbsp boiling water
  - 1 tbsp gelatine powder
  - 500g cream cheese, at room temperature
  - 155g (3/4 cup) caster sugar
  - 125ml (1/2 cup) thickened cream
  - 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Chocolate Ganache**
- 100g dark cooking chocolate, finely chopped
  - 60ml (1/4 cup) thickened cream

- Preparation**
- Line a straight-sided 7cm-deep, 9.5 x 19.5cm (base measurement) loaf pan with baking paper, allowing 2 long sides to overhang.
  - Process half the biscuits in a food processor until finely crushed. Add the butter and process until well combined. Spread the biscuit mixture firmly over the base of the pan. Chill for 30 minutes or until firm.
  - Meanwhile, place water in a heatproof bowl. Sprinkle with gelatine. Place bowl in a larger bowl half-filled with boiling water. Set aside, stirring often, for 5 minutes or until gelatine dissolves. Cool slightly.
  - Process cream cheese, sugar, cream and vanilla in a food processor until smooth. Add the gelatine mixture. Process to combine. Pour into pan. Smooth surface. Chill for 6 hours or until set. Transfer to a plate.
  - For ganache, place chocolate in a heatproof bowl. Bring cream almost to the boil in a small saucepan over medium-low heat. Pour the cream over the chocolate. Set aside for 5 minutes, then stir until smooth. Set aside for 10 minutes to cool slightly.
  - Pour the ganache over the cheesecake.

#### Hot Chocolate Spoons



- Ingredients**
- 500g dark chocolate, chopped
  - Turkish delight pieces, chopped, to decorate
  - Mini marshmallows, to decorate

- Preparation**
- Place 20 mini muffin cases on a baking tray. Place the dark chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on High for 1 minute. Stir.
  - Carefully pour the chocolate into the mini muffin cases. Set aside for 30 minutes or until the chocolate starts to set.
  - Place a little wooden spoon or wooden iceblock stick in the centre of the chocolate in each muffin case. Decorate the chocolate with Turkish delight, mini marshmallows and pieces in the fridge for 1 hour to set.
  - Carefully peel away the muffin cases and wrap the spoons in your choice of packaging - you can try cellophane and ribbons, or coloured paper.
  - To serve, unwrap and dunk in mugs filled with hot milk. Wait until a little bit melted and stir to combine.

#### S'mores Dip

- Ingredients**
- 1/2 cup caster sugar
  - 2 tsp water
  - 1/3 cup thickened cream
  - 1/2 tsp sea salt
  - 1/2 cup NESTLÉ BAKERS' CHOICE Dark Choc Melts
  - 1 1/2 cups marshmallows
- Biscuits, to serve**

- Preparation**
- Cook caster sugar and water in a saucepan over low heat, stirring until sugar dissolves. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low. Simmer, without stirring, for 6-8 minutes or until golden.
  - Remove from heat.
  - Whisk in cream and sea salt (mixture may spit).
  - Pour into an 18cm oven-proof frying pan. Place in fridge until firm.
  - Preheat grill to medium-high. Arrange dark chocolate melts over caramel. Top with marshmallows. Cook until toasted. Serve with biscuits.

Azimullah was thrilled to realise that the British were not invincible and decided to go to the war front to see things for himself. In Istanbul Azimullah was able to obtain an audience with the Caliph and briefed him of the situation in India and sought his help should it be needed if a war broke out with the British. The two remained in contact with each other even after Azimullah returned to India and several of the letters exchanged by the two were found in Bithur after its capture by the British. At Istanbul, Azimullah Khan was able to visit the frontline in the Crimea and whilst in the front he came into contact with Sir William Russell, Time's famed correspondent who was covering the Crimean War. Russell write: "While I am writing about it, I may as well relate an incident in connection with one of Nana's chief advisors....After the repulse of the Allies in their assault on Sevastopol on 18 June, an event closely followed by the death of Lord Raglan. The British defeat is the theme of the famous poem by Tennyson 'Charge of the Light Brigade'



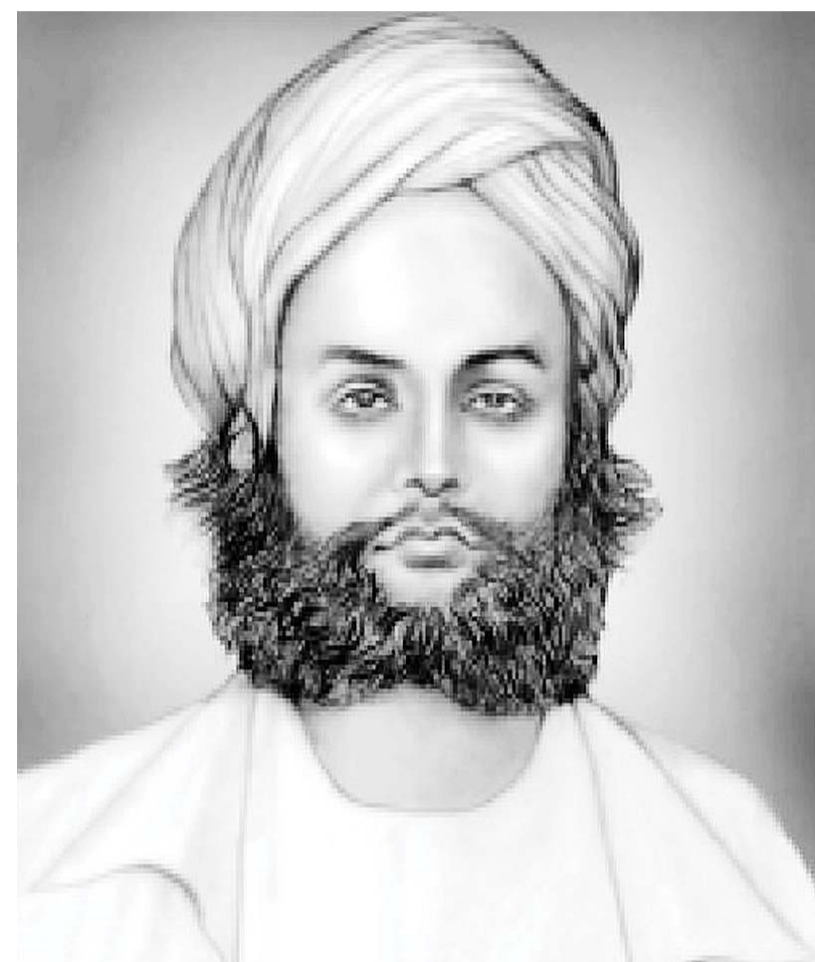
## #HISTORY

The British Government, the Church of England and even private individuals were great record keepers and diarists, they kept copious diaries and records of every paisa spent, every little event and of every person they came into contact with. However one person, as a matter of state policy they wanted forgotten was Azimullah Khan Yusufzai a retainer of the Peshwa Nana Saheb. So very unlike the British, to not only to not leave behind any records but to obliterate what existed of any mention of the man or his deeds and that too of one who played such an important part in the events leading up to and during the great rebellion of 1857-59. And some of present citizens of free India who are the heirs to the legacy of Macaulay's education system, not finding any mention of him in any of our school text books authored by the present day sarkari admirers of Macaulay, remain ignorant of Azimullah Khan and his role in 1857. This account of this very interesting and historical personality is as an attempt to put right that wrong and learn why the



Bithur. Brahmavarta Ghat. Painting by William Daniell.

# The British Wanted Azimullah, Forgotten



Azimullah.

some for future lean years. If this was not sufficient the Company got embroiled in the Sikh and Afghan Wars and large armies with their animal drawn logistics trains passed through the area, requisitioning by force grain and fodder leaving nothing and grazing their horses and mules on standing crops. This opium and indigo driven economy compounded by failure of rains and deprivations of the army caused severe hardships to the peasantry, many of whom were forced to move out to look in search of means of livelihood.

#### The Darling of the Upper Classes

One such family was that of Azimullah whose mother along with her children moved to British administered Kanpur where his entire family save for himself and his mother perished due to starvation. He and his mother were in a dying state when they were picked up by a kindly passer-by who took them to the Christian Missionaries of Kanpur. She became a house maid and Azimullah found work as a kitchen boy with an Anglo-Indian family and for sometime with a French indigo trader. Being intelligent Azimullah picked up a smattering of both English and French and his mother taught him how to read and write Urdu. His Anglo-Indian master wanted Azimullah to convert to Christianity, but his mother was a strong willed woman and would have nothing of that. Realising that through a proper education was the only way that Azimullah could advance himself in life, she somehow managed to get him admitted to the Kanpur Free School which was run by Christian missionaries. Azimullah completed his education here and then found employment as a teacher at the Government School. Here the headmaster was an Indian- Mr Ganga Deen who took Azimullah under his wing. By now Azimullah had blossomed into a young man of keen intellect, sharp comprehension and high talent. So when Nana Saheb



Brahmavarta Ghat today.

advise of a railwayman a Mr Todd who lived in Bithur overseeing the construction of the Calcutta-Delhi Railway, Nana Saheb decided to appeal to Queen Victoria directly through the Privy Council and the Board of Directors of the East India Company. The person Nana Saheb chose for this task was Azimullah Khan and he was despatched to England and on arrival there in 1857 set himself up in London. Azimullah with his sharp intellect and observant mind soon became well versed in local customs and was accepted in high society due to his pleasant personality and fine speech. He was also a tall and very good looking man and became the darling of the upper classes particularly amongst the ladies, which became a talk of the town in some sections of society.

#### The Power of the Press

He soon became a regular at the home of Lady Duff-Gordon whose husband was a cousin of the Prime Minister. Lady Duff-Gordon was an intellectual and author in her own right. People like Dickens, Carlyle, Tennyson, Browning and Thackeray were regular visitors to her home along with some important foreign nationals. All of them were very impressed with the personality, intellect and exotic good looks of Azimullah and took him into their fold. Amongst the society ladies he was a hit and several entertained him in their homes, but of this later for now we must return to the work that he had come to England in the first place. Another person and fellow Maratha was also in England at the same time and on a similar mission for his master was Angoji Bapuji the representative of the Chhatrapati the descendant of Shivaji and ruler of Satara. Angoji and Azimullah though treated as princes were in reality only representatives of their masters in India, but there lived in London at that time two genuine members of Indian Royalty, Maharajah Duleep Singh the son of the Lion of Punjab Ranjit Singh and Princess Gouriamma the heir to the throne of Coorg. Both had been deprived of their patrimony by Lord Dalhousie and whilst living in England had become favourites of Queen

Victoria. Their stories will have to wait for another occasion. However despite developing influential contacts, Azimullah failed in his mission and was unable to get Nana Saheb's pension restored. After an expenditure of 50,000 pounds and all seeing his efforts all his efforts wasted he decided in the middle of 1855 to sail back to India via Istanbul and Sevastopol where Ottoman Turkey along with the British and French were involved in a war with Russia over the Crimean Peninsula..... Whilst in Istanbul, Azimullah Khan learnt that the combined Anglo-French attack on Sevastopol had been repulsed by the Russians and the British Commander in Chief Field Marshal Lord Fitzroy Somerset (later Lord Raglan) died soon afterwards suffering from deep depression and dysentery. Azimullah was thrilled to realise that the British were not invincible and decided to go to the war front to see things for himself. In Istanbul Azimullah was able to obtain an audience with the Caliph and briefed him of the situation in India and sought his help should it be needed if a war broke out with the British. The two remained in contact with each other even after Azimullah returned to India and several of the letters exchanged by the two were found in Bithur after



Valmiki Ashram. The place where Sitaji was oiled and where Luv and Kush were born. Valmiki was the grandfather of Raga Janak and according to some she was not exiled to Bithur but came of her own accord. Her father Janak had died and Valmiki was like a father to her and she was following the custom of giving birth to the first child in the maternal home.

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## Global Forgiveness Day

Global Forgiveness Day was established to create goodwill among people and allow them to stop carrying around so much guilt and pain in their lives. It's a day to set differences and conflicts aside and work on forgiving the hurts and finding healing. In fact, some health studies have shown that people who are willing to offer forgiveness, whether to themselves or others, are much more likely to be happy and healthy than those who withhold forgiveness! That's a great reason to live a life centered around forgiveness.



Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimea War. A realistic representation as narrated in Tennyson's poem. Guns to the Left of them. Guns to the right of them. Guns to the front of them. Onwards rode the six hundred.

great Rustums, the Russians, who have beaten French and English together".....I did not see him for some weeks when a gentleman rode up to my hut and sent a note from Doyn asking me to assist his friend Azimullah Khan to visit the trenches and on going out I recognised the Indian prince. I had his horse put up and walked up to the General's hut to get a pass for him. The sun was within an hour of setting and the Russian batteries had just opened, as was their custom, to welcome our reliefs and working parties, so that shot came bounding up the hill where our friend was standing and a shell burst in the air at

stitch up alliances between Nana Saheb and other disaffected powers in India. To achieve this aim he returned to India and Bithur. Azimullah having seen the power of the press in Europe to mobilise public opinion brought back a printing press and set it up in Bithur under the very noses of the British but unknown to them. Soon proclamations secretly printed at the press started being circulated not only amongst the other princely powers in India but also to sepoys of the British Indian Army. Depending upon who the proclamations were meant for they were worded, signed and addressed suitably. A couple of these proclamations are reproduced in a box with this article. The events leading up to the start of the rebellion amongst the sepoys and its spread to all over North and Central India and its final suppression are described elsewhere so I will not repeat them here and jump to the capture of Bithur by the British Army.

#### The Heap of Love Letters

"When Havelock's men cleared out Bithur" Mowbray says "they found most expresses traces of the success he had obtained in his ambitious pursuits of distinction in England in the shape of letters from titled ladies couched in terms of most courteous friendship and in some cases of affection." Lord Roberts who later on was to become

Subsequently this heap of love letters were collected and published in two collections 'The Prince and the English Press and Love Letters'. The book was banned at the behest of the then Prince of Wales later Edward VII when he came to know that a few of the letters were from ladies related to the Royal Family. The Prince of Wales had all copies of the book along with the original letters collected and burnt.

cate character; but happily for our fair countrywoman, who was the object of his attentions, her friends interfered and saved her from becoming an item in the harem of this Mohommadan polygamist." Subsequently this heap of love letters were collected and published in two collections 'The Prince and the English Press and Love Letters'. The book was banned at the behest of the then Prince of Wales later Edward VII when he came to know that a few of the letters were from ladies related to the Royal Family. The Prince of Wales had all copies of the book along with the original letters collected and burnt. It is surprising that the Prince of Wales had the letters destroyed for he himself had a stable full of mistresses. One of them being Lady Randolph Churchill the mother of Winston Churchill. Such was Azimullah's connections with the English High Society that on returning to India when he reached Calcutta he stayed for some days as the house guest of Lord Canning the Governor General. Lady Canning was a close friend of Queen Victoria whose husband Prince Albert of Saxe-Gotha who was a liberal minded German prince who had in his youth been influenced by oriental scholars like Goethe, Max Muller, Voltaire and many others of the Weimar School and his attempts to shake out British society from its conservative and imperialistic mind-set was very strongly resisted by the orthodox English society and Church. Is it any wonder then that the British wanted to erase from the collective memory of both England and India the name of Azimullah the antithesis of everything that stood for back to normal from a colony bedding women of the highest rank in their own homeland.

Ps: After the rebellion was suppressed Azimullah along with his master Nana Saheb and a few retainers escaped to Nepal and were never heard of again, despite the best British efforts to catch them. **Concluded**

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



Lakshmi with friends at the All Souls Memorial Church of 1857 which was on the site of Wheeler's encampment where the British troops met their last stand against Nana saheb's forces. All were killed in the action including Brig Wheeler the highest ranking British officer to be killed in 1957.

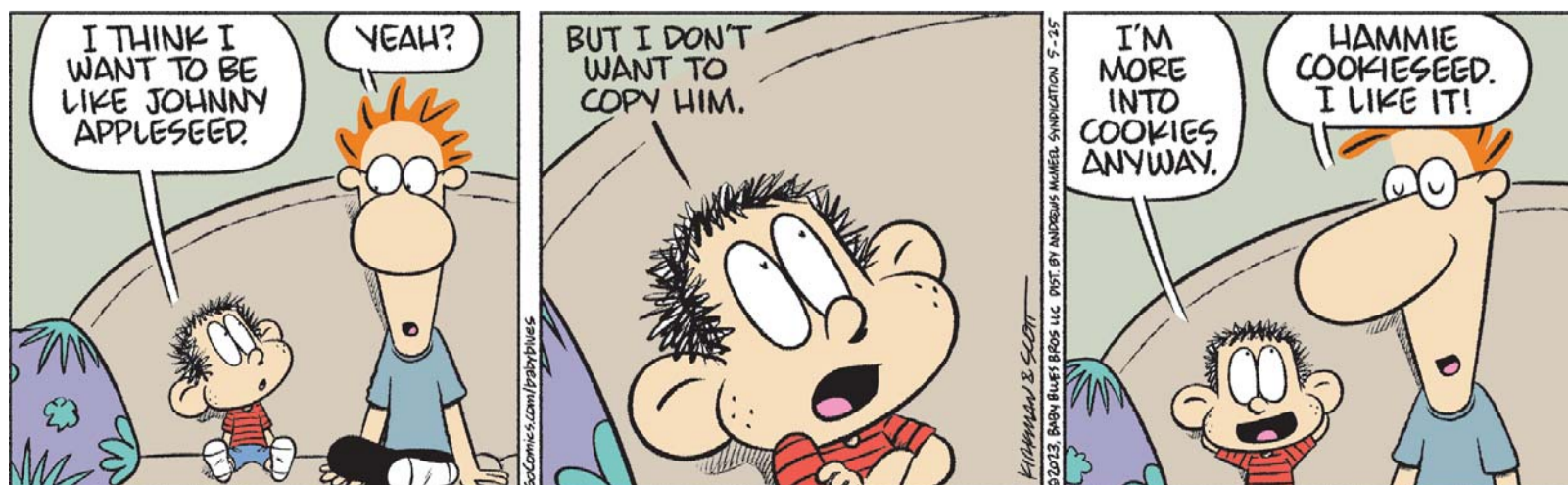
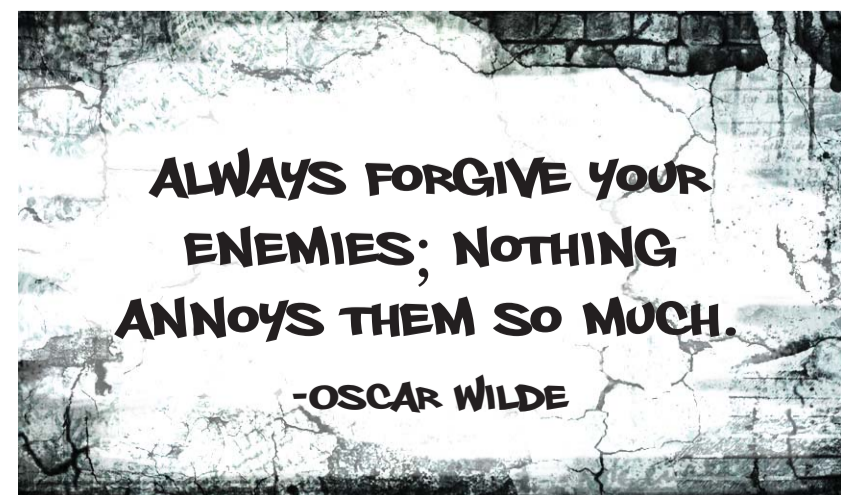
#### Cultural & Historical Heart of India

I was posted in Kanpur in 1973-5. And our house was next to the Church. Though it may not appear to be so Kanpur is a very interesting place not only for its Thugoo ke ladao and Badnam Kullfi; Kanpur is in the middle of UP which is the cultural, spiritual and historical heart of India. Located in the Ganga-Jamuna Doab, within a hundred kilometres around it are Prayag, Kausambi, Kanauj, Sankissa and other historical places, Bithur being only fourteen miles. At Bithur lived the Gurum Father who are both family and friends and through them I was able to explore and learn of the rich history of Bithur which merits an article if not a book by itself.

## BABY BLUES

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## THE WALL



## ZITS

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

