

## Mr. Mairaj Din

**Interviewer:** Mr. Anwar, kindly tells us that are you permitting us for this interview for the Howard University. This is basically a research program, so are you permitting us?

**Mairaj Din Sb:** Yes, you are permitted.

**Interviewer:** So, kindly recall your memory a bit and take us to the time when it was time of partition, so what sort of environment you had seen of your surroundings and the area where you were living at that time.

**Mairaj Din Sb:** It was such a horrible time at that time. Hindus and Sikhs were killing Muslims and they took everything from them and when we migrated to Pakistan, we were barehanded. We came to Pakistan without any conveyance on our feet with a group of Muslims. We faced lots of difficulties during that time period while migrating to Pakistan. The Ravi river bridge that also calls as Dayray Bridge, we crossed it finally by the grace of Almighty. Even the people were murdered there back there, and even murdered in trains as well, and the mostly they were Sikhs who were murdering brutally Muslims, even Hindus are coward actually. When we reached here and passed the Ravi river bridge, our forefathers, my father, me and my two elder brothers and a few children, we all braced to the bare ground and said thanks to Almighty Allah, we were so much happy that we are here. Then we sat in train from Chak Amro, came to Naroval in train, and finally arrived to Sialkot city. There was an area away side of the railway station. There we were given place to stay in the camps. They also provided us water and food and there we were given house to live. I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and my father took us for the prayer and we offered Jumma prayer, so in that way a new of life of ours started. I did my FSC from Murray College, Sialkot. We were given a shop in Kanakmandi Sialkot as my father was familiar with iron business.

**Interviewer:** What was the name of your area back in Batala?

**Mairaj Din Sb:** Well, I really don't remember the name of our area as I was a kid at that time and there were Hindus in majority living there and Muslims were a very few, basically it was the area of Hindus.

**Interviewer:** What was the relation between Hindus and Muslims?

**Mairaj Din Sb:** Muslims were so much hatred by Hindus. Even, if a Muslim used to enter into their kitchen area, the particular Muslim was now supposed to be so much hatred and down by them. Even the children of them were not allowed to play with ours. There were 10-15 houses there where the Muslims were living. I still remember that I was fond of moving and wandering around in the streets and then even migrated to the Sialkot area, I had a habit that I had the both morning and evening walk, even now I do not usually go out more, otherwise daily.

**Interviewer:** When you left from Batala, you people were gathered somewhere or your people left on single-family basis?

**Mairaj Din Sb:** No, actually all of us gathered at one place, but some moved there and some moved somewhere whoever felt easy anyway.

**Interviewer:** Had you witnessed any killing in from of your eyes during that time?

**Mairaj Din Sb:** No, I had not, but yes there were numbers of killings, even the Muslims were attacked in our groups, but we had been passed far away from that point.

**Interviewer:** When you migrated here, then you stayed in a camp in Sialkot.

**Mairaj Din Sb:** Absolutely yes.

**Interviewer:** So there was no any medical facility during that period of time when you were migrating.

**Mairaj Din Sb:** no, not at all, there were any first aids provided during that period of time.

**Interviewer:** Is there any incident in your memory you would like to share with us.

**Mairaj Din Sb:** One incident is that, that I took admission in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, there were only three subjects; mathematics, Urdu and Geography, and I must say so sadly that our nation is much behind and away of geography, geography is the most important subject of our. My school was based on Christianity. We were taught geography strictly and were asked to remember the name of the areas. My lifestyle throughout my life since childhood was that I used to get up early in the morning, used to take a bath then left for early morning walks and offer prayer as well.

**Interviewer:** The last question I want to ask you is that, what you think, the decision of this partition, how you value this, means either it was good for the Muslims or whatever?

**Mairaj Din Sb:** To get separate from the Hindus was such a great decision and through that decision they have their identification that Muslims are a separate nation and Hindus are separate. One mulla from the Deoband had given a fatava that even being muslim, if you are living in Hindustan, you are considered to be one nation that was actually a wrong point of view. So, it was such a great decision to get separated and so we now identified as a separate nation, but alas we have left this thought and now are away from the actual path of life. We are actually trapped in the lame and fake use of technology and we are no more following the lessons of Islam, and have damaged ourselves badly. We have not valued this Pakistan; we all have forgotten that how many sacrifices we had given. 100s of Muslims were killed, but we have forgotten everything.

**Interviewer:** Thank you very much sir for giving your previous time and words in the form of your memory.