

## ZAIN BHIKHA: HISTORY OF A SONG-WRITER'S JOURNEY AND 1415 LYRICS

### ZAIN BHIKHA: HISTORY OF A SONG WRITER'S JOURNEY

Zain Bhikha was born on the 9 August 1974 in Pretoria, South Africa to parents Rashid and Mariam Bhikha. The only son, with three sisters, Zain showed a keen interest, from a young age in entertaining his friends and family with his beautiful singing.

Zain was not aware of his full potential until 1994 when he won a singing competition on Radio 702, a local radio station. A simple song which he recorded on his home karaoke system brought him out tops among mostly professional participants. After this great accomplishment, he seriously considered recording an album.

This consideration was put into action after he was approached by The Pretoria Muslim School who asked him to write and record their school anthem. Zain took it a step further and composed a full album, entitled "A Way of Life". This was a compilation of basic Acapella Islamic songs, mostly in English covering the various tenets of Faith. The album, which was the beginning of greater things, only took Zain two weeks to complete.

"A Way of Life" sparked the beginning of many more album releases namely "Praise to the Prophet (SAW)" (1996), "Fortunate is He" (1997) and "The Journey" (1998). Zain Bhikha's song served to be very popular throughout South Africa, especially for young children who found the songs educational and inspiring. Its popularity caused it to filter abroad and come to the ears of World Renowned Muslim activist Yusuf Islam, better known as Cat Stevens.

Yusuf Islam was working on a momentous project entitled "A is for Allah" and believed Zain could contribute by lending his voice to some of the songs. In 1999, Zain flew to the United Kingdom to join Yusuf Islam's Mountain of Light Studios to begin recording. This opportunity was a life long dream for Zain. To top it off, he was given the chance to perform in seven of the eight songs on the album.

Zain also gained much experience from Yusuf Islam as he had no previous formal music training. It was during the production of this album that Zain was brought on board as an artist under Mountain of Light's cultural label called "Jamal Records. With the backing of Jamal Records, Zain planned the world-wide release of two compilation albums incorporating all material he had done thus far. These albums were entitled "Children of Heaven" and "Towards the Light", featuring some remixed songs.

Under the guidance of Mountain of Light and the world-wide distribution power of Jamal Records, Zain released his first new album under the label entitled, "Faith" (2001). The songs in this album deal with a broad spectrum of emotions from hardships to happiness but always invoke a constant consciousness of Allah. The album also brought about collaborations between Zain and well-known Nasheed artist, Dawud Wharansby Ali. It also introduced the children from Madressah-Tul-Banaat in Benoni, South Africa on backing vocals.

With his popularity rising and live performances around the globe, Zain

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Bhikha released "Our World" in 2002. This album was a portrayal of the unity which Islam brings to all cultures, languages and traditions through the Will of Allah. Zain's eldest son, Rashid's, melodic voice is introduced to us on this album. The title track for his album is a prayer for a better world for all people, one free of prejudice and war.

In 2005 Zain established a South African company called Zain Bhikha Studios. This company serves to house all of Zain's present and future works in all fields be it song albums, educational projects through schools or theatre productions. Zain also began this with the intention of giving local and international artists the platform to gain exposure through his experience and resources in the industry.

After the establishment of Zain Bhikha Studios, Zain continued his long time relationship with Jamal Records. The two companies formed a partnership with Jamal Records being Zain's exclusive international distributor. Jamal Records are the driving force behind Zain's international recognition and his albums' distribution.

With the birth of his new company came the first album to be produced under the Zain Bhikha Studios label, "Mountains of Makkah". This album was inspired by Zain's pilgrimage to Makkah in 2004. Both the content and composition of this album shows much maturity. The lyrics are a 'personal reflection' of his thoughts and feelings while partaking in this profound spiritual journey.

A long way from his first appearance on Zain's "Our World" album and on Yusuf Islam's momentous kids project "I Look, I See" (2003), Zain's son, Rashid, released his first single entitled "Can't You See" (2006). This is a hard hitting rap which stresses the importance of living a drug-free life. It features Zain as well as the well known hip-hop artist, Abdul Malik, from Native Deen who also wrote the song. This song was produced by Zain Bhikha Studios and given world-wide publicity by Jamal Records.

From the time that Zain joined Mountain of Light to establishing Zain Bhikha studios, his experience as an artist has grown tremendously, increasing his exposure both at home and globally. Zain was a pioneer in the Nasheed genre. When Zain started singing, Islamic songs were not being sung in English. As one of the first English Islamic singers he opened the door for many other artists. His albums have been launched in many countries including the United Kingdom, North America, Malaysia, France, Turkey, The Middle East, and Australia. He has performed live in cities across most continents and has become somewhat of a household name when it comes to Islamic Music.

In addition to music, he also writes and directs plays written specifically for schools. One of his many successful school plays, "An Orphans Tale", which he produced in conjunction with the Pretoria Muslim School, was a great success and brought a full house for all three nights that it ran in October 2003.

Zain has performed with a long list of artists such as Dawud Wharansby,

Ashiq al Rasul, Hasan Kalicitan, Khalid Belhrouzhi, Native Deen, Qatrunada, Imad Rami, Sami Yusuf, Dewan Chinekar, Irfan Makki, Khaleel Mohamed and not forgetting his mentor, Yusuf Islam. In his many local performances for Islamic schools, launches, fetes and dinners, Zain has performed with local artists like Faeza Malinga, Ziyaad Patel, Imran Dhaya and of course, his son Rashid Bhikha.

Zain's songs are mainly self written or adapted from poems and traditional Arabic songs. His songs are driven by emotion and the need to reassure people that Islam is the answer of hope and the core for our everyday questions and confusion. Many of his songs represent different times in his life when he is learning and remembering how necessary Allah's presence is. Zain's songs provide young and old with an alternative to the modern music which often carries a destructive message. His music is Islamic propagation and encourages every Muslim to be proud to proclaim their faith.

Zain confidently adds that much of his support has come from his parents and family over the years. He lives with his wife, Zaheera and three children in Johannesburg, South Africa.

For more information please visit Zain's official website  
<http://www.zainbhikha.com>

## 1415 Lyrics

### Mum & Dad

Words and melody by Zain Bhikha.

You held my hand to steady me  
Till I was ready to make a stand  
On my own two feet  
While my world was crumbling down

And you tried your best to shelter me  
From the coming of the storm  
You opened my eyes to see  
That all hope was not gone

You held me in your arms  
And wiped away my tears  
Not even in a million years  
Can I ever repay you  
for what you've done for me?

You were there when I felt  
That there was no place for me  
You were there to show me  
How to truly believe  
In the miracle of creation  
In the good and the bad  
Oh how I love you Mum and Dad

You were there to lift me up  
When I was far too small  
To see a brighter tomorrow  
And face it proud and tall

When my head was down you  
prayed for me  
Said I just need some time  
You said to spread my wings and fly  
Give the world of what was inside

You taught me to try  
To do my best to inspire  
People of every kind  
That's a gift from Allah

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That I can never claim as mine

You were there when I felt  
That there was no place for me  
You were there to show me  
How to truly believe  
In the miracle of creation  
Even when you're lost and scared  
Oh how I love you Mum and Dad

Oh Allah, bless them  
And always keep them safe from  
harm  
Grant them places in Paradise  
And Your eternal Salaam

You were there when I felt  
That there was no place for me  
You were there to show me  
How to truly believe  
In the miracle of creation  
In the good and the bad  
Oh how I love you Mum and Dad

### Fortunate Is He

Words and melody by Zain Bhikha.  
With excerpts from Imam Anwar al  
Awlakis lecture "25 Promises to the  
Believers" Words and Melody by Zain  
Bhikha

Fortunate is he  
Who remembers Allah abundantly  
Worldly distractions cannot mildly  
sway  
His thoughts of Allah and Judgment  
Day

Righteous is he  
Who bows to one he cannot see  
Whose deeds do not spring without  
Bismillah  
Fulfilling his tasks with perfect  
Taqwa

Devout is he  
Who supplicates to Allah intensively

Whose heart is merciful, tender and  
kind  
His gaze on life after, this world  
behind

Prosperous is he  
Who spends his wealth on the poor  
and needy  
Who speaks a kind word to kin and  
neighbour  
Ever-grateful for Allah's favors

Guided is he  
Who prays Salaat with punctuality  
Early morning, Tahajjud he prays  
For Allah's pleasure and nearness he  
craves

God fearing is he  
Who contemplates death early  
Who starts as he sees his demise  
And tears fall over wasted sacrifice

Blessed is he  
Who sings Allah's praises fervently  
Blessed be all of Allah's slaves  
Allah's mercy be with them always

### Jashne Aamade Rasool

Featuring Hussain  
Traditional Urdu with English by Zain  
Bhikha

Jashne Aamade Rasool Allah Hi  
Allah  
Bibi Aminah Ke Phool Allah Hi Allah  
Allahi Bolo Bolo Allah Hi Allah  
Bibi Aminah Ke Phool Allah Hi Allah

Jab Ke Sarekaareh Tashareefe  
Laaney Lagey  
Hoore Ghilmaa Bhi Khushiyaa  
Manaa Ne Lagey  
Har Taarafe Unki Roshenee Cha  
Gayee

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Mustafa Kyaa Miley Zindagee Mil  
Gayee  
Aey Halima, Tereh Gaud'a Meh Aa  
Gayeah  
Dono Aa'lam ke Rasool, Allah Hi  
Allah  
Jashne Aamade ke Rasool, Allah Hi  
Allah

Chehrra ey Mustafa Jab Dikhaaya  
Gayaa  
Jhuk Gaye Taarey Aure Chaande  
Sharma Gaya  
Aminah Dekh-a Kar Muskuraane  
Lagee  
Hawwa Mariam Bhi Khushiya  
Mana ne Lagee  
Aminah Bibi Sab Se Yeh Kehe Ne  
Lagee  
Dua Ho Gayi Qubool, Allah Hi Allah  
Bibi Aminah Ke Phool Allah Hi Allah

The stars in the sky above,  
gazed down in awe of him  
God's Blessing  
And the Angels sang his praise  
When they saw his beautiful face  
Peace be upon Allah's Rasul

Shaadiyaane Khushi Ke Bajaaney  
Gayeh  
Shaade Ke Naghme Sabko  
Sunaaey Gaye  
Har Taraf Shore Salley Ala Ho Gaya  
Aaj Paida Habibe Khuda Ho Gaya  
Phir To Jibrile Ne Bhi Yeh Ailaan  
Kiya  
Yeh Khuda Kehe Rasool, Allah Hi  
Allah  
Yeh Rasoolo(N) Ke Rasool, Allah Hi  
Allah  
Jashne Aamade

On that night, standing before his  
Lord,  
He said who am I,  
Oh Allah said OMuhammad  
Your name will be said with Mine

Peace be upon Allah's Rasul

### Never Alone

Words and Melody by Zain Bhikha

Sometimes, when the world's not on  
your side  
You don't know where to run to  
You don't know where to hide  
You gaze at the stars in the sky  
At the mountains so high  
Through the tears in your eyes  
Looking for a reason, to replace what  
is gone  
Just remember, remember,  
That you are never alone

You are never alone  
Just reach into your heart and  
Allah is always there  
You are never alone  
Through sorrow and through grief  
Through happiness and peace  
You will never be alone

So now, as you long for your past  
Prepare for the future  
But knowing nothing's going to last  
You see, this life is but a road  
A straight and narrow path  
To our final abode  
So travel well O Muslim and  
Paradise will be your home  
and always remember,  
You are never alone

### Peace Train

Words and Melody by Yusuf Islam

Peace Train sounding louder  
Glide on the Peace Train  
Ngise'Khaya, Ngise'Khaya  
Come on Peace Train  
Peace Train on its way

Oh I've been happy lately,

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Thinking about the good things to  
come  
And I believe it could be,  
Something good has begun  
Oh I've been smiling lately,  
Dreaming about the world as one  
And I believe it could be,  
Some day it's going to come

Some day it's going to come,  
Come take me home again,  
Mmm, come on Peace Train  
Some day it's going to come,  
Come on Peace Train,  
Mmm, come take me home again,  
Oh Peace Train sounding louder  
Glide on the Peace Train  
Mmm, come on Peace Train  
Ngise'Khaya, Ngise'Khaya,  
Ngise'Khaya,  
Ngise'Khaya, Ngise'Khaya

Cause out on the edge of darkness,  
There rides a Peace Train  
Oh Peace Train take this country,  
Come take us home again  
Oh I've been smiling lately,  
Dreaming about the world as one  
And I believe it could be,  
Some day it's going to come

Some day it's going to come,  
Come take me home again,  
Mmm, come on the Peace Train...  
I've been crying lately,  
Thinking about the world as it is  
Why must we go on hating?  
Why can't we live in bliss?  
Ngise'Khaya, Ngise'Khaya  
Ngise'Khaya,  
Ngise'Khaya, Ngise'Khaya

Peace Train sounding louder  
Glide on the Peace Train  
Mmm, come on Peace Train...

Come take me home again,  
Mmm, come on Peace Train

Some day it's going to come,  
Come take me home again,  
Mmm, come on Peace Train  
Peace Train on its way  
Peace Train on its way  
Peace Train

Cause out on the edge of darkness  
There rides a Peace Train,  
Peace train take this country,  
Come take me home again,  
Come take me home again,  
Come take me home...  
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### Who I Am

Featuring Abdul Malik Ahmad  
Words by Zain Bhikha & Abdul Malik  
Ahmad  
Melody by Zain Bhikha

Social Expectation drowns us all  
inside  
What you have should be what I  
want  
Cos what I have just aint alright  
The clothes I wear, the way I comb  
my hair  
How I live, oh I don't care

This is who I am, this is me  
Nothing, everything, can't you see  
Who I am, just let me be  
Cos like it or not but God loves me  
Who I am

He said, she said, they all did  
What's expected of them all  
To get to the top don't matter  
If somebody's gotta fall  
You gotta brace the storm, the norms  
to conform  
Get what you wants' gonna kill us all

Beyond the body that you see  
There's so much more to me  
And I feel best when my soul is free

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They tell me this is the way  
that I need to reform  
If I continue to stray,  
I'm gonna start up a storm  
Wear this, drive that, like this, not  
that  
Don't dare lose track or you'll fall  
way back  
But if my Lord loves me then  
I know that I'm free

You can say what you want just let  
me be  
I know if I'm real and it's not a  
disguise  
You'll love who I am if you open up  
your eyes  
I insist that you see, I aint a mystery  
It's who I wish to be, this is me  
It's what's true within, come and look  
again  
Looking through the skin  
Who I Am

### Zamilooni

Words & Melody BY Abdul Malik  
Ahmad

He stepped inside his home, and He  
was  
overwhelmed with fear  
An angel came with words from  
God, things  
were still unclear  
Saying read - read, but he could not  
read,  
Amazing words he heard  
A trembling deep inside his heart,  
confused by  
what had occurred

And there was only one who could  
comfort him  
And help him see the light  
To ease his fears, to reassure  
It was Khadijah, his wife...

He said Zamilooni, Zamilooni,  
Dathirooni,  
Dathirooni,  
A mighty task has come before me...  
I need you here with me...by my  
side...

She was a woman of nobility,  
successful in all  
her trade  
Many wealthy men had asked for  
her, she had  
turned them all away  
But when she saw Muhammad, a  
shining moon,  
may peace be on his soul  
He was a light for her – so right for  
her – her life  
will now be whole

But she had never seen him so  
distressed, as  
he was there that day  
She would comfort him, and hold him  
tight, and  
chase his doubts away

He said Zamilooni, Zamilooni,  
Dathirooni, Dathirooni,  
A mighty task has come before me...  
I need you here with me...by my  
side...

We look for stories of love,  
in places dark and cold  
When we have a guiding light,  
for the whole world to behold  
But were so selfish in our ways,  
and to the ones we hold so close  
Our own pleasure and happiness  
is what we value most  
But she sacrificed all her wealth  
and everything she had  
and he honoured her and gave her  
faith,  
when the times were bad, when  
times were bad

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Now years have passed, times had  
changed,  
since Khadijah breathed her last.  
and the message of the one true  
God  
was spreading far and vast

But then he came across some  
jewellery,  
that Khadijah once had worn  
His eyes began to swell with tears,  
his heart  
again began to mourn

Cause she was there for him, when  
times were  
rough, and his enemies were cruel  
Was the first Believer, so keen and  
eager, to  
comfort Al-Rasool  
when He said: Zamilooni, Zamilooni  
Dathirooni, Dathirooni  
A mighty task has come before  
me...  
I need you here with me...by my  
side...  
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### You Are Very Special

Words and Melody by Zain Bhikha

You are very special  
There's no one just like you  
Created by the Master  
Allah created you. You are very  
special  
Exclusively designed. You are very  
special  
And I'm so glad you're mine

You were made by Allah  
He fashioned your heart  
You were made by Allah  
He knew you from the start

You were made by Allah  
Unique in all your ways  
You were made by Allah  
To praise him all your days

Bright little eyes he gave you  
To help you find your way  
May Allah grant them wisdom  
To see you through each day  
You are very special  
Theres only of you  
You are very special  
And remember I love you

Whatever life will bring you  
Whatever you will bear  
Remember your Creator  
Allah is always there  
And when your world is crumbling  
With pain and darkness too  
Just look into your heart  
Allah is there for you

### The Prophet's faithful friend

Words by Nasira Vallee

Melody by Zain Bhikha

Playing on the desert sand,  
Two friends forever true,  
Little did they know back then,  
What their paths were destined to.

Companions spreading the word  
To the people who needed to hear,  
How readily did he accept,  
Muhammad's message from God

Abu Bakr – As Siddiq,  
The prophet's faithful friend.  
Trusted and protected him,  
His love had no end  
Abu Bakr, As-siddiq,  
Allah be pleased with him,  
Companion in Jannah  
Oh blessed by Allah

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Abu Bakr – As siddiq  
The Prophets faithful friend  
Riding on the dessert sand,  
Two friends forever true,  
And this much did they know right  
then,  
Allah would see them through.

Companions on their way alone,  
Seeking refuge in mount thoor,  
Their trust only in Allah's care,  
Filled their hearts and souls with  
noor.

As-Siddiq, best of men,  
The Prophet praised you so,  
You shared and defended,  
You helped the message grow  
And unto the very end  
The Prophets faithful friend

Alone in the desert sand,  
Abu-Bakr stands and cries,  
Tears roll onto his hand,  
At the Prophets demise

For they had stood before all,  
As boys and then as men,  
Believers unto one God,  
The Prophet and his friend.

## Freedom Will Come

Featuring Abdul Malik Ahmad, Khalil  
Ismail and Umar Abdullah. Words by  
Zain Bhikha, Khalil Ismail and Abdul  
Malik Ahmad. Melody by Zain Bhikha

### Rap: Abdul Malik

I've been to the holy land,  
A place cherished by children of  
Abraham  
But this bloodshed and carnage,  
don't understand  
Son raise your head, find the star in  
the night sky

Freedom will come Palestine, we  
hear it worldwide,

I see you creeping, over the border  
So eager to take a life  
Guns a blazing, you bring the horror  
Tell me how you sleep at night  
Children screamin, no tomorrow  
That's how they've lived their lives  
Hope's still burning, freedom will  
come  
Everything's gonna be alright

No matter how you try  
You'll never kill the hope burning  
bright deep inside  
You may take their lives  
But you'll never kill the voice rising  
up Freedom will come, Palestine

As a father buries his child,  
You say she deserved to die  
But aint nobody buying your lies  
How can you say its right?  
Demolition of homes and minds  
In the eyes of a world gone blind  
The revolution aint televised  
In the streets, from the blood and  
dust, you will hear their cry

### Rap: Khalil Ismail

Livin conditions vicious. Electricity  
missin  
Villages pillaged. Mothers and  
children innocent  
victims. Indigenous however treated  
as if  
They were the foreigner and criminal  
for  
showing resistance. Freedom.  
Limited. By an occupant position.  
Inhibited transmission from  
humanitarians  
This is. Just the beginning of these  
horrific  
incidents. Innocents disregarded so  
bombs drop, kill, and injure. Tell me.  
How hypocritical is it

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To receive reparations for the crimes  
committed  
Against you. Only to turn around and  
do  
The same type of atrocities done to  
you  
Face the truth. Justice will win  
through  
And we all. Will answer for what we  
do  
know oppression never lasts  
Stand firm hold fast  
To your faith  
Let us pray Palestine  
Will find  
Freer days

Why did you have to go away?  
Yet I know none of us can stay  
You'll always be, so special to me  
In this world you'll always live as a  
memory

## I Remember Your Smile

Words and Melody by Zain Bhikha

Where there's a right, there is no  
wrong  
I always thought we were so strong  
But our time just flew right by  
There wasn't a chance to say  
goodbye  
I'm so confused, I feel so alone  
Deep in my heart I know Allah has  
called you  
home...home

But yet, your smile, still lingers in my  
mind  
And yet, it's so hard, I just break  
down and cry  
I remember your eyes found a way  
to melt my heart  
Most of all I remember, I remember  
your smile  
Most of all, I remember, I remember  
your smile

Sometimes I lie awake at night  
The pain in my heart I just can't fight