

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

*IN LOVING MEMORY*

# In Loving Memory of Farrukh Karimov

18th March 1942 – 8th January 2025

1 Rabi' I 1361 AH – 8 Rajab 1446 AH

*Devoted Father, Merchant and Servant of God*



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Farrukh Karimov was born on 18 March 1942 in the ancient place of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the youngest of four brothers. He grew up in the shadow of the Registan, and the geometric beauty of its tilework never left him, he carried it in his eye for textiles and his patience for craft. He arrives in Birmingham in 1974 with little more than a suitcase and a letter of introduction to a distant cousin, and within a decade had built a modest but respected textile trading business supplying wholesalers across the Midlands. He was known in the trade for his word: a handshake from Farrukh was a contract.

His faith was not performed but inhabited. He rose for Fajr without fail for fifty years, and in his later decades served as a warden and informal elder at the Handsworth Mosque, where he quietly funded repairs and scholarships he never mentioned to anyone. His children learned of many of these acts only after his death. He buried his beloved wife Malika in 2019 and spent his final years cared for by his son Rustam and daughter Dilnoza, insisting he was fine, making tea for everyone who visited, and reciting Qur'an in a low voice that filled the house.

Farrukh passed away peacefully at home on 8 January 2025, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his son Rustam, his daughter Dilnoza, six grandchildren, and a community that feels the quietness he has left behind. Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Notice of Passing and Janazah

yasin · 7 June 2026

It is with deep sorrow that the family of Farrukh Karimov announces his peaceful passing on 8 January 2025 at his home in Handsworth, Birmingham. He was 82 years old. The Janazah prayer will be led by Imam Tariq Hussain. Burial will follow at Handsworth Cemetery in accordance with Islamic rites. The family ask that flowers are replaced with du'a.

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## EVENT

### Janazah Prayer

yasin · 7 June 2026

**When:** 10 January 2025, 1:00pm – 10 January 2025, 2:30pm

**Where:** Handsworth Mosque, Booth Street, Birmingham, B21 ONP

The Janazah prayer for Farrukh Karimov will take place at Handsworth Mosque. All are welcome. Please arrive promptly. The funeral procession to Handsworth Cemetery will follow immediately.

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## EULOGY

### **A Eulogy for My Father**

Rustam Karimov · 7 June 2026

My father never asked for recognition. He found the very idea slightly distasteful – the left hand, he always said, should not know what the right hand gives. He came to this country with almost nothing and built a life from patience and honesty. He never cut corners in business and never broke a promise.

What I remember most is not the big moments but the ordinary ones. The smell of green tea in the morning. The way he would sit after Asr, eyes closed, absolutely still, and you would not dare disturb him because you understood, even as a child, that he was somewhere else entirely. The way he corrected my Arabic without making me feel small.

He taught me that a man is measured by how he treats people who can do nothing for him. He gave generously to people he would never see again. He never stopped being the boy from Samarkand who grew up believing that God was watching, and that hospitality was an act of worship. He was right about both. We will miss him every day. Al-Fatiha.

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## MEMORY

### **Plov on Fridays**

Rustam Karimov · 7 June 2026

Every Friday without fail, Baba would cook plov. Not a quick version — the proper way, the Uzbek way, with cotton-seed oil and the lamb cooked low for hours. The whole house smelled of cumin and saffron from noon onwards. Friends, neighbours, anyone who happened to be passing — he would not hear of them not staying. The table was never big enough. He would eat last, standing in the kitchen, making sure everyone else had what they needed before he sat down.

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## MEMORY

### **His Voice at Fajr**

Dilnoza Karimova · 7 June 2026

I grew up hearing Baba recite Qur'an in the mornings. He would wake before anyone else, make wudu quietly so as not to disturb us, and then you would hear him — not loudly, but carrying through the walls — reciting Surah Yasin. I did not always appreciate it as a child. Now I would give anything to hear it again. That sound was safety. That sound was home.

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## MEMORY

### **Forty Years at the Mosque**

Khalid Rahman · 7 June 2026

Brother Farrukh was part of this mosque before I arrived, and I have been coming here for twenty-two years. He was not on any committee, never sought any title. He would arrive early and leave late. He fixed things when they were broken. He quietly settled disputes between younger men who did not know yet how to back down with dignity. That is a skill that cannot be taught — only earned. We did not know until after his death how much he had given. That is very much his character.

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## MEMORY

### **What He Said at Malika's Funeral**

Fatima Nazarova · 7 June 2026

When Malika died, we were all so worried about Farrukh. He stood at her graveside and he did not weep — he held himself very still. Afterwards, when I asked him how he was, he said, "She is home before me. I have only to catch up." That was all. He never stopped loving her. In those last years you would sometimes find him sitting in her armchair, quite quietly, not doing anything. Just sitting.

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## MEMORY

### **The Textiles**

Dilnoza Karimova · 7 June 2026

Baba's eye for fabric was extraordinary. He could feel a bolt of cloth between his fingers for two seconds and tell you the thread count, the country of origin, and whether it had been treated. Shopkeepers used to call him not to buy but to ask his opinion. He thought that was funny. He never charged for the advice. "Knowledge is not a product," he would say.

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## CONDOLENCE

### **From the Handsworth Mosque Community**

Khalid Rahman · 7 June 2026

The community at Handsworth Mosque mourns the loss of Brother Farrukh deeply. He was among those who held this place together by example. May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannah, forgive his sins, and comfort his family in this time of grief. Our prayers are with Rustam, Dilnoza, and the grandchildren.

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## CONDOLENCE

### **From the Nazarova Family**

Fatima Nazarova · 7 June 2026

Farrukh Karimov was our family's friend for over thirty years. Our father arrived in Birmingham the same year as Baba Farrukh and they found each other through the mosque, speaking Uzbek to one another across a city full of strangers. They were brothers in all but blood. We grieve with you, Rustam and Dilnoza. Innalillah.

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## PRAYER

### **Du'a for Baba**

Rustam Karimov · 7 June 2026

Allahummaghfir lahu warhamhu wa'afihi wa'fu anhu. O Allah, forgive him, have mercy on him, keep him safe, and pardon him. Honour his rest, expand his grave, wash him with water and snow and hail, purify him of his sins as You purify white cloth of stains. Grant him a home better than his home in this world. Ameen.

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MEMORY

## **He Paid My Student Fees**

7 June 2026

I do not want to give my name because the family do not know this. When I was a student at Birmingham University my family ran out of money in my second year and I did not know what I would do. Farrukh Karimov heard about it through someone at the mosque and paid my fees directly to the university without telling anyone. He refused any repayment. He said I should pay it forward when I could. I am a doctor now. I have paid it forward twice. I am so sorry for your loss.



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